



FESTIVAL OF ORIGINAL MUSIC (FOOM) RULES

GENERAL (APPLIES TO ALL SECTIONS)

1. The aim of the FOOM Song Competition is to encourage the writing of new material. Original songs can be entered in any style (with the sole exception of the Rock Music Genre category).
2. There is a limit of two songs per songwriter in the Live section only. There is no limit on the number of entries in the Studio, Demo, Howard Kehl Rock Award or Lyrics sections but each song must be accompanied by an Entry Form correctly completed with the correct entry fee. Collaborators may also enter individually penned songs in conformity with this rule. The same song may not be entered in more than ONE section.
3. Songs must be original and the entrant must sign the copyright declaration on the entry form. The entrant agrees to indemnify the organisers of the competition from any copyright claims which might arise from infringement of copyright laws. Winning songwriters must also agree to enter into a specific agreement with SCALA for the recording and use of their song on CD.
4. Songs must not be previously recorded for commercial distribution or radio airplay (including independent release), offered for commercial download, published, be subject to recording or publishing agreements or have won prizes in other competitions.
5. Entrants must make their own arrangements (at their expense) to take advantage of any prizes won from this competition and entrants living outside South Australia are STRONGLY advised to consider entering only the Demo Open, Studio Open, Instrumental Open, Howard Kehl Rock Award or Lyrics Only Sections. SCALA reserves the right to impose any conditions on recording as it sees fit.
6. Except in the Lyric Section, songs or music should be no more than 6 minutes long. In taking up recording and CD prizes entrants must agree to meet any costs above the value of prizes offered if completed recordings of songs are longer than 6 minutes.
7. The songwriter can nominate another person or persons to perform the song. The songwriter of a winning song is responsible for organising suitable musicians to record the song.

ENTRY

8. All entries to be submitted online via the [FOOM Online Entry Portal Song Central](#) site where recordings and lyrics can be uploaded, and entry payment made online.
NB: [Online SCALA membership payments can be made through the SCALA website](#).
9. The judges are instructed to first judge the quality of the song as it is presented to them. This will include taking into account the overall presentation of the song. Judges reserve



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the right to not choose a winning song in a section if, in their view, there is insufficient overall quality in that section. The judges' decisions are final and no correspondence will be entered into. The competition organisers reserve the right to interpret these rules as they see fit and these interpretations are final.

CATEGORIES

Live Performance Section

10. Live Performance heats will be held at SCALA's Performance Venue at The Wheatsheaf Hotel, 39 George Street, Thebarton, South Australia on **Thursday 19 July, Thursday 26 July, Thursday 2 August, Thursday 9 August, Thursday 16 August 2018** commencing at 8:00pm. SCALA will determine the number of heats depending on the number of entries received. Finalists will be selected from each heat with the finalists judged in performance on the evening of **Thursday 23 August 2018** commencing at 8:00pm. Entrants in this section must be available to perform their songs (or have arranged someone else to perform the song) on any of these dates. Entrants will be advised of the date of their heat via email. Entrants in each heat and in the final must also comply with registration and running order instructions of the organisers.
11. For staging reasons there is a maximum of TWO performers on stage per song. Each performer may play any number of instruments and there is no restriction on multi-voice keyboards, loop devices or MIDI equipment but any equipment used must be set up within the time limits outlined in Rule 12. Full drum kits and elaborate keyboard/synthesizer instrumentations are **NOT** recommended because of the time taken to set up. Excessive instrumentation is not encouraged. Backing audio must not be used. Songwriters with backing audio should consider entering the Demo or Studio sections.
12. Performers have a six and a half minute limit in which to perform their songs including any introduction and setup.

Demo Open Section

13. Recordings can be 'home recording' or 'demo' quality, however these recordings would need to be of a sufficient quality so that they can be judged audibly and clearly. There is no limit on the number of performers or instruments used on the recording. These sections will be prejudged and, subject to these conditions, the winner/s will be announced at the Live Performance Final.



