

songSLAM RULES:

The Sparks & Wiry Cries Cincinnati *songSLAM* is a unique opportunity for composer/performer teams to premiere new art songs and compete for cash prizes in partnership with Cincinnati Song Initiative. This social event will be MC'd by Kathleen Kelly and will take place at Liberty Exhibition Hall on Saturday January 25th, at 7:00pm. Each team will present a new song of approximately 5 minutes or less for voice and piano in any language for the voting audience, who—in the poetry slam tradition—will then vote on their favorites and award \$2,000 in prize money.

Rules:

1) Registration is \$20 and opens on Monday Nov. 25th at 6pm EST on a first-come, first-served basis. There is NO age limit.

2) Performance slots will be given to the first 10-12 applicants to apply; there will also be 5 alternate slots in the event of cancellations. Registration historically fills up in under 30 minutes – be quick!

3) Original compositions presented at the 2020 Cincinnati *songSLAM* 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 at our event.

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

5) A composer can only submit ONE song for the event. Performers can only perform in ONE song for the event. However, the composer **may** be the pianist or singer. If your team would like to include your poet that is acceptable, and they **may** be the pianist or singer as well.

6) Texts may be in any language. Be advised that if your registration is successful, you will need to obtain permission from your poet, or from the trust of the poet if deceased, to use in your premiere on a specified date before the event on January 25th if your text is not already in the public domain. Your poet may also be a part of your team if you wish, but if they are, they need to be present at the event.

7) There is no age limit for those who wish to apply.

8) Prize money is as follows: \$1,000 for first place, \$600 for second place and \$400 for third place and will be awarded by the audience.

9) Further prizes may be granted at the discretion of the Co-Artistic Directors of *Sparks & Wiry Cries*, including but not limited to: professional recording during the event for use by the composer and performers, and online publication and sales of winning songs, hosted through *Sparks & Wiry Cries*' website, and possible inclusion in a *songSLAM* song book published through [New Music Shelf](#). 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 and how they see fit to divide any assets. Sparks **may** ask for permission from the entire team to use the recording in their promotional materials.

10) Composers must be present during the performance.

Teams are encouraged to bring their friends, as all prizes will be awarded by audience vote. SPACE IS LIMITED and historically this event has sold out very quickly.