



# SECRETS (AND LIES

Forename: \_\_\_\_\_

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please tell us where you heard  
or read about this competition

Address for  
Correspondence:

Song title: \_\_\_\_\_

How long is your song: \_\_\_\_\_

Songs must not exceed 4 minutes.

A grace over-run of up to ten seconds will be permitted.

Non Performing  
song-writer:

 Yes ~ Enter performer(s) in **Support musicians** (below) No

Joint entry:

 No  Yes ~ Enter co-writer(s) here: \_\_\_\_\_

Support musicians:  
(forename and surname)

**Check list:**

Please ensure that you have provided  
the following:

- A completed entry form (above).
- Your song as a digital recording or  
on a CD with the name of the artist(s)  
and the song title written on it
- A lyric sheet for your song.

Send your completed entry form, song and lyrics  
by email to [watfordfolkclub@outlook.com](mailto:watfordfolkclub@outlook.com)  
with "Song Comp 26" in the subject box

or by mail to:

**Watford Folk Club Song Competition 2026**  
**61 Blackwell Road**  
**Kings Langley**  
**WD4 8NE**

All submissions will be acknowledged to confirm safe  
receipt.

Note: This competition is open to everyone except  
committee members of Watford Folk Club and their  
immediate families as well as last year's winners.



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1. Songs may be submitted by two methods:
  - Either on CD with artist/artists' names and song title written on it to the address overleaf.
  - Or a digital audio recording, MP3/WAV/AIFF format or similar, to be sent to the email address overleaf
  - Each entry must be accompanied by a completed entry form and a lyrics sheet.
  - The deadline for the receipt of submissions is 1<sup>st</sup> October 2026
2. Songs and their tunes submitted as competition entries must be entirely the creation and the property of the entrant(s).
  - Where joint entries are submitted both names must appear on the entry form and the box marked "Joint entry" must be ticked.
  - Songs submitted and recordings thereof remain the property of their creator who shall retain all rights relating to their material (but see rule 10).
3. The entrant must either be the solo performer or the lead performer where supporting musicians are required, or, in the event that the entrant is not a performing musician they may nominate amateur musicians to deliver their song.
  - The names of these musicians must be recorded on the entry form in the "Supporting musicians" box.
  - The use of professional musicians for this purpose will lead to disqualification.
  - Musicians will not be permitted to appear more than once in the grand final. Therefore, where nominated or support musicians are employed, entrants should determine whether musicians are also competitors in their own right. (see rule 5).
  - Non-performing songwriters must tick "Non Performing song writer" on the entry form.
  - Songs should not exceed four minutes in duration (entrants are invited to e-mail the judges for an adjudication before submission if they are uncertain about eligibility on the grounds of either theme or length).
  - Live performances at the grand final will not be disqualified in the event that a song exceeds four minutes in length provided that it is the same song as that submitted as a recording in the first round and that any increase in length is due only to the pace of the performance
4. This is a competition for new songs.
  - A new song shall be defined as follows:  
The song and its tune will have been completed no earlier than October 1<sup>st</sup> 2026, that is to say six calendar months prior to the start date of this competition.
  - The song and tune will not have been heard extensively in venues within a twenty-mile radius of Watford. Songwriters may wish to trial their material and that is acceptable, even to the extent of a single trial performance at a Watford Folk Club sing-around. However, performers must not reveal that their song is to be a competition entry.
  - The song and tune must not have been exploited for commercial gain or charitable purposes.
  - The song and tune must not appear on any album for sale nor be part of a set for any paid performance until after the competition final (Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2026).
  - Songs or tunes written prior to October 1<sup>st</sup> 2025 may be eligible at the discretion of the judges.
  - Songwriters wishing to enter such songs must e-mail the judges to seek an adjudication.
5. It will help the judges if songwriters provide a short history of the song, including a record of any performances in local venues.
5. All entries will be considered by a team of judges in order to select a short list of ten for the final.
  - In the first round the judges will operate "blindfold". Songs will be judged only upon their lyrical and musical integrity regardless of the quality of the recording. Entrants may make multiple submissions. Each submission must be accompanied by a separate completed entry form and lyrics sheet.
  - At the end of round one, the identities of the short-listed songwriters and their nominated or supporting musicians will be reviewed. In the event that any entrant has more than one song in the final short list or that their nominated or supporting musicians appear elsewhere in the short list, those songs will be referred back to the judges to select the best to go forward to the final.
  - The judges will then review the previously unselected songs from the remaining unidentified entrants to select additional songs for the final.
  - This selection process will continue until the short list comprises ten songs by ten different songwriters presented by different performers.
6. Ten selected finalists will be invited to the grand final which will take place on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2026 at 8pm, at the  
Watford Ex-Services and Social Club  
12-14 St Albans Road  
Watford  
WD17 1BN
  - Prospective entrants should ensure that they can be available to appear at the final should they be short-listed.
7. Entries selected for the final must be performed with live vocals and instrumentation.
  - Electronic reproduction of prepared music in support of a performance is not permitted. There will be no amplification available and prospective entrants are advised that they are not permitted to bring their own amplifiers.
  - The final will be an entirely acoustic event.
8. A second team of judges will consider the performances at the grand final. From these performances the judges will choose a winner and runner-up.
9. The winner will receive a trophy and a certificate.
  - The runner-up will receive a certificate
10. Watford Folk Club reserves the right to use sound recordings from the final, photographic images from the final and CD submissions from the first round in its publicity materials free of charge.
  - Watford Folk Club will not seek permission for such use nor will it enter into negotiation for payment or reward of any kind.
11. All decisions and judgements made in the course of the competition are final and will not be the subject of discussion or correspondence.