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Instrumental Open Section

14. Recordings can be 'home recording' or 'demo' quality, however these recordings would need to be of a sufficient quality so that they can be judged audibly and clearly. There is no limit on the number of performers or instruments used on the recording. **Entries in the Instrumental section will not have lyrics.** These sections will be prejudged and, subject to these conditions, the winner/s will be announced at the Live Performance Final.

Studio Open Section

15. Studio recordings must be owned by the copyright owner of the song who can give permission for their use by SCALA.
16. Entries must be professionally recorded to commercial CD/radio airplay quality, unsigned and unreleased. There is no limit on the number of performers or instruments used on the recording. This section will be prejudged. The judges will be asked to judge the quality of the recording, musicianship and presentation of the song as well as the merits of the song but the quality of the song will have greater weight. Subject to these conditions the winner/s will be announced at the Live Performance Final.

Lyrics Only Section

17. Lyrics must be original. This section will be prejudged and, subject to these conditions, the winner/s will be announced at the Live Performance Final.

The winning songs from the Live, Demo and Studio Sections will be released on a SCALA compilation CD of original music and also as a digital download – subject to Agreement between SCALA and the songwriter/s. See the full list of major prizes below. Minor development prizes can be awarded, depending on the quality of entries received.

Howard Kehl Rock Music Award Section

18. Recordings can be 'home recording' or 'demo' quality, however these recordings would need to be of a sufficient quality so that they can be judged audibly and clearly. There is no limit on the number of performers or instruments used on the recording. These sections will be prejudged and, subject to these conditions, the winner/s will be announced at the Live Performance Final.

Please note this is a specific Rock genre category. Please refer to www.britannica.com/art/rock-music for clarification, definition, and inspiration.



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PRIZES

Songs are judged by panels typically consisting of a male and a female music professional. Judges are asked to complete a feedback sheet for all entrants. Feedback sheets contain a scale (with explanation) plus space for judges to provide constructive comments on each song as they see fit. Some panels provide combined comments. *Whilst we encourage judges to provide feedback they are under no obligation to do so* (but most judges do provide some feedback). Feedback sheets are returned (along with lyrics) to each entrant. Entrants are reminded that any such feedback represents only the view of the individual judges and usually is offered as a general guide only.

Winning songs from the Live, Demo and Howard Kehl Rock Award sections are re-recorded in professional studios and, with winning Studio section recordings, are mastered for release on albums forming part of the SCALA CD collection.

Winners of the Live Performance Section will receive:

- Recording and mastering of your winning song for SCALA CD and download
- SCALA CD/download release
- 5 copies of the CD
- 12 months SCALA membership
- 12 months Song Central membership (for future FOOM entries).

Winners of the Demo Open will receive:

- Recording and mastering of your winning song for SCALA CD and download
- SCALA CD/download release
- 5 copies of the CD
- 12 months SCALA membership
- 12 months Song Central membership (for future FOOM entries).



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Winners of the Instrumental Open will receive:

- \$100-00 cash
- Mastering for CD (if not already mastered)
- 10 copies of CD
- SCALA CD/download release
- 12 months SCALA membership
- 12 months Song Central membership (for future FOOM entries).

Winners of the Studio Open will receive:

- \$200.00 cash
- Mastering for CD (if not already mastered)
- 10 copies of CD
- SCALA CD/download release
- 12 months SCALA membership
- 12 months Song Central membership (for future FOOM entries).

Winners of the Lyrics will receive:

- \$100.00 cash
- 12 months SCALA membership
- 12 months Song Central membership (for future FOOM entries).
- Lyrics printed in SCALA Newsletter.



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Winners of the Rock Award will receive:

- Recording and mastering of your winning song for SCALA CD and download
- SCALA CD/download release
- 5 copies of CD
- 12 months SCALA membership
- 12 months Song Central membership (for future FOOM entries).

Judges and organisers might split these prizes if there are multiple winners in the above categories. FOOMs development prizes have been awarded, depending on the quality of entries received.

FOOM FAQ

Q: Is there a limit on the number of songs I can enter?

A: No, you can enter as many songs as you like but you cannot enter the same song in more than one section.

Q: Can a song be entered into more than one category?

A: No, a song can only be entered into one category (not multiple categories).

