

2024 Chicago *song*SLAM RULES:

The Sparks & Wiry Cries *song*SLAM, in partnership with Fourth Coast Ensemble, is a unique and energizing community event for composer/performer teams to premiere new art songs and compete for cash prizes. Fashioned after poetry slams and storytelling events, teams will premiere a new song of no more than 5 minutes for voice and piano and compete for \$3,000 in audience-awarded cash prizes. Expanding upon the success of the last three years' virtual component, this year all teams will:

1. Have their entry **professionally recorded on April 21 or 27, 2024**, at Lyriq Music School in Chicago's North Center neighborhood,
2. **AND perform their entry in the Live *song*SLAM on May 14, 2024, 7pm**, at The Promontory in Chicago's Hyde Park neighborhood.

Beloved Chicago composer Stacy Garrop serves as emcee for the **Live *song*SLAM event on May 14th, 7pm at The Promontory**. Composers will be interviewed on stage prior to their team's premiere, and the LIVE voting audience will vote on their favorite to award \$2,000 in prize money as follows:

\$1,000 for first place, \$600 for second place, \$400 for third place

The new **Virtual Chicago *song*SLAM opens on Fourth Coast Ensemble's website on May 14th at 10pm** (featuring the professional studio recordings captured on April 21/27) **and remains open through May 31st at 5pm**. Online audience members will vote with their dollars, starting at just \$1, for their favorite team to win. The winning team's composer will receive the first ever **Chicago *song*SLAM commission prize:**

\$1,000 commission from Fourth Coast Ensemble

The funds that each team raises during the virtual event will be split 50/50 with the team and Fourth Coast Ensemble, who will use their portion to reinvest in future competitions and new art song initiatives. On May 31st, total funds raised will be announced on our website and social media, including the \$1,000 commission prize.

Competition Rules:

- 1) Registration is \$20 and opens **HERE on Thursday, March 21, 2023** at 5pm CDT on a first-come, first-served basis. There is **NO** age limit.
- 2) Performance/Recording slots will be open to the 12 teams who register first; there will be up to 3 additional 'alternate' slots in the event of cancellations. Teams who do not successfully register in time to at least be an alternate will have their money refunded. Those on the alternate list will not have their fee immediately refunded; instead, they will have the choice to either stay on the list or be taken off, in which case their fee will be refunded.
- 3) Original compositions presented at the 2024 Chicago *song*SLAM must:
 - Be composed for voice and piano

- Feature texts that are in the public domain or have written and signed permission from the author/trust
- Receive their world premiere on May 14, 2024

4) Songs should be approximately 5 minutes in length or fewer.

5) A composer can only submit ONE song for the event. Performers can only perform in ONE song for the event. While the composer and poet may also be a performer we strongly advise that teams be made up of at least three people to broaden the web of collaboration, creativity, and reach and depth of expertise.

6) Texts may be in any language. Be advised that if your registration is successful, and if your text will not be in the public domain on or before January 1, 2024, you will need to obtain permission from your poet, or from the trust of the poet if deceased. You must receive this permission before your team's recording date of either **Sunday, April 21, or Saturday, April 27, 2024**, and present proof at or before your recording date.

7) Prize money for the live event is as follows: \$1,000 for first place, \$600 for second place, and \$400 for third place. These prizes will be awarded by the live audience vote. See description of voting process above. Funds raised in the Virtual songSLAM (from May 14-31, 2024), will be split 50/50 between the respective team and our organization. Additionally, a \$1,000 commission will be awarded to the composer of the winning team of the Virtual songSLAM.

8) Further prizes may be granted at the discretion of the Co-Artistic Directors of Sparks & Wiry Cries, including but not limited to: online publication and sales of selected songs, hosted through Sparks & Wiry Cries' website; a commission prize for the composer of their choice; and possible inclusion in a songSLAM song book published through **New Music Shelf**.

9) Please note, regardless of premiere, publication, and recording, Sparks & Wiry Cries nor any partner institution will ever claim ownership of the music premiered at any songSLAM. The rights to the premiered works will remain solely with the artistic team that applied.

10) Composers must be present during the live performance.

Teams are encouraged to invite their friends and share the event as widely as possible, as all monetary prizes will be awarded by audience vote.

Further guidelines for the **April 21/27** recording sessions:

- 1) Recording times will be assigned according to the team members' availability between 4-8pm on either April 21 or 27. Every effort will be made to accommodate teams' scheduling requests.
- 2) Teams will be allowed to record up to three takes of their piece; from those takes, teams may indicate their preference for online publication. Edits will not be made.

- 3) Teams will receive access to their video content after the conclusion of the live competition (May 14, 2024) and not before.
- 4) For a representative sample of SnoStudio Photo+Video's work in this space, click [here](#).