

Jo shortlisted in songwriting competition at the age of 89

Winning tune will be recorded to raise funds for Barnardo's

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An 89-year-old Barking-side songwriter is hoping one of her tunes will be picked by judges including Sir Terry Wogan to be recorded professionally.

Jo Masters, of Tanners Lane, has written more than 200 songs and has been an entertainer and dancer since she was four.

Now she is hoping to finish top of the pops as the oldest entrant in The Oldie Composers' Songwriting Competition, organised to raise

funds for the Barnardo's charity.

Her tune, *House of Tears*, has been selected for a shortlist of 50 songs and if she gets enough votes, it could be one of four picked by a knowledgeable panel including Sir Terry and fellow radio DJs Ken Bruce, Bob Harris and Johnnie Walker.

The best songs will be included on a charity CD meaning Mrs Masters would fulfil a lifetime ambition to have her music published ahead of her 90th birthday in June.

Fingers crossed

She said: "I was so delighted to be shortlisted. I'm the oldest one and I've been writing songs for a long time.

"I'm just keeping my fingers crossed."

The singer, who has been married to Morris for 64 years, wrote a musical performed at what was then known as Ilford Town Hall in 1959 and sang to the troops during the Second World War.

She has her own YouTube channel showcasing her tunes, penned on her piano, including comedy tracks like



■ Jo Masters about 1945



■ Jo working at her piano

The Advertising Song.

Her two daughters are spearheading her competition campaign from other sides of the world - one in Canada and one in Australia.

Georgina Patko, 60, who lives near Vancouver, said:

"We think the song is brilliant. I think she's got a very good chance."

■ To vote for Jo's song (song number 18) visit www.oldiecomposers.com and find out more about her life at www.croozy.com/jo.

Jo's top tunes

1 Back To The Engine - a jaunty number in which Jo views her life as a train in which she sits "happily viewing the past".

2 I Like It 'Ere - a love letter to London which could keep Boris Johnson happy. Includes the line "born and bred, gonna stay here till I'm dead."

3 The Advertising Song - Jo is clearly no fan of commercials judging by this comic rail against publicity.