



## What our judges had to say Category: Song Writing

### Winner: Timothy Stone

#### The Road Home

The winning entry “The Road Home” is a very evocative and thought provoking song, with interesting use of the lyrics to tell a very detailed story. The arrangement complemented the tone of the song well, a minor key and melancholy piano accompaniment supported the story told with the lyrics. In places the lyrics didn’t scan to the melody line effectively, which stood out a little, however the strength of the story came through. An interesting format has been used for the song, resulting in the song feeling more like a sung poem perhaps; however, this didn’t detract from the song at all. The songwriter may like to explore other structures to develop their compositions in future. Whilst the theme of ‘At Home’ is not fully reflected in this song, it does consider the importance of home, through the eyes of a soldier. It is a powerful message, and has been told it effectively through the song.

### Highly Commended: Chris Kirby

#### Come to The Life Rooms

“Come to The Life Rooms” is a really lovely song, and a very catchy melody. The arrangement and style of the piece complements the lyrics. It is a positive and entertaining song. The ukulele accompaniment enhances the song, with interesting chords and progressions used. The lyrics are very clever, some great use of rhymes, and the lyrics scan well. The songwriter could have considered including a ‘middle 8’ or instrumental solo to add to the song and to break up the verse/chorus pattern. On this occasion I felt the song, whilst it was a well written and entertaining entry, did not fully meet the brief of this competition. Therefore I have awarded it the Highly Commended award.

### Zoë Armfield

#### Head of Learning

#### Royal Liverpool Philharmonic

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