# Channel 4’s 'Your Song' brings emotional authenticity to UK talent scene with finale at Hackney Empire



Over the past two months, the new Channel 4 talent show "Your Song" has been on a heartfelt journey across four UK cities—Edinburgh, London, Liverpool, and Birmingham—searching for performers whose music is deeply rooted in personal experience rather than commercial ambition. The show, mentored by Eurovision 2022 UK representative Sam Ryder alongside singer Paloma Faith, culminates in a unique concert at the Hackney Empire on October 24. This finale event brings together standout acts from each city to share their stories through song in an intimate night of storytelling and music, open to ticket holders and filmed for a wider Channel 4 audience.

Unlike traditional singing competitions, "Your Song" places a premium on emotional honesty and human connection, prioritising the authenticity of performers' personal narratives over notions of perfection or chart success. Ryder has emphasised the importance of emotional truth in music, valuing performances that resonate on a profound level with audiences rather than technical flawlessness. Paloma Faith, speaking about the experience, described it as deeply moving, underlining the courage and honesty required for artists to present such intimate content. Both mentors have enjoyed the chance to support grassroots talent, celebrating songs ranging from original compositions to covers of meaningful anthems that have accompanied people through difficult times.

Presented by Alison Hammond, the show’s format takes it beyond the usual televised contest by spending time in each city discovering singers who have been inspired by personal stories and lived experience. Thousands applied, with 12 acts reaching the final stages. The series is produced by Love Productions, the company behind popular shows like "The Great British Bake Off" and "The Piano," further adding to expectations that this programme will offer a fresh, uplifting take on the singing competition genre. With its emphasis on storytelling and community spirit, "Your Song" aims to unearth voices often overlooked by mainstream media, making this an empowering platform for those whose music transcends commercial ambition.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/showbiz/sam-ryder-channel-4-your-song-b1253920.html), [[4]](https://escxtra.com/2025/09/17/sam-ryder-to-become-a-mentor-on-c4s-your-song/), [[5]](https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/edinburgh-channel-4-your-song-the-mound-5305905)
* Paragraph 2 – [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/showbiz/sam-ryder-channel-4-your-song-b1253920.html), [[3]](https://www.standard.co.uk/showbiz/celebrity-news/london-sam-ryder-paloma-faith-alison-hammond-edinburgh-b1252260.html), [[4]](https://escxtra.com/2025/09/17/sam-ryder-to-become-a-mentor-on-c4s-your-song/), [[7]](https://www.pressparty.com/pg/newsdesk/Channel4/view/486968/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/showbiz/sam-ryder-channel-4-your-song-b1253920.html), [[3]](https://www.standard.co.uk/showbiz/celebrity-news/london-sam-ryder-paloma-faith-alison-hammond-edinburgh-b1252260.html), [[6]](https://www.irishnews.com/entertainment/new-channel-4-singing-show-your-song-to-finish-with-london-concert-IUALDQM5OBMOXK4ON3NYGXN5EI/), [[7]](https://www.pressparty.com/pg/newsdesk/Channel4/view/486968/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.standard.co.uk/showbiz/sam-ryder-channel-4-your-song-b1253920.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.standard.co.uk/showbiz/sam-ryder-channel-4-your-song-b1253920.html> - Sam Ryder, Paloma Faith, and Alison Hammond are mentoring 'Your Song', a new Channel 4 talent show that culminates in a concert at Hackney Empire on October 24. The show focuses on performers whose songs are rooted in personal experience rather than commercial ambition. Over two months, the mentors visited Edinburgh, London, Liverpool, and Birmingham, selecting standout acts from each city to perform at the finale. Ryder emphasizes the importance of emotional honesty in music over perfection.
3. <https://www.standard.co.uk/showbiz/celebrity-news/london-sam-ryder-paloma-faith-alison-hammond-edinburgh-b1252260.html> - 'Your Song', a new Channel 4 singing competition, will conclude with a London concert featuring its finalists. Presented by Alison Hammond, with mentors Paloma Faith and Sam Ryder, the show travels to Edinburgh, London, Liverpool, and Birmingham to find amateur singers whose performances have personal significance. Faith describes the experience as moving, focusing on honesty, courage, and human connection rather than finding the next chart-topper.
4. <https://escxtra.com/2025/09/17/sam-ryder-to-become-a-mentor-on-c4s-your-song/> - Sam Ryder, the UK's Eurovision 2022 representative, joins Paloma Faith as a mentor on Channel 4's 'Your Song'. The show celebrates grassroots talent, allowing non-professional singers to perform songs with personal meaning. Unlike traditional singing competitions, 'Your Song' focuses on uplifting performances and personal stories. Ryder expresses excitement about mentoring and hearing the contestants' stories through music.
5. <https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/edinburgh-channel-4-your-song-the-mound-5305905> - Channel 4's 'Your Song' began in Edinburgh, showcasing hidden talent from across the UK. Contestants performed songs with deep personal meaning, from original compositions to covers of iconic anthems. Thousands applied, with 12 singers reaching the final stages. Mentored by Paloma Faith and Sam Ryder, the show aims to highlight personal stories through music.
6. <https://www.irishnews.com/entertainment/new-channel-4-singing-show-your-song-to-finish-with-london-concert-IUALDQM5OBMOXK4ON3NYGXN5EI/> - 'Your Song', a new Channel 4 singing competition, will conclude with a London concert featuring its finalists. Presented by Alison Hammond, with mentors Paloma Faith and Sam Ryder, the show travels to Edinburgh, London, Liverpool, and Birmingham to find amateur singers whose performances have personal significance. Faith describes the experience as moving, focusing on honesty, courage, and human connection rather than finding the next chart-topper.
7. <https://www.pressparty.com/pg/newsdesk/Channel4/view/486968/> - Paloma Faith and Sam Ryder are set to mentor 'Your Song', a new Channel 4 show that celebrates the nation's hidden voices. The series gives non-professional singers the chance to perform songs with deep personal meaning, from love ballads to anthems that lifted spirits in difficult times. The show is produced by Love Productions, known for 'The Great British Bake Off' and 'The Piano'.