

The Ivors 2021 Rules and Guidelines for:

Rising Star Award with Apple Music

Best Album

Best Contemporary Song

Best Song Musically and Lyrically

Best Original Film Score

Best Original Video Game Score

Best Television Soundtrack

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A. Introduction

The Ivors Academy presents Ivor Novello Awards to celebrate and honour excellence in UK and Irish songwriting and composing.

An Ivor Novello Award represents peer recognition with awards presented and judged by the music creator community.

These Rules and Guidelines refer to our presentation of Ivor Novello Awards for the following categories at The Ivors on Tuesday 21 September 2021:

Rising Star Award with Apple Music

Best Album

Best Contemporary Song

Best Song Musically and Lyrically

Best Original Film Score

Best Original Video Game Score

Best Television Soundtrack

There are separate Rules and Guidelines for the Gift of the Academy Awards which will also be presented at The Ivors 2021.

There are also separate rules and guidelines for our presentation of Ivor Novello Awards at The Ivors Composer Awards, which primarily recognise contemporary classical, jazz, and sound art.

Full details about the Academy's award presentations can be found at www.ivorsacademy.com

B. Timetable

2021	
Monday 15 February	Entries open for Rising Star Award with Apple Music
Monday 22 March	Entries open for: Best Album Best Contemporary Song Best Song Musically and Lyrically Best Original Film Score Best Original Video Game Score Best Television Soundtrack
Friday 26 March	Entries close for Rising Star Award with Apple Music
Friday 30 April	Entries close for: Best Album Best Contemporary Song Best Song Musically and Lyrically Best Original Film Score Best Original Video Game Score Best Television Soundtrack
w/c Monday 14 June	Nominees confidentially informed in writing for Rising Star Award with Apple Music
w/c Monday 19 July	Nominated songwriters, composers and music publishers confidentially informed in writing for: Best Album Best Contemporary Song Best Song Musically and Lyrically Best Original Film Score Best Original Video Game Score Best Television Soundtrack
Tuesday 27 July	Nominees announced for Rising Star Award with Apple Music
Tuesday 10 August	Nominations announced for: Best Album Best Contemporary Song Best Song Musically and Lyrically Best Original Film Score Best Original Video Game Score Best Television Soundtrack
Tuesday 21 September	The Ivors with Apple Music Winners Announced

C. Entry Guidelines

The Ivors Academy accepts entries for the following Award Categories:

1. Rising Star Award with Apple Music

2. Best Album

3. Best Contemporary Song

4. Best Song Musically and Lyrically

5. Best Original Film Score

6. Best Original Video Game Score

7. Best Television Soundtrack

Who Can Enter?

(a) Anyone can enter an eligible submission for consideration including the songwriter or composer themselves.

Entry Requirements

(a) All entries must be submitted online via our Awards Entry Site <https://ivorsacademy.secure-platform.com>

(b) There are different entry requirements for each category.

As such, always read the Rules and Guidelines in full before preparing your submission materials and submitting your entry.

(c) Rising Star Award with Apple Music recognises an individual or writing partnership.
There is no administration fee to enter this category.

(d) Best Album, Best Contemporary Song, Best Song Musically and Lyrically, Best Original Film Score, Best Original Video Game Score and Best Television Soundtrack recognise a musical work.

An administration fee of £62.50 + VAT (£75 including VAT) is payable per entry.

The administration fee is waived if one of the songwriters or composers with a qualifying interest in the work is a Standard or Academy member of The Ivors Academy. Entrants are welcome to contact the Awards Team to check if a writer is a member - see page 15 for contact details.

Membership bursaries are offered by The Ivors Academy Trust should there be a financial barrier to joining the Academy. Further information about this can be found on the Academy website

<https://ivorsacademy.com/the-ivors-academy-membership-bursary-scheme>.

If an administration fee is applicable, it must be paid in full before a work will be passed for judging.

Administration fees are non-refundable and non-transferable.

(e) Works which have previously been entered for consideration cannot be re-entered for the Awards.

D. Award Categories and Rules

This section focuses on specific eligibility criteria for each category and the materials which need to be submitted.

1. Rising Star Award with Apple Music

Category Summary

This award honours young, British or Irish songwriting talent who demonstrate exceptional potential, ambition and have begun to capture the imagination of the music creator community.

Eligibility

- (a) To be eligible the individual(s) must be a British or Irish national or ordinarily resident in the UK from 1 January 2020 to 31 March 2021.
- (b) To be eligible the individual(s) must be an active [Standard Under 25 member](#) of The Ivors Academy at the time of entry.

