



The Commonwealth International Composition Award

Around the world there are very few young people who are being taught how to write their own music as part of their education. However, New Zealand is one of the countries we believe may be leading the field in this respect.

Musical composition is as valuable a form of self-expression as drama, dance, visual art and creative writing, but surprisingly, is the one that is least frequently taught in schools.

The Commonwealth Resounds, The Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) and the Purcell School for Young Musicians in the UK are all very keen to try and change this. It is why we have created this new training award.

We are looking for

- 1) High-flying schools and musical organisations in New Zealand who are already teaching musical composition to their pupils successfully, and who would be willing to be promoted as models of excellence on our international website and enter their promising young composers for this special International Award.
- 2) Enterprising schools who would like to teach their pupils how to compose music but need some teacher and pupil support to get started.
- 3) New Zealand Composers who would like to join our programme as mentors or tutors.
- 4) Enterprising partners in New Zealand who would like to sponsor or support young composers in their country and help them to achieve a high international profile via this exciting new training award.

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For those who wish to know more, here is the link to the website

<https://cicompositionaward.com/>

Benefits of the project for schools in New Zealand

- The whole project is absolutely free of charge to all those involved, because musical organisations in New Zealand will be able to benefit from our sponsored pilot project, running up to the end of July 2019.
- Teachers in the selected NZ schools who have never taught musical composition before will be given lesson materials and plans to download and use. They will also receive as much online one-to-one support as they need via skype, email, and other online communication networks from experienced composition teachers.
- STARTERS - Young people in these schools learning to compose music will receive encouragement and support from their school teachers and from online 'buddies' – young composers from the UK's specialist music schools. These young people will be known as STARTERS and will soon be able to enter their own music for the award.
- FLYERS - For school-age pupils who already know how to compose, there are even greater benefits. These young people will be introduced to brilliant New Zealand composers and also online mentors (young post-graduate composers from the UK's Music Conservatoires), and will be encouraged to develop their skills to a very high level. These young people will be known as FLYERS.

We are contacting the High Commission of New Zealand, who will be delighted to hear about any hardworking, talented young composers emerging from the schools and music centres in NZ especially those who are shortlisted for the Composition Award!

If your school or musical organisation would like to be considered and for all other questions about The Commonwealth International Composition Award, please email Sam Buttler, Manager on admin@cicompositionaward.com

Successful New Zealand composers

New Zealand already has some fine professional composers and lots of help, support and advice for them via these excellent organisations

CANZ, the Composers' Association of New Zealand <http://canz.net.nz/>

SOUNZ, the Centre for New Zealand Music <https://www.sounz.org.nz/>

We are confident that New Zealand already has the skills and potential to produce young composers who are likely to be shortlisted and possibly even winners of the Commonwealth International Composition Award.

New Zealand may decide to organise its own initiatives for training young composers to enter for the award. If so, we shall be delighted and do all that we can to help promote these.

We are hoping to encourage pupils in schools and music centres throughout New Zealand to compose and submit their own music.



The Commonwealth International Composition Award team anticipates that more excellent young composers will soon begin to emerge from the schools in New Zealand where there are already outstanding educational opportunities for young people. We very much look forward to hearing from you!

Alison Cox OBE
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