



SONG CHALLENGE NO. 2:

A LOVE SONG BEYOND WORDS – SAY IT WITHOUT SAYING IT – A LOVE SONG

Love – few topics have shaped the world of music quite like it.

For decades, songs have emerged from the mix of emotions of infatuation, intense closeness, heartbreak, and farewells songs have been created that accompany us, comfort us, or strike right at the heart. Whether pop, rock, hip-hop, indie or soul – love is inspiration, catalyst, and evergreen all at once.

In doing so, we often fall back on familiar images and phrases. Certain words keep cropping up when it comes to feelings, relationships, and emotional highs – regardless of genre, language, or culture.

This is exactly where our challenge comes in: we invite you to break new ground. Consciously avoid the obvious, oft-heard terms and find your own, surprising language for what is perhaps the most universal theme in the world. The challenge aims to inspire you to develop powerful ideas and create timeless, universal songs that broaden creative horizons and open up new perspectives.

What does love sound like when told differently?

BRIEFING

Write a love song that captures the essence of these emotions in its melody and lyrics, **WITHOUT** using the following words in any of their possible forms (noun, verb, adjective, etc.):

- love, crush
- heart
- soul
- forever, always
- together
- alone
- feel, feelings
- hurt, pain
- dream
- miss

Create a song that reflects the deep emotions of love in all its forms – whether it be love for a person, an animal, a place or an idea. Let the melody of each verse capture and amplify the emotions in the lyrics – stay true to the mood of the text and thus create an intimate, authentic atmosphere. Your song may capture the various facets of love: passion, pain, regret, or even a humorous take on life. It is important that your song explores the theme of love – in whatever form.

The Lyrics may be written in German or English.

THE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- Recognisability as a love song without explicit mention
- Consistency in fulfilling the brief
- Technical quality (lyrical/compositional)
- Integration of lyrics, music and attitude
- Originality

WHAT YOU CAN WIN

Once an expert jury has selected the best song, the winner will receive a professional mix and master of their own song by a professional team!

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

What should be submitted?

- Audio recording (a demo is sufficient)
- Song Lyrics
- Brief reflection on the work (max. 1,000 characters)
 - Why is this a love song?
 - What compositional decisions were key (in bullet points)

Formal Requirements

- Length: 2 – 4 minutes
- All genres welcome!
- Collaborations between GEMA members are encouraged (e.g., lyricist and composer, etc.)
- The use of AI is permitted, but must be clearly declared (short “making-of note” in the reflection on the work)

Please be sure to read the terms and conditions and email your song to gemaplus@gema.de, including your membership number. Only GEMA members are eligible to participate in Song Challenge No. 2.

The deadline for submitting your song is 19 April 2026

Privacy Policy: In connection with your participation in the challenge, we will only process your name and the email address you use to submit your song, lyrics, etc. Further information on our privacy policy, please visit www.gema.de/en/data-protection.