



The Kids Sing 2026

ABOUT THE KIDS SING

The Kids Sing is a choral festival for primary and intermediate/full primary school choirs, aimed at developing performance skills and offering the option of constructive feedback from an NZCF adjudicator/commentator.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. OPEN ENTRY

The Kids Sing is a festival of choral music open to schools and community choirs for young people at primary and intermediate age levels (up to, and including, year 8 students).

2. LEVELS OF ENTRY

There are three levels of entry:

a) Participation only – no feedback

Choirs can take part in The Kids Sing without receiving feedback and will receive a Participation Certificate.

b) Performance with feedback

Choirs who wish to perform with constructive feedback will be critiqued and provided with a written report (without grading), which may include comments on:

- **Intonation:** accuracy of pitch; overall tuning
- **Tone and Blend:** evenness of tone; overall blend of voices
- **Vocal Technique:** breath support; posture
- **Diction:** clarity of consonants; uniformity of vowels
- **Interpretation:** phrasing and expression; integrity to text; observance of performance markings (articulation, tempo, dynamics etc.)
- **Staging and Presentation:** visual impact; choral discipline; stage presence.

A Performance Certificate and/or regional awards will be provided.

c) Graded performance

These choirs will receive a critique on their performance (as for 2b) and also be graded. These choirs are eligible for Gold, Silver or Bronze awards and will be given an appropriate certificate.

For adjudication purposes, there are two categories of choirs:

- Primary (CP): up to, and including Year 6 students only
- Full Primary (FP)/Intermediate: up to and including Year 8 students

3. ENTRY FEES

- a) The cost per singer in 2026 is \$2.00 to \$3.00 per singer, with a maximum of \$250.00 per school, as follows:

Number of singers Fee

Up to 20 singers	\$70
21-30 singers	\$95
31-40 singers	\$125
41-50 singers	\$165
51-60 singers	\$195
61-70 singers	\$230
Over 70	\$250

- b) Entry fees are not refundable in the event of withdrawal within three weeks of the Regional Event.
 c) Choirs withdrawing earlier than three weeks before the event are entitled to a refund of their fee, less an administration fee of \$40.00.
 d) Notice of withdrawal should be sent to the Regional Coordinator and the NZCF National Office. Completed entries must be received by NZCF no later than the regional festival's closing date (advised on our website).
 e) After this date, entries may still be accepted at the discretion of the Regional Coordinator but will incur a \$40.00 late entry fee.
 f) Schools are not permitted to participate in the festival if the entry fee has not been received by the date of the event.

4. FESTIVAL SONG

In some regions, an appropriate festival song will serve as a set piece or general participatory piece. Participants will be advised where to obtain scores.

5. HOW TO ENTER

Choirs should register online at <https://nzcf.org.nz/events/nzcf-events/kids-sing>.

6. PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOS

- a) Choirs may be photographed or videoed for NZCF publicity purposes. Schools that do not wish their children to be photographed or videoed must indicate this on the registration form. Please inform your students that there may be photos taken which may be used at a later date for publicity and seek permission from their parents if this is in accordance with your school policy.

Please see the Conditions of Entry on the next page...

8. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

For all choirs

- b) A school may enter as many choirs as it wishes, and more than one school may combine to form a choir. Community children's choirs may also participate.
- c) Conductors, accompanists and backing musicians may be adults or students.
- d) Audio backing may be used where appropriate.
- e) Microphones may be used if appropriate to the musical style, e.g. vocal jazz.
- f) Choir directors and accompanying adults are responsible for the supervision of their choir/s at all times.
- g) The school must hold a current OneMusic licence. <https://www.onemusicnz.com/music-licences/schools/> to apply for a licence, call 0800 663 486.
- h) Schools may photocopy up to five copies of each original piece of music for use with the school choirs as long as the school holds a current OneMusic licence.
- i) We encourage all choirs to learn the festival song (in regions where this applies) and/or one work by a New Zealand composer, although non-competing choirs are welcome to choose any repertoire.
- j) Schools and parents may record or photograph their own choir's performance but no flash photography is to be used.
- k) Choir directors will be requested to provide the Regional Coordinator with one published or clear manuscript copy (or words where no written music exists) of each piece to be sung. This is not required for choirs giving 'performance only without feedback' (see Levels of Entry 2a).
- l) Some regions may offer sound checks, determined by time constraints within the schedule. Whatever decision is made by the organising committee for that region will be applied to all choirs entered for that region's event, irrespective of choice of accompaniment.

For choirs giving a graded performance

Each choir must present a varied programme of three pieces of up to ten minutes total aggregate performance time, which includes a composition/arrangement by a New Zealand composer, and the festival song selected by the region in consultation with the adjudicator.

- a) Primary (CP) competing choirs should perform at least one piece in parts, or with a descant.
- b) Full Primary/Intermediate (FP) competing choirs should include at least two pieces sung in parts.
- c) All members of competing choirs must be involved in that choir's performance, although some solo or ensemble work is also permitted.
- d) A competing choir should have at least 12 singers, with no maximum number.
- e) Full Primary (FP) choirs will be assessed at a slightly higher standard to the Contributing Primary (CP) choirs, reflecting their different stages of development.

	FP Grade	CP Grade
Gold	85% or more	80% or more
Silver	75-84%	70-79%
Bronze	65-74%	60-69%