Membership bursaries are offered by The Ivors Academy Trust should there be a financial barrier to joining the Academy. Further information can be found on the Academy website <https://ivorsacademy.com/the-ivors-academy-membership-bursary-scheme>.

For the avoidance of doubt, in the instance of creative partnerships/groups making an application, 50% of the named songwriters need to be active Standard Under 25 members of The Ivors Academy at the time of entry.

- (c) Previous acknowledgement with an Ivor Novello Award or nomination precludes entry to the Rising Star Award with Apple Music.

Entry Requirements

- (a) Entrants must submit 3 original works for consideration.
The works submitted should demonstrate the writers exceptional songwriting talent.
- (b) Entrants must submit an audio file of each work (at least 128 kbps MP3).
- (c) Each work must be accompanied by a PDF copy of the song lyrics, if applicable.
- (d) Each work must also be accompanied by a PDF of the works registration at the relevant royalty collection society identifying the writer(s) interests and share contributions.
- (e) A full biography of the writer(s) must be submitted.
- (f) Supporting reviews or endorsements of the writer's songwriting to date may be submitted.

2. Best Album

Category Summary

This award acknowledges the album as a body of work; long play albums that exhibit exceptional songwriting and consistency.

Eligibility

- (a) To be eligible the album must have a British or Irish writing contribution of at least one third (33.3%) according to the works registration at the relevant royalty collection society.

In calculating the British or Irish contribution all writers will be taken into account, including the writers of any samples used.

A non-British or non-Irish national's contribution can be considered, for the purposes of eligibility, provided the writer was ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom from 1 January 2020 to 31 March 2021 (documentary proof will be required).

- (b) To be eligible the album must have been published and commercially released in the UK for the first time between 1 January 2020 and 31 March 2021.
- (c) The album must contain at least 75% original material; 'original' in this context is defined as not previously released in the UK.

For the avoidance of doubt, the version of the album that was first released must be the album submitted for judging. Later versions of the release in special editions with extra tracks etc. will not be considered.

Entry Requirements

- (a) An audio file (at least 128 kbps MP3) of each track on the album must be submitted with each entry.

Please ensure the file name contains the track number followed by the title of the song.

- (b) Each entry must be accompanied by a PDF of the album registration at the relevant royalty collection society, identifying the writer and publisher interests and share contributions.
- (c) Entrants must supply the album's original UK commercial release date.
- (d) Entrants must also supply the album's catalogue number.
- (e) Entrants are invited to supply a link to the album on Apple Music.

3. Best Contemporary Song

Category Summary

This award recognises outstanding originality in songwriting. Songs which capture the moment and/or explore the boundaries of contemporary music.

Eligibility

- (a) To be eligible the song must have a British or Irish writing contribution of at least one third (33.3%) according to the works registration at the relevant royalty collection society.

In calculating the British or Irish contribution, all writers will be considered, including the writers of any samples used.

A non-British or non-Irish national's contribution can be considered, for the purposes of eligibility, provided the writer was ordinarily resident in the UK from 1 January 2020 to 31 March 2021 (documentary proof will be required).

- (b) To be eligible songs must have been published and commercially released in the UK for the first time between 1 January 2020 and 31 March 2021.

Entry Requirements

- (a) A song may only be submitted into either *Best Contemporary Song* or *Best Song Musically and Lyrically* and not both categories.

The Academy reserves the right to transfer a song from either category, to be determined by the relevant Ivor Novello Award judges.

- (b) An audio file (at least 128 kbps MP3) of the song must be submitted with each entry.

- (c) Each entry must be accompanied by a PDF of the official song lyrics, if applicable.

Please ensure the names of the songwriters are not included.

- (d) Each entry must be accompanied by a PDF of the works registration at the relevant royalty collection society, identifying the writer and publisher interests and share contributions.

- (e) Entrants must supply the song's UK commercial release date, either as a single or as a track on an eligible album.

- (f) Entrants must also supply the song's ISRC number.

- (g) Entrants are invited to supply the link to the song on Apple Music.

4. Best Song Musically and Lyrically

Category Summary

This award recognises excellence in songwriting craft, with particular reference to melody, lyrics, harmony and structure.

Eligibility

- (a) To be eligible the song must have a British or Irish writing contribution of at least one third (33.3%) according to the works registration at the relevant royalty collection society.

In calculating the British or Irish contribution, all writers will be considered, including the writers of any samples used.

A non-British or non-Irish national's contribution can be considered, for the purposes of eligibility, provided the writer was ordinarily resident in the UK from 1 January 2020 to 31 March 2021 (documentary proof will be required).

