

YoungArts 2024 Application Requirements

Voice: Singer-Songwriter

Please be sure you follow all requirements related to your application. Failure to comply with any of the requirements listed below may make your application ineligible for an award.

Note: The singer-songwriter category is open to all performing music creators from all popular music styles. Songwriters from hip hop/rap, indie, country, rock, pop, r&b, folk, are encouraged to apply!

Singer-Songwriter Application Requirements

- Submit completely original song selections—words and music—in any style. Selections may be contrasting in tempo or style or of one particular style.
- Both lyrics and music must be completely original and written by the applicant.

For your audition, submit a **total of three (3) individual digital video recordings along with a PDF** document to include the following:

- **Perform three (3) original songs in English.**
- Self-produced tracks may be used. Tracks must be 100% originally produced by the applicant and may not include any unlicensed samples.
 - A minimum of one selection out of the three songs submitted is required to be self-accompanied (e.g., on an instrument, controller, etc.) in real time.
- Make sure the level of your accompaniment does not overpower the sound of your voice in the recording.
- **Submit a PDF or docx document that has a copy (typed) of the lyrics** for each of the songs submitted.

Note: If selected as a Finalist, you will be required to perform your submitted materials live for the panel during YoungArts Week, in addition to pieces not part of the application.

Guidelines for Recording Your Audition

- Dress appropriately for your audition.
- Ensure recording captures good quality image.
- Ensure recording equipment has the ability to capture good sound quality. Check for good balance and blend.
- Microphones are permitted as long as the windscreen is removed, and the judges can see your face clearly.
- Leave the camera in one location. Shoot the vocalist straight on.
- Do not pan, move the camera, or follow the vocalist.
- Camera image may be no closer than waist up.
- No pitch or timing editing allowed. (I.e. AutoTune, Melodyne, etc.)

Guidelines for Recording Your Audition (cont.)

- Before recording your pieces, film a test. Perform the first few lines of one of your selections, then watch and listen to it on playback. Check the following important things:
 - **Sound:** Make sure the acoustics in the room are suitable for a recording. Practice your piece in the space. Please ensure the balance between piano and voice is appropriate.
 - **Lighting:** Make sure the space is well-lit, but not too bright. Judges should be able to see your face clearly. Too little light and judges cannot see you. Too much light will leave you overexposed and judges cannot see your expressions.
 - **Framing:** The camera should be set at a distance to frame your face and body clearly. If judges only see your face and shoulders, it's too close. If judges can see the entire stage but your facial expressions cannot be seen clearly, it's too far away.

Media Submission Requirements

- Both lyrics and music must be completely original and written by the applicant.
- When uploading, verify that image is upright (not sideways) and plays smoothly.
- Save and name your files individually with their titles.
- Upload each selection as a separate video file.
- Do not put your name or any identifying information in or on your media submission.
- Please do not do any of the following as it may disqualify you:
 - ▶ Do not edit within a piece.
 - ▶ Do not use special effects, dissolves, fades or wipes.
 - ▶ Do not submit pre-recorded live performances, such as recitals, concerts, or competitions.

Intellectual Property and Copyright Requirements

- All submitted work must be completely original and may not infringe upon the copyright or other intellectual property or other legal or moral rights of any other person or entity.
- If your work has been submitted to other competitions, you are responsible for getting permission to submit to YoungArts.

Reviewers and Panel are looking for:

- Originality
- Quality of Lyrics
- Quality of Melody
- Composition
- Quality of performance