What is the ART SONG CHALLENGE

The Art Song Challenge (ASC) is a European platform dedicated to fostering artistic excellence, diversity, and collaboration in the field of song.
It operates as a network that creates performance opportunities and long-term career pathways, connecting artists with festivals and strengthening collaboration across the festival network itself.
The ASC rethinks how song is discovered, presented, and experienced by creating an open, accessible and international framework for artists and audiences.

Our Mission

ASC treats all genres of song on equal footing, from classical art song to pop, folk, political, electronic and world music. It creates a space where artistic traditions meet and new conversations between artists and audiences emerge.

Why ASC

The ASC addresses structural limitations in the field of song: access remains restricted, visibility uneven, and the art form underrepresented. The ASC provides an open, video-based entry point that lowers barriers, enables equal participation across backgrounds and geographies, and supports new artistic voices. The ASC builds a sustainable, biennial platform that connects artists, festivals and audiences across Europe, and creates real performance opportunities beyond the traditional system.

Too many voices remain unheard.
The ASC creates access where the system still excludes.

How it works:

1. Open Call video-based, no entry fee
2. Selection curated by partner festivals
3. Festival Performances paid concert engagements across Europe
4. Network & Touring long-term connections between artists and festivals

→ First edition 2025 with 130+ applications from 29 countries

What artists gain

- Paid concert engagements & international visibility
- Access to major festivals
- Networking and collaboration opportunities
- Artistic development through new formats

What partners gain

- Access to emerging international talent
- Association with innovation and diversity
- Visibility across multiple festivals and platforms
- Connection to new and younger audiences

Network

ASC brings together leading European festivals to form a sustainable cultural network.
This enables:

- Shared audiences Cross-festival programming
- Long-term collaboration
- Strengthening of the European cultural space

ARTSONG CHALLENGE