- (b) To be eligible songs must have been published and commercially released in the UK for the first time between 1 January 2020 and 31 March 2021.

Entry Requirements

- (a) A song may only be submitted into either *Best Song Musically and Lyrically* or *Best Contemporary Song* and not both categories.

The Academy reserves the right to transfer a song from either category, to be determined by the relevant Ivor Novello Awards judges.

- (b) An audio file (at least 128 kbps MP3) of the song must be submitted with each entry.

- (c) Each entry must be accompanied by a PDF of the official song lyrics.

Please ensure the names of the songwriters are not included.

- (d) Each entry must be accompanied by a PDF of the works registration at the relevant royalty collection society, identifying the writer and publisher interests and share contributions.

- (e) Entrants must supply the song's UK commercial release date, either as a single or as a track on an eligible album.

- (f) Entrants must also supply the song's ISRC number.

- (g) Entrants are invited to supply a link to the songs on Apple Music.

5. Best Original Film Score

Category Summary

This award recognises outstanding composition for a feature film; how well the music enhances the visual content.

Eligibility

- (a) To be eligible the film score must have a British or Irish writing contribution of at least one third (33.3%) according to the works registration at the relevant royalty collection society.
A non-British or non-Irish national's contribution can be taken into account, for the purposes of eligible, provided the composer was ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom from 1 January 2020 to 31 March 2021 (documentary proof will be required).
- (b) To be eligible, the feature film must have been exhibited theatrically (as determined by the [Film Distributors Association](#)) for the first time in the UK between 1 January 2020 and 31 March 2021.
Titles whose confirmed theatrical release date (as determined by the [Film Distributors Association](#)) has fallen during the Covid 19 UK cinema lockdown will be eligible should their release have changed to an approved commercial VOD platform during the eligibility period.

Entry Requirements

- (a) The film, in its entirety, must be supplied.
- (i) The file format must be .mp4 or .mov.
 - (ii) The audio codec should be stereo audio (one audio stream with two channels L and R).
 - (iii) The aspect ratio should be 16:9.
 - (iv) The file size cannot exceed 10GB.
 - (v) Please ensure that English subtitles are included on any foreign language films.
 - (vi) Please ensure that the music appears as per the original release – audio levels of the music against dialogue/action should not be modified in any way.
 - (vii) If entrants have difficulty obtaining the film from the production company, please contact the Awards Team who will endeavour to assist (see page 15 for contact details).
- (b) Composers are invited to supply a list of up to five cues (with timecodes) which they feel particularly demonstrate their outstanding compositional craft.
- (c) Physical DVD submissions are not acceptable.
- (d) Entrants must supply a music cue sheet with original cues clearly marked, specifying the overall percentage of original composition.
Where there is more than one composer, the percentage of cues each composer has written must be clearly marked.
- (e) Entrants must provide the film's UK release date.
- (f) Entrants are also asked to provide a short synopsis, of no more than 100 words, about the film.

6. Best Original Video Game Score

Category Summary

This award recognises outstanding composition for a video game; how well the original music enhances the visual content and gaming experience.

Eligibility

- (a) To be eligible the game score must have a British or Irish writing contribution of at least one third (33.3%) according to the works registration at the relevant royalty collection society.
A non-British or non-Irish national's contribution can be taken into account, for the purposes of eligibility, provided the writer was ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom from 1 January 2020 to 31 March 2021 (documentary proof will be required).
- (b) To be eligible the game must have been commercially released for the first time in the UK between 1 January 2020 and 31 March 2021.
- (c) The version of the game from original date of release during 1 January 2020 to 31 March 2021 should be the version submitted for judging. Later versions on different platforms or extension packs will not be considered.

Entry Requirements

- (a) A video file containing selection of original music cues from the game must be submitted with each entry:
 - (i) The file format must be .mp4 or .mov.
 - (ii) The audio codec should be stereo audio (one audio stream with two channels L and R).
 - (iii) The aspect ratio should be 16:9.
 - (iv) The file size cannot exceed 10GB.
 - (v) The Academy strongly recommends that the composer(s) of the musical score chooses the cues as the selection of clips should best highlight the compositional excellence against the gaming experience.
 - (vi) Cues can be shown in any order the composer feels best highlights their work across the entire game.
 - (vii) There is no limit to the number of cues, but the overall duration must be no longer than 15 minutes and should include a mixture of game play and in-game cinematic. There must be a minimum of 10 minutes game play included.
 - (viii) Music must be shown in the context of the visuals as it appeared within the game – audio levels against dialogue/action must not be modified in any way.
 - (ix) The composer's name must not appear at any point.
- (b) Cue sheets should be provided for the game, marked up to indicate which cues were originally composed and which were not.
The cue sheet should also specify the overall percentage of original composition.

