



CATEGORIES OF MUSICAL STYLES 2026

CATEGORY ONE

New Zealand Music

- Māori
- Pasifika
- New Zealand Art Music (original composition, sacred or secular)
- New Zealand Folk Music (traditional lyrics and melody in a choral arrangement)
- New Zealand Popular Music

CATEGORY TWO

Choral Art Music

Secular or sacred music of any age, written originally, or arranged specifically, for choir or vocal ensemble, excluding Gospel and Popular music (eg jazz, swing, pop, rock, hip hop, rap).

Note that New Zealand Choral Art Music is also allowed in this category.

CATEGORY THREE

Open Choice

Formerly called Director's Choice, this category includes all choral music, including pieces that fall into Categories One and Two.

Choirs are encouraged to present a balanced programme showing variety of style, genre and mood. Adjudicators will reward programmes that demonstrate stylistic variety and technical accomplishment.

Any queries about the categories should be directed in the first instance to the NZCF Events Manager Emma Billings emma.billings@nzcf.org.nz

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

In their assessment of TBS performances, adjudicators will take the following elements into consideration.

Technical skill

- Intonation, blend and balance
- Vocal quality
- Diction and language
- Complexity and accuracy

Artistic merit

- Communication and presentation
- Interpretation and style