



FESTIVAL OF ORIGINAL MUSIC (FOOM) RULES 2025

GENERAL (APPLIES TO ALL SECTIONS) Aim of SCALA's FOOM Song Competition is to encourage the writing of new material. Original songs can be entered in any style.

1. 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 Demo Unreleased, Instrumental or Lyrics/Libretto 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Entrants living outside South Australia are recommended to consider entering only the Demo Unreleased, Instrumental or Lyrics/Libretto Only Sections.
5. Except in the Lyrics/Libretto Section, songs or music should be no more than 6 minutes long.
6. The songwriter can nominate another person or persons to perform the song in the Live category.
7. 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](#).
8. 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 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.
9. By entering FOOM and providing your email address, you consent to your email address being added to SCALA's mailing list. This allows us to keep you informed about FOOM updates, SCALA events, and related opportunities. You may unsubscribe at any time by emailing scalafoom@gmail.com.



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CATEGORIES

Live Performance Section

10. Live Performance heats will be held at SCALA's Performance Venue at **The Jade, 142-160 Flinders Street, Adelaide, South Australia** on **Thursday 7 August, Thursday 14 August, Thursday 28 August, Thursday 4 September, Thursday 11 September 2024** commencing at 7:30pm. SCALA will determine the number of heats depending on the number of entries received. Finalists will be selected from each heat with the winning songs judged in the Live Performance Final on the evening of **Saturday 20 September 2025** at **Trinity Sessions, 318 Goodwood Rd, Clarence Park** commencing at 7:30pm. Entrants in the Live 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 11. 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 Recorded section.
12. Performers have a six and a half minute limit in which to perform their songs including any introduction and setup.

Demo Unreleased Section

13. Recorded songs must be of a good 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. This section will be prejudged and, subject to these conditions, the winner/s will be announced at the Live Performance Final **Saturday 20 September 2025**.



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Instrumental Section

14. Recordings must be of a good 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.** This section will be prejudged and, subject to these conditions, the winner/s will be announced at the Live Performance Final **Saturday 20 September 2025.**

Lyrics/Libretto Section

15. Lyrics/Libretto must be original. This section will be prejudged and, subject to these conditions, the winner/s will be announced at the Live Performance Final **Saturday 20 September 2025.**

The winning songs from the Live, Instrumental and Demo Unreleased sections may be released as digital downloads – subject to Agreement between SCALA and the songwriter/s. See the full list of major prizes below.



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PRIZES

Songs are judged by panels typically consisting of two music practitioners. 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 for Demo Unreleased, Instrumental and Lyrics sections are emailed to each entrant. Live section entrants will receive their feedback sheets at the end of the heat/final. Entrants are reminded that any such feedback represents only the view of the individual judges and usually is offered as a general guide only.

Prizes for the Live Performance Section (3 Winners):

- Each winner will receive a \$500 cash prize.
- An additional \$150 cash prize will be awarded for the People's Choice winner.

Prizes for the Demo Unreleased Section:

- The winner will receive a \$450 cash prize.
- Two (2) additional \$150.00 cash prizes will be awarded for most commendable.

Prize for the Instrumental Section:

- The winner will receive a \$400 cash prize.

Prize for the Lyrics/Libretto Section:

- The winner will receive a \$200 cash prize.



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

A: You complete the entry form on the Song Central platform (<http://www.foom.songcentral.biz/>) and submit your MP3 file and/or you upload your lyrics in PDF format. Once you have completed your entries your payment will be processed via PayPal (credit cards are fine if you don't have a PayPal account). Once your payment has been processed your entries to the contest will be saved on the platform ready for judging.

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

A: The Live category requires the submission of lyrics (PDF) only. The Demo Unreleased category requires the submission of an MP3 file and lyrics (PDF). The Instrumental category requires the submission of an MP3 file only. The Lyrics/Libretto category requires the submission of lyrics (PDF) only.

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.



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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 apps available on the internet that you can use to convert your files.

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 scalafoom@gmail.com.

Q: When should I expect to receive my feedback?

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

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](#). See our website www.scala.org.au

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 (Amex, MasterCard or Visa)

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.

Q: What file format is required?

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



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Q: How much does it cost to enter FOOM?

A: If you are a SCALA member cost of entry is \$15.00 per entry, and if you are a non-member the cost of entry is \$37.00 per entry.

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. You should enter such a song in the Lyrics/Libretto 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, unreleased material.