Where there is more than one composer, the percentage of cues each has written must be clearly marked – a cue sheet template is available to download from the Awards Entry Site (<https://ivorsacademy.secure-platform.com/a/page/Best-Original-Video-Game-Score>) should one not exist.

- (c) Entrants must provide the game's UK release date.
- (d) Entrants are asked to also provide details about the platform and a brief synopsis, of no more than 100 words, about the game.

7. Best Television Soundtrack

Category Summary

This award recognises outstanding composition for a television programme; how well the original music enhances the visual content.

Eligibility

- (a) To be eligible the musical score must have a British or Irish writing contribution of at least one third (33.3%) according to the works registration at the relevant royalty collection society.
- A non-British or non-Irish national's contribution can be taken into account, for the purposes of eligibility, provided the writer was ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom between 1 January 2020 and 31 March 2021 (documentary proof will be required).
- (b) To be eligible the original music must have been broadcast as part of a programme that received its first transmission in the UK between 1 January 2020 and 31 March 2021 on terrestrial, cable, satellite or digital channels including web-based broadcasters who commission original content (such as Netflix).

Entry Requirements

- (a) A video file containing selection of original music cues from the programme must be submitted with each entry:
- (i) The file format must be .mp4 or .mov.
 - (ii) The audio codec should be stereo audio (one audio stream with two channels L and R).
 - (iii) The aspect ratio should be 16:9.
 - (iv) The file size cannot exceed 10GB.
 - (v) The Academy strongly recommends that the composer of the musical score chooses the cues as the selection of clips should best highlight the compositional excellence against the visuals.
 - (vi) Cues can be shown in any order the composer feels best highlights their work.
 - (vii) There is no limit to the number of cues, but the overall duration must be no longer than 15 minutes.
 - (viii) Music must be shown in the context of the visuals as it appeared in its original broadcast – audio levels of the music against dialogue/action should not be modified in any way.
 - (ix) The composer's name must not appear at any point.
- (b) Cue sheets should be provided for the entire broadcast, marked up to indicate which cues were originally composed for the programme and which were not.
- The cue sheet should also specify the overall percentage of original composition.
- Where there is more than one composer, the percentage of cues each composer has written must be clearly marked.
- (c) Entrants must provide the programme's UK televised broadcast date.
- (d) Entrants are asked to provide details about the programme's genre, length, and broadcaster.
- (e) Entrants are also asked to provide a short synopsis, of no more than 100 words, about the programme.

E. Judging

An Ivor Novello Award represents peer recognition with awards judged by the music creator community.

- (a) All eligible submissions for the Rising Star Award with Apple Music will be assessed by The Ivors Awards Committee or those it delegates responsibility to.
- (b) All eligible submissions in the categories Best Album, Best Contemporary Song, Best Song Musically and Lyrically, Best Original Film Score, Best Original Video Game Score and Best Television Soundtrack will be assessed by specially appointed judges; the members of which shall be chosen by The Ivors Academy:
 - (i) The Academy aims to have seven judges on each panel.
 - (ii) Any appointed judge found to have a conflict of interest or perceived conflict of interest during a judging session will be asked to forgo their role.
 - (iii) An Independent Adjudicator will be present at each judging session, in a non-voting capacity.
 - (iv) All judging sessions will be led by a Chair, in a non-voting capacity.
 - (v) All judges will be required to sign a non-disclosure agreement.
- (c) Any works where there is or appears to be a genuine ownership, authorship or author-share dispute may, at the discretion of The Ivors Academy Board, be disqualified.
- (d) The Ivors Academy reserves the right not to make an award in any category.
- (e) In all cases, the final decision rests with The Ivors Academy and correspondence will not be entered into with respect to such decisions.
- (f) The judges will be acknowledged in the commemorative programme and on The Ivors Academy website.

F. Candidates for Nomination

- (a) For the Rising Star Award with Apple Music, there will be no more than five nominees.
- (b) For Best Album, Best Contemporary Song, Best Song Musically and Lyrically, Best Original Film Score, Best Original Video Game Score and Best Television Soundtrack, there will be no more than five nominated works per category.
- (c) For Best Album, Best Contemporary Song and Best Song Musically and Lyrically, the Academy will acknowledge each writer, regardless of nationality, whose personal contribution is at least 10% of the writers share in the work according to the works registration at the relevant royalty collection society, and the corresponding UK publisher.
- (d) For Best Original Film Score and Best Television Soundtrack, the Academy will credit the composer(s) of the original music, responsible for the overall conception, design, and execution of the work as a whole, and the corresponding UK publisher according to the works registration at the relevant royalty collection society.

