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MEDIA RELEASE
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Queensland Music Festival unearths young regional talent in
Longreach, Cairns, Townsville, Innisfail and Charters Towers

Following a regional and rural state-wide search for primary and secondary school aspiring musicians, Queensland Music Festival (QMF) is giving six students a rare opportunity to be mentored by and perform alongside award-winning singer-songwriter Jack Carty in *On Song*.

On Song provides young singer-songwriters from regional Queensland the chance to dive into the world of music with a seasoned professional, and to refine their craft and learn about the industry through workshopping original songs with Jack.

Longreach duo Harrison Kent and Cecilia McPhee, Bo-Min Weon from Cairns, Kayla Conyers from Townsville, Lachlan Lamont from Innisfail and Kasey O'Donoghue from Charters Towers have been selected to take part in QMF's life-changing program.

In the lead-up to the 2017 festival (7–30 July) each student will participate in two Skype mentoring and songwriting masterclasses with Jack, followed by two face-to-face workshops when he rolls into their hometowns with his travelling guitar.

The program will culminate in six regional concerts, where each student will perform in their hometown alongside Jack. Two students will then be chosen to perform at a special concert with Jack in Brisbane as part of QPAC's *Green Jam* program on Friday 28 July. Each finalist will win a RØDE NT-USB Microphone to capture and share their music with the world.

QMF Artistic Director Katie Noonan congratulated all of the finalists, and said she was impressed by the number of talented young artists across regional and remote Queensland who entered the *On Song* competition.

"I'm a fiercely proud Queensland musician, and I feel it is my job not just to make music but to engage deeply with our regional communities and help celebrate and unearth aspiring talent," Ms Noonan said.

"Being involved in the *On Song* experience could genuinely change the lives of these young finalists, helping them get their voice heard and to take the next step in their musical journey.

"QMF played a major role in kickstarting my career, and I am passionate about young musicians from Brisbane to Cape York having the same opportunities through our programs and events."

Australian success story Jack Carty, who hails from a small town in regional New South Wales, has gone on to perform across Europe, North America, Australia and New Zealand, and was named a recipient of the 2015 APRA Professional Development Awards.

“Growing up in Bellingen, a small rural town near the northern New South Wales coast, I understand how hard it can be for students to find places to perform, work with other musicians and develop their skills with teachers and mentors,” Mr Carty said.

“It’s really important to have people you can bounce your ideas off, and where you live shouldn’t be a disadvantage to accessing that.

“I’m excited to get out to regional Queensland to meet these young artists, workshop ideas, and hopefully impart some knowledge and skills to help them progress their music careers.”

Premier and Minister for the Arts Anastacia Palaszczuk said the Queensland Government was committed to supporting and nurturing young creative minds, and proud to support the Queensland Music Festival.

“I am thrilled this wonderful initiative will mentor six talented young singer-songwriters from regional and remote Queensland to help kick-start their music careers early.

“The finalists will go on to develop a greater understanding of the music industry through the *On Song* initiative, supported by Jack Carty, and their incredible talent will shine on stage with him during their home town concerts,” she said.

“This year my government is supporting QMF to help realise several major programs that focus on social cohesion, women, youth engagement and community revitalisation – including *On Song*.”

On Song is presented by Queensland Music Festival and Brisbane City Council, and supported by APRA AMCOS, the Queensland Government through the Playing Queensland Fund, RØDE Microphones, and the Australia Council for the Arts.

For more information visit qmf.org.au.

EVENT DETAILS

EVENT: *On Song* school concerts

DATE: Tuesday 11 – Thursday 27 July 2017

TICKETS: Free

EVENT: *On Song* Green Jam, QPAC

DATE: Friday 28 July 2017

TICKETS: Free

ENDS

Queensland Music Festival is an initiative of the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, part of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. Queensland Music Festival is a state-wide celebration of

music with a vision to transform lives and communities through music.

This project has received support from the Queensland Government through the Playing Queensland Fund, and has also been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.

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Queensland Music Festival is an initiative of the Queensland Government