



## **SOMERSET SONG PRIZE 2026 - Entry Form**

### **Prize money includes:**

- **£1250 for the Singer Prize**
- **£1250 for the Pianist Prize**
- **£500 awarded to the audience's favourite duo, plus a recital, associated residency at Wellhayes Vineyard and a further £500**

### **Entry criteria:**

The Somerset Song Prize 2026 is open to any singer and pianist as a duo, where:

- the singer is 18-26 years old on 10 May 2026
- the pianist is 18-26 years old on 10 May 2026 if the pianist wishes to be considered for the Pianist Prize (we are happy for older pianists to enter as part of a duo but they would not be eligible to receive the Pianist Prize)
- the duo submit an original, unedited video recorded in a single take, lasting 8-10 minutes with no extracts from opera or oratorio and at least one song not in the singer's native language
- they complete this application form in full and submit it along with a shareable link to their video entry by 21 February 2026

### **Suggested setup for your recording:**

We advise recording audio and video on the same device; a modern smart phone or tablet should be fine.

- Place phone/tablet or camcorder at eye level, on a stand or flat surface
- Record in landscape not portrait
- Ensure both singer and pianist are in the frame
- Make sure you are in a quiet environment, with as little background noise as possible
- We'd advise singers not to wear all black, especially if you're in a dark room
- At the end, please leave a few seconds of silence

Video entries can be supplied via URL (e.g. unlisted links to YouTube or Vimeo) or via a shareable link to another file sharing platform such as Google Drive, Smash or Proton Drive etc. and must be emailed to [somersetsonprize1@gmail.com](mailto:somersetsonprize1@gmail.com) with a clear indication of the competitors' names in the body of the email. If you have any queries or need help to submit a video privately on Youtube, please contact us via [somersetsonprize1@gmail.com](mailto:somersetsonprize1@gmail.com)



Full name of the singer .....

Full name of the pianist .....

Contact postal address  
(for the duo) .....

Post Code .....

Email of the singer .....

Email of the pianist .....

Singer's age  
(on 10 May 2026) .....

Pianist's age  
(on 10 May 2026) .....

**Repertoire for the first round:**

- No extracts from opera or oratorio
- A minimum of 8 minutes and a maximum of 10 minutes
- A minimum of two contrasting art songs, at least one of which is not in the singer's native language

SONG	COMPOSER	APPROX. DURATION
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**Repertoire for the second round, if selected, will need to include:**

- No extracts from opera or oratorio
- A minimum of 10 minutes and a maximum of 12 minutes
- A minimum of two contrasting art songs, at least one of which is not in the singer's native language
- At least one British art song composed after 1900

**Repertoire for the final round, if selected, will need to include:**

- No extracts from opera or oratorio
- Minimum of 12 minutes and a maximum of 15 minutes.
- At least one song not in the singer's native language
- One British Art Song composed since 1900

**There is no need to submit repertoire for the second or final round at this stage. Applicants may present some of their earlier round repertoire in later rounds, though we encourage duos to explore repertoire and show off your range.**

**Dates of Semi-final and Final (both in Taunton, Somerset):**

- Semi-final: Saturday 09 May 2026
- Final: Sunday 10 May 2026
- Free accommodation if required will be provided to all duos for the Saturday night

**Masterclass on Sunday!**

Semi-finalist duos who do not reach the Final are invited to participate in a free, public masterclass with international soprano and SSP patron Elizabeth Watts during the morning of Sunday 10 May.

**Submission of form and payment:**

- Please complete this application form in full
- The entrance fee for singers is £25
- The entrance fee for pianists is £25
- Pianists who play for more than one singer need only pay once! Singers – please check with your pianist before sending payment (in case they have already paid)
- There is no entrance fee for pianists over 26 years old, noting they would not be eligible for the Pianist Prize
- Entry fees are non-refundable after closing date 21<sup>st</sup> February 2026, unless the competition is abandoned due to unforeseen circumstances, in which case those still in the competition will receive a full refund



**Payment:**

We encourage payment to be made online, using the following bank details:

Lloyds Bank account name: Somerset Song Prize

Account number: 71474068 Sort Code: 30-98-45

**Important** - please add the first few letters of your surname as a payment reference

Payment: Online ☐ Cheque ☐

Cheques are acceptable, made payable to the "Somerset Song Prize".

Cover note (if needed):

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**SSP contact address:**

Please submit your completed entry form and a shareable link to your first round video by **21 February 2026** to: [somersetsongprize1@gmail.com](mailto:somersetsongprize1@gmail.com). Please do not attempt to send video files directly by email as they will be rejected.

Postal entries are accepted and should be sent to:

Somerset Song Prize, Taunton Festival of the Arts  
Cranford, Bishops Hull, Taunton, TA1 5EW