

08 July 2009

A2009/018
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TO: **Principal**
 Principal's Nominee
 All Music Teachers
 All English Teachers

Play It Strange Music Competitions

The New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) and the *Play It Strange* Charitable Trust have signed a memorandum of understanding to enable all secondary school students who are entered for the *Play It Strange* National Secondary School Song Writing competition, the Peace Song competition and/or the *Band of Strangers* concert to have their composition or performance assessed against Music achievement standards by experienced Music teachers.

This arrangement will enable all students to be assessed for evidence contributing towards the following Music achievement standards:

Level 1

- 90012 - *Perform contrasting music as a featured soloist*
- 90013 - *Perform music as a member of a group*
- 90014 - *Compose music to meet specified requirements*

Level 2

- 90264 - *Present contrasting performances as a featured soloist*
- 90265 - *Present a music performance as a member of a group*
- 90266 - *Compose effective pieces of music*

Level 3

- 90526 - *Present a performance of a programme of music as a member of a group*
- 90775 - *Present a portfolio of musical composition*
- 90776 - *Prepare and present performances of music as a featured soloist*

Judgements for these standards are different from the judging panel decisions for the competitions. Success in the *Play It Strange* competitions will not guarantee achievement or particular grades for a standard. The judgements made against the registered criteria of these standards will be monitored by NZQA as part of the external moderation process.

Play It Strange will provide students with a completed Mark Sheet, signed and dated by the assessor. The assessors will be experienced Secondary School music teachers who have assessed these standards in the last three years and have been engaged in the external moderation process. In some cases, the assessment decisions may be made by a panel of such teachers.

This Mark Sheet will record each student's results to confirm that they are eligible for the award of credits or have evidence that contributes towards achievement of the composition or performance achievement standards.

Students will be advised to return their Mark Sheet(s) to their school's Music department or Principal's Nominee. If the student has been awarded the standard, the school may report the result to NZQA through the normal data file submission using the school's provider code. If the evidence is incomplete, the school may suggest further work, which, when combined with the evidence on the Mark Sheet, may provide sufficient evidence for the student to achieve the standard. This should not be restricted to students enrolled in a Music class in the school - all competitors should have access to these Music standards.

Compositions or performances for *Play It Strange* competitions may already be part of the programme in a Music class. Where the student work has been assessed by the Music department, the Mark Sheets may provide additional evidence. However, if the information on a Mark Sheet is superfluous, the Mark Sheet should be returned to the student with an explanation.

Play It Strange Mark Sheets should be filed by the Music department or Principal's Nominee whether they provide all the evidence for final grades reported to NZQA or if they contribute towards evidence for achievement. These Mark Sheets will be regarded as sufficient as attested evidence for external moderation purposes should they be required. All students with grades reported for standards should be included in the random selection process. As this may be supplementary to evidence held by the school, you are not obliged to report Not Achieved grades from these Mark Sheets.

Play It Strange song writing competitions also give awards for song lyrics. Song lyrics may be assessed for level one or two English creative writing standards. Students will be advised on the entry form to discuss this possibility with their English teachers before they begin writing their song. The writing would need to be part of the English programme and supervised by the English teacher in the normal manner. Students have been informed that this may not be available in their school.

This is a pilot programme and if successful may be extended to other similar programmes.

Enquiries

Please refer any enquiries relating to this circular to your School Relationship Manager.

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| School Relationship Manager Secondary Assessment and Liaison Telephone: 04 463 3000 Fax: 04 463 3113 Email: firstname.lastname@nzqa.govt.nz |
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Circulars are available from the New Zealand Qualifications Authority website:
www.nzqa.govt.nz/publications/circulars