Q: If I enter as a SCALA member will the cost of entries be less?

A: Yes, if you are a SCALA member your first song will cost \$15 and subsequent songs will cost \$10. If you enter as a non-member your entry fees will be \$25 per entry.

Q: How do I submit my song(s) to Song Central's online entry site?

A: You buy your song credits (for the whole competition) in one go. This saves on PayPal transaction fees and time (as you don't have to purchase credits for each section/category). Once you have successfully uploaded your song(s) you receive automatic notification (by email) confirming your song and its lyrics. You are able to listen to your song once it is uploaded (confirming its upload).

Songwriters, Composers, and Lyricists Association (SCALA)

PO BOX 138, DAW PARK, SA 5041

scala@scala.org.au | www.scala.org.au



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Q: What is required (MP3 / Lyrics?) to enter this competition?

A: All sections require the submission of an MP3 file and lyrics (except for instrumental section). Lyrics are required for the Lyrics (only) section.

Q: Who do I contact if I experience problems entering/uploading songs to the competition?

A: If you experience any technical problems entering, uploading songs etc. using this site then please contact admin@songcentral.com.au for assistance. Please include a description of your problem and your phone number.

Q: What is “Premium Support”?

A: If you think you might need help converting file formats to MP3, or uploading songs or, are perhaps just too busy to complete your upload/entries, select the option to have Premium Support. For just \$3 per song, Song Central staff will take care of all file format conversions and the submission of your song(s) and provide you with email confirmations of your entries.

Q: What should I do if my songs are not in the right format?

A: If your songs are not in the right format then you will need to convert them to MP3-128kbps files. There are MP3 converters available on the internet that you can use to convert your files. If you are not comfortable doing this (or are too busy) then you can select the ‘Premium Support’ service during your entry to the competition. For an extra \$3 per song you can email your songs directly to Song Central staff who will convert your files, complete your online submissions for you and provide a confirmation once complete via email.

Q: Who should I contact if I have questions about the competition e.g. deadlines, rules, category queries, judging etc.?

A: If you have any questions to do with the competition itself, then you will need to contact scala@scala.org.au.

Q: When should I expect to receive my feedback?

A: All judges’ feedback will be available upon completion of judging.



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Q: Can I become a member of SCALA upon entering the competition online?

A: No. You will need to organise and pay for your [membership directly with SCALA](#).

Q: Do I have to be a member of SCALA to enter?

A: No, non-members of SCALA are welcome to enter the contest although membership is most definitely encouraged.

Q: Do the judges know whose song(s) they are judging?

A: No. The judges listen to your entries without knowing who the songwriter(s) is/are.

Q: What are the options for payment to enter the FOOM songwriting competition?

A: The Payment options are:

1. Payment via PayPal either via (a) PayPal account or (b) Credit Card (MasterCard or Visa)
2. Payment via Direct Deposit.

Please make sure you have completed all REGISTRATION requirements first, then send an email to admin@songcentral.com.au and include in your email:

- Your name
- Your SCALA membership status (either entering as a current member or non-member)
- How many songs you wish to enter in the competition
- Your phone number (in case of further query)

Q: If I am a member of Song Central do I use the same login to access this competition site?

A: The database for Song Central is different to the database used for competitions via this site. Just because you have a login on Song Central, it does not mean it is known on this database. You need to create a login on this competition site (if you don't have one already).

Q: What happens to my songs once the competition is over?

A: All songs entered into the competition will be deleted from Song Central's server once the competition (and all judging) is complete.



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Q: What file format is required?

A: The Song Central site will only accept MP3 files.

Q: I have put words to a traditional tune. Does that qualify as 'original'?

A: The intention of the competition is to encourage new material. It would be advisable to enter such a song in the Lyrics Only section.

Q: My song has been sent to radio stations, and a few have been sold at gigs etc. can I enter them in FOOM?

A: Please refer to Rule 4. Original musicians who have the means to offer their songs to the public through sales or radio airplay can choose to not distribute their material before the competition is completed for the year. Note also that the aim of the FOOM song competition is to encourage the writing of new material.