

*song*SLAM NYC RULES:

The *Sparks & Wiry Cries song*SLAM is a unique opportunity for composer/performer teams to gain visibility as they premiere new art songs and compete for cash prizes, while serving as an energizing, social, and fun vehicle to raise funds for our non-profit.

The silver lining to our January 2021 Virtual *song*SLAM Festival was the incredible response and broad audience reach of our virtual *song*SLAM despite the difficulties of the past 18 months. Building on that success, we have decided to incorporate both recorded and live elements into the 2022 NYC *song*SLAM. For this new hybrid format, all teams will have their entry professionally recorded November 18-21, 2021, and all teams will perform in the live *song*SLAM event on January 15th, 2022. All recordings and performances will take place at the Blue Building in NYC.

The online portion of the NYC *song*SLAM will premiere on January 7th at 6pm EST and voting on videos will be available until the end of the live *song*SLAM on January 15th, 2022, when all voting will close. Like last year, there will be a text to vote function on the *Sparks & Wiry Cries* website via Give Lively for as little as \$1/vote. Each team will have a unique text code linked to their account and the teams generating the most funds will win the monetary prizes.

Each team will present a new song of no more than 5 minutes for voice and piano, in any language, for the voting audience, who—in the poetry slam tradition—will then vote on their favorites and award \$2,000 in prize money.

For their \$20/team registration fee, the first 15 teams who successfully register will have their song recorded, premiered, shared, and will have the possibility of publication and a cash prize. *Sparks & Wiry Cries* will also pick one composer to award a commissioning prize for the following season.

Please note that registration historically fills up in under 30 minutes – be ready to sign up just as it opens!

Competition Rules:

- 1) Registration is \$20 and opens on Friday, October 8, 2021 at 6pm EDT on a first-come, first-served basis. There is NO age limit.
- 2) Performance/Recording slots will be open to the 15 teams who register first; there will be up to 3 additional ‘alternate’ slots in the event of cancellations. Teams who do not successfully register in time to at least be an alternate will have their money refunded. 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 NYC *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** also be the pianist or singer. If your team would like to include your poet as a member of your team, that is acceptable; they **may** be the pianist or singer as well.
- 6) Texts may be in any language. Be advised that if your registration is successful, and if your text will not be in the public domain on or before January 1, 2022, you will need to obtain permission from your poet, or from the trust of the poet if deceased. You must receive this permission before the recording dates of November 18-21, 2021, and present proof at or before your recording date. 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. These prizes will be awarded by the audience. See description of voting process above.
- 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 selected songs, hosted through *Sparks & Wiry Cries*' website; a commission prize for the composer of their choice; 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.

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 November 18-21 recording sessions:

- 1) Teams will be allowed up to three takes of their piece for the professional audio and video engineer; their unedited competition recording will be chosen from these takes.
- 2) The most updated New York State and CDC protocols will be followed to ensure a safe experience for all artists. This may possibly include showing proof of vaccination and/or results from a negative PCR Covid test within 24-72 hours.
- 3) Teams will be able to freely share their professional recording after the conclusion of the *songSLAM*. Teams may not share their video until after the *songSLAM* is concluded (after January 15, 2022).