Where the composer created less than 50% of the original music, additional contributors may be considered at the discretion of the Academy.
- (e) For Best Original Video Game Score, the Academy will credit the composer(s) of the original music, responsible for the overall conception, design, and execution of the work as a whole.

Where the composer created less than 50% of the original music, additional contributors may be considered at the discretion of the Academy.
- (f) The Rising Star Award with Apple Music nominees will receive a year of support and mentorship from Apple Music.
- (g) Each nominated writer, in line with clauses A, C, D and E above, will receive a nomination certificate from the Academy.
- (h) Nominated writers, in line with C, D and E above will automatically be given Academy Membership, complimentary for a year.

- (i) Details of when nominated writers will be confidentially informed of their nomination by The Ivors Academy, and when the nominations will be made public, can be found on the timetable on page 4.
- (j) It is the Academy's policy to list the nominees for the Rising Star Award with Apple Music in alphabetical order of surname in all publicity material.
- (k) It is the Academy's policy to list the nominated works, within each category, in alphabetical order of work title in all publicity material.

Where there is more than one nominated writer associated with a work, names will always be listed in alphabetical order of surname.

Where a work contains samples, the writers of any samples included will appear after the writers of the original material.

- (l) The award ceremony will incorporate an audio-visual presentation of highlighting nominees and nominated works.
- Nominees cooperation in supplying the necessary assets, as communicated direct by The Ivors Academy, will be required.
- (m) Nominees will be sent a Nominee Toolkit which will contain social media assets and 'The Ivors' and 'The Ivors Nominee 2021' logos. These can only be used online, in print and in broadcasts once the public nomination announcement has been made.
- (n) The logos as per the above clause M are available from The Ivors Academy at the time writers are confidentially informed of their nomination and can be used before the press announcement for the purpose of artwork preparation only.

Please note that

- (i) cropping or altering logos in any way is prohibited.
- (ii) each instance of logo use must be approved by The Ivors Academy, with proofs of the logo in situ provided by email.

G. Winners

- (a) For the Rising Star Award with Apple Music, there will be one winner.
- (b) For Best Album, Best Contemporary Song, Best Song Musically and Lyrically, Best Original Film Score, Best Original Video Game Score and Best Television Soundtrack, there will be one winning work in each category.
- (c) In line with clause A above, one hand cast bronze statuette (Ivor Novello Award) will be presented to the winner of the Rising Star Award with Apple Music.
- (d) In line with clause B, one hand cast bronze statuette (Ivor Novello Award) will be presented to each winning writer in line with the candidate for nomination clauses C, D and E. Only these writers will be invited on stage to collect their award at the ceremony.
- (e) One hand cast bronze statuette (Ivor Novello Award) will be presented to the corresponding UK publisher. Additional statuettes may be awarded to bona fide co-publishers in the case of co-written and co-published works in line with the candidate for nomination clauses C and D. Only one representative from each publisher will be invited on stage to collect their award at the ceremony.

For the avoidance of doubt, the UK publisher shall include any person, firm or company owning or controlling the copyright in the nominated work in the UK during the qualifying period.

- (f) An Ivor Novello Award remains the property of The Ivors Academy and it is to remain in the care of the recipient or their descendants.

The award must not be sold on to any third party.

Should the award leave the care of the recipient or their descendants, the Academy reserves the right to purchase the award back for a fee of £1.

- (g) The winner's press release and The Ivors Academy website is the definitive source of award winner's information.

- (h) Winners will be sent a Winner's Toolkit which will contain social media assets, official photos from the ceremony (if applicable) and 'The Ivors' and 'The Ivors Winners 2021' logos once the winner has been made public. Winners are free to use to these online, in print and in broadcasts.

Please note that

- (i) cropping or altering logos in any way is prohibited.
- (ii) each instance of logo use must be approved by The Ivors Academy, with proofs of the logo in situ provided by email.

H. Miscellaneous Rules and Guidelines

- (a) The Ivors and Euterpe (Ivor Novello Award) are trademarks belonging to BASCA, trading as The Ivors Academy. Persons wishing to reproduce or use these marks, must secure the written consent of The Ivors Academy prior to such use.
- (b) An Ivor Novello Award may not be reproduced or used in any commercial manner unless prior permission has been obtained from The Ivors Academy.
- (c) The final decision regarding all aspects of The Ivors, including the interpretation of these rules rests with The Ivors Academy Board.

I. Contact Details

The Awards Team can assist with any queries and/or provide assistance with the awards entry website, if required:

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