

## Cincinnati *song*SLAM

Live Event: January 23, 2022 | 7PM

Liberty Exhibition Hall (Northside)

The third Sparks & Wiry Cries Cincinnati *song*SLAM is a unique opportunity for composer/performer teams to premiere new art songs and compete for cash prizes in partnership with Cincinnati Song Initiative. All teams must be available to record their song in Cincinnati on *either* December 11 or 18 (specific schedule to be determined after teams are registered).

Up to twelve teams will each present a single new song no longer than five minutes for voice and piano in any language. The voting audience—in the poetry slam tradition—will then vote on their favorites and award a total of \$2,000 in prize money. Don't miss this fun event that engages both performers and audience members equally and brings great new “song babies” (©Kathy Kelly) into the world!

### *song*SLAM RULES:

1. Registration is \$20 and opens on Monday, October 11th, at 6pm ET on a first-come-first-served basis and will close when full. Registration historically fills up in under 30 minutes, so be ready to go with your team's information!
2. Registration will be open to up to 12 teams, first-come-first-served; there will be up to 5 extra alternate slots in the event of cancellations.
  - Teams who successfully register will pay an additional \$15 fee directly to Cincinnati Song Initiative as a nominal cost-sharing measure for the professional recording session.
  - Teams who do not successfully register in time to at least be an alternate will have their application fee refunded in full.
  - While those on the alternate list will not have their fee refunded, they will have the choice to either stay on the list or be taken off, in which case their fee will also be refunded.
3. Original compositions presented at the 2022 Cincinnati *song*SLAM must:
  - Be composed for voice and piano
  - Feature texts that are in the public domain or have written and signed permission from the author/trust
  - Receive their world premiere at our event
4. Songs should be approximately 5 minutes in length or fewer.
5. A composer can only submit **one** song for the event. Performers can only perform in **one** song for the event. However, the composer **may** be the pianist or singer. If your team would like to include your poet, that is acceptable, and they **may** be the pianist or singer as well.

6. Texts may be in any language. Be advised that if your registration is successful, you will need to obtain permission from your poet, or from the trust of the poet if deceased, to use in your premiere on a specified date before the event begins on January 20th if your text is not already in the public domain. Your poet may also be a part of your team if you wish.
7. There is NO age limit for those who wish to apply.
8. Prize money is as follows: \$1,000 for first place, \$600 for second place and \$400 for third place. The prizes are awarded by the online *and* live audiences, who will vote through an online/text-to-vote donation system. \$1 donated = 1 vote. The three teams receiving the most votes by the end of the live *songSLAM* on January 23 are the winners.
9. Further prizes may be granted at the discretion of the Co-Artistic Directors of *Sparks & Wiry Cries*, including but not limited to: online publication and sales of winning songs, hosted through *Sparks & Wiry Cries*' website; and possible inclusion in a *songSLAM* song book published through New Music Shelf. Please note, regardless of premiere, publication, and recording, *Sparks & Wiry Cries* nor any partner institution will ever claim ownership of the music premiered at any *songSLAM*. The rights to the premiered works will remain solely with the Artistic Team that applied, and they can further decide how to divide any assets. Sparks **may** ask for permission from the entire team to use the recording in their promotional materials.
10. Composers must be present during the live performance January 23, 2022.

**Teams are encouraged to invite their friends and share the event as widely as possible, as all prizes will be awarded by audience vote.**

Further guidelines for the December recording sessions:

1. Teams will be allowed up to three takes of their piece for the professional audio and video engineer; they will be sent the three takes promptly afterward, from which they choose which one to officially enter into the *songSLAM*.
2. Ohio State and CDC guidelines will be followed to ensure a safe experience for all artists.
3. Teams will be able to freely share their professional recording after the conclusion of the *songSLAM*, but both *Sparks & Wiry Cries* and Cincinnati Song Initiative reserve the right to use the recordings in promotional materials.