

YoungArts 2025 Application Requirements

Voice: Singer-Songwriter

Please follow the requirements related to your discipline/category as closely as possible. Failure to comply with the requirements may make your application ineligible for an award.

The singer-songwriter category is open to 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

- 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.

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 document (typed) of the lyrics** for each of the songs submitted.

Note: If selected as a winner with distinction, you will be required to perform your submitted materials live for the panel during National YoungArts Week.

Guidelines for Recording Your Audition

- **Image:** Be sure your image is clear and good quality. The panel must be able to see your facial expressions to properly adjudicate your work. Microphones are permitted as long as the windscreen is removed, and the judges can see your face clearly.
- **Sound:** Make sure the acoustics in the room are suitable for a recording. Ensure the balance between the instrument and voice is appropriate. No pitch or timing editing allowed. (I.e. AutoTune, Melodyne, etc.)
- **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 fixed point of view. Shooting straight on, leaving the camera in one location 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 Guidelines

- When uploading, verify that the video image is upright (not sideways upside down) and plays smoothly.
- Save and name your files individually with their song 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:
 - ▶ edit within a piece.
 - ▶ submit pre-recorded live performances, such as recitals, concerts, or competitions.

Intellectual Property and Copyright Requirements

- All submitted work must be wholly original and may not infringe upon the copyright or intellectual property of any other person or entity.
- You are welcome to submit materials that have been part of other applications, competitions, or projects. YoungArts does not own any works submitted to its competition, however if your work has been submitted to other competitions, you are responsible for getting permission to submit to YoungArts, if necessary.