

NZCF-SOUNZ CHORAL COMPOSITION COMPETITION 2026 ENTRY FORM

This competition, introduced by NZ Choral Federation to mark the third millennium and is run in conjunction with SOUNZ Centre for New Zealand Music, and awards a prize for the best choral piece composed by a New Zealand secondary school student.

The 2026 adjudicator is Leonie Holmes.

A. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

1. The composition must be an entirely original work.
2. All composers must be full-time day students from Year 9 to Year 13/14 with an upper age limit of 19 years of age as of 1 January 2026 (in conformity with the Education Act 1989, Section 3).
3. Entries may be submitted by composers in the year immediately following termination of their secondary schooling. This provision applies only to the year immediately after leaving school, and only to pieces composed while the student was enrolled full-time in a New Zealand secondary school.
4. Past winners will not be eligible to win first prize again.
5. Entries may have been performed publicly prior to entry but should not have been a winning entry in any other national composition competition.
6. Only one entry per person will be accepted. However, entrants may also submit the same or a different composition for the SOUNZ-NZCF Te Reo Māori Choral Composition Award.
7. Every entry must be accompanied by an official, fully completed entry form.
8. Entries close on **15 May 2026**
9. Entry material will not be returned to the entrant.

B. COMPOSITION CRITERIA

1. Compositions must be between one and five minutes in length.
2. An entry may use text written by or for, or selected by, the composer. It is the responsibility of the composer to ensure and declare that copyright requirements have been met for any text used that is not their own.
3. Compositions may be scored for two to six choral parts, for male, female or mixed choir, with or without accompaniment. Occasional divisi (on no more than a few notes at a time) will not be deemed to constitute an extra part.
4. Accompaniment may include:

- up to five instrumental parts (although the composition may comprise no more than eight parts in total, including choral, solo voice and instrumental parts)
 - one original recorded or sequenced part written by the composer, which, if unscored, must be included on a recording submitted with the choral score
 - a solo vocalist, who should not play too significant a role in the work
5. The winning piece should be suitable for performance by a secondary school choir and must be composed with that in mind.

C. SUBMITTING SCORES

1. Digital entries are required.
2. Please also send a sound/audio file or video recording of the composition to support your entry. If this is a barrier to entry please contact us and we will assist you.
3. Entries may have been performed publicly prior to entry; however, adjudication will be from the submitted score only.

D. ADJUDICATION

1. NZCF will appoint an adjudicator.
2. Judging is from the score only, except for any unscored or pre-recorded parts.
3. If the Adjudicator considers that in any year there is no entry of sufficient merit, no award will be made.
4. The Adjudicator's decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

E. WINNING COMPOSITION

1. The winner will receive a cash prize of \$300, supported by SOUNZ Centre for New Zealand Music.
2. A copy of the winning score is to be held by SOUNZ as a perusal copy. One copy will be retained by NZCF for its archives.
3. The NZCF Choral Composition Trophy will be held for one year by the school the winning student attended at the time the piece was composed.
4. NZCF and SOUNZ will work with the composer to facilitate a video recording of the winning composition to be shared online by both organisations in late 2026
5. The results of the competition will be announced on the NZCF website (www.nzcf.org.nz) and Facebook on Monday 22 June 2026.

ENTRIES are FREE and must be received by 15 May 2026.

Entries should be sent to:

Emma Billings

NZCF Events Manager

emma.billings@nzcf.org.nz

**NZCF-SOUNZ CHORAL COMPOSITION COMPETITION
2026 ENTRY FORM**

Name:

Address:

Home phone:

Mobile:

Email:

School:

Composition title:

Audio file submitted? Y / N

ENTRIES must be received by **15 May 2026** to the address below. Entry is **FREE**.

Emma Billings
NZCF Events Manager
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