The 23rd Music Express
Rules and Regulations

(1) Contestant’s Requirements:

1. Contestants who are citizens, residents and current students, in Singapore, Malaysia Mainland China and Taiwan with age of 13 to 35 years old are eligible to participate in the competition.

2. Songs might have one or more co-writers, including lyricists, composers, music arrangers and re-mixers.

3. Contestants (be it composer, lyricist, music arranger) are strictly not allowed to hold any contracts with any music companies.

4. Song performer may not necessarily be the lyricist or composer. A maximum of 8 performers is allowed. Performers are not restricted by the rule no. 1 as mentioned above.

5. Each contestant may submit a maximum of 2 original works. For each contestant, only 1 entry will be qualified for final.

6. Every entry is entitled to every single entry form. No entry fees will be charged.

7. All entries are bound to the rules and regulations mentioned above. Music Express reserves the right to disqualify entries that oppose any rules and regulations.

(2) Entries Requirements:

1. All entries must be original, unpublished songs and shall not infringe upon any copyrights or rights of third parties. Contestants are forbidden to publish any song entries throughout the competition unless stated by officials.

2. Chinese lyrics of the whole song should hold a percentage of at least 70%. The remaining 30% can be of any language.

3. Entries must be complete songs (inclusive of lyrics and accompanying music) that do not exceed a maximum time length of 5 minutes.

4. Lyrics with any obscene phrases, excessive violence, political and sexual content, religious extremism, or any other inappropriate values will result in disqualification.
(3) Competition Judging Process:

**Preliminary Round**

1. Preliminary Round Judging Criteria:
   - Originality: 20%
   - Lyrics: 35%
   - Song Composition: 35%
   - Lyrics-Song Compatibility: 10%

2. Preliminary round will be conducted by professional judges from Touch Music Publishing based on the entry received.

3. 8 contestants will be chosen to advance to the Grand Final.

**Grand Final**

1. Grand Final Judging Criteria:
   - Lyrics: 30%
   - Song Composition: 30%
   - Live Performance: 40%

2. People’s Choice Award Judging Criteria:
   - Online Votes: 50%
   - Live Audience Votes: 50%

3. Finalists are required to perform their entries live on stage to the public audience. The live performance may include presentation in the form of dance, or live band etc. Finalists who cannot attend the Grand Final will be withdrawn from the competition.

4. There are no restrictions to the instruments that can be used during the live performance. However, the Organizer will only provide the following instruments: Drum set, electric guitar, bass guitar, acoustic guitar, and keyboard. If necessary, finalists are advised to prepare and bring along their own instruments. Pre-recorded background music may affect the score under the live performance judging criterion.

5. Finalists are to inform the organizer of the instruments that they will be using during the Grand Final, to facilitate stage and instrument set-up. The Organizer reserves the right to reject the use of instruments that were not declared prior to the Grand Final.

6. Prizes are as follows:
   - First Prize: S$1000 + Trophy + Certificate
   - First Runner-Up: S$500 + Trophy + Certificate
   - Second Runner-Up: S$350 + Trophy + Certificate
   - Best Lyrics Award: S$250 + Trophy + Certificate
   - Best Composer Award: S$250 + Trophy + Certificate
   - People’s Choice Award: S$150 + Trophy + Certificate
(4) How to Participate:

1. Each entry must include: Song demo, application form, a recent photo of the contestant, and the song lyrics.

2. Application forms may be photocopied. However, each application form is limited to only 1 entry. Forms with incomplete information shall not be entertained.

3. Participants are to record their entries to form a demo (using .mp3 format), and should include vocals and music accompaniment.

4. The names of the lyricist(s), composer(s), arranger(s), performer(s), and vocalist(s) must be clearly stated on both the application form and song lyrics submitted. E.g.: Guitar --- Tan Mei Ling; Vocalist --- Tan Mei Ling.

5. Application begins on 12th December 2016 (Monday).

6. Application ends on 22nd May 2017 (Monday) 11:59 p.m. Finalists shall be notified via email within 2 weeks after the application period has closed.

7. Submission of entries:
   a. Participants must submit their entries via email.
   b. Participants must submit their entry together with the softcopy application form, a recent photo, and their song lyrics to secretary@ntumusicexpress.com.
   c. Please include “23rd Music Express Entry” as the email subject.
   d. Each email is limited to the submission of one entry. For multiple entries, each entry should be submitted separately.

(5) Copyright issues:

1. Contestants are prohibited from publishing any song entries during the competition period unless stated by officials.

2. Copyrights of the song lyrics and composition will still belong to the original lyricist(s) and composer(s). However, the 23rd Music Express Organizers reserve the right to include the entries collected in a competition album or use them for marketing purposes.
(6) Others:

1. The Organizer shall not be responsible for any accidents that happen during performances.

2. The Organizer will not return any submitted entries, photos or lyrics.

3. The Organizer will make the final decision and results are not to be queried.

4. Our working partners Touch Music Publishing and Ocean Butterflies Music will reserve the right to sign contract with the winners. Shortlisted contestants will be notified via email within 2 months after the competition.

*The Organizer reserves the right to amend the Rules and Regulations without prior notification.*