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Queensland Music Festival to unearth new talent among young musicians across the state in 2017

Queensland Music Festival (QMF) has launched a statewide search to unearth new talent among aspiring young musicians in 2017 - entries opened on Monday 23 January for the chance to take part in two exciting 2017 festival events, *On Song* and *Score IT!*.

Young singer-songwriters in regional Queensland are invited to enter *On Song*, a competition to win the opportunity of a lifetime - to be mentored by and perform alongside award-winning singer-songwriter Jack Carty during the 2017 festival in July.

QMF's annual film composing competition, *Score IT!*, challenges Queensland secondary school students to test their skills and create an imaginative film score. Compositions will be judged by an expert panel including QMF Artistic Director Katie Noonan, leading lecturers and experts from Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University and the Griffith Film School as well as acclaimed Hollywood composer and orchestrator Cameron Patrick.

In addition to the two competitions, QMF will also engage over 50,000 school students in the outback and beyond with their Youth Touring Program, a year-long program of music, drama and dance performances and workshops that aim to inspire a lifelong love of the creative arts among young Queenslanders.

QMF Artistic Director Katie Noonan is enthusiastic about celebrating the depth of talent in the state's rural and regional areas, and the opportunities on offer to young Queenslanders in 2017.

"QMF is 150% committed to providing young Queenslanders of all ages, in all corners of our vast state an opportunity to discover and hone their musical talents, whether it's through singing, playing an instrument or creating a score," Ms Noonan said.

"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."

On Song offers primary and secondary school students in regional and remote areas the opportunity to refine their craft and learn about the music industry by workshopping original songs and performing alongside Australian success story Jack Carty. The poetic singer-songwriter has performed to audiences across Europe, North America, Australia and New Zealand, and was named a recipient of the 2015 APRA Professional Development Awards.

Jack himself grew up in a small town in regional New South Wales.

“Growing up in Bellingen, a small rural town near the northern NSW 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.”

To be considered for selection for the workshops and further mentoring with Jack, songwriters, soloists or duos in primary or secondary schools from Queensland (excluding Brisbane City, Redland City, Logan City, Ipswich City, Gold Coast City, Moreton Bay Regional, Sunshine Coast Regional and Noosa Shire) can submit an original song online via QMF’s website. The five finalists selected will receive online mentoring from Jack before he rolls into each finalist’s hometown in July with his travelling guitar, and performs alongside the finalist in a local concert. Two of the finalists will have the chance to showcase their songs at a special concert in Brisbane.

ScoreIT!, an annual QMF program eagerly anticipated by young film composers, throws down the gauntlet to young composers across Queensland to create a unique and original composition to accompany a short film.

There are three categories for entry: *Score IT! Junior* (Years 7-10), *Score IT! Senior* (Years 11-12), and *Score IT! Plus* (Years 7-12). The *Score IT! Plus* category involves the added challenge of composing for specified instrumentation and submitting a written score.

Cameron Patrick, a highly accomplished composer and orchestrator, having worked on Hollywood blockbusters such as *Jurassic World*, *Inside Out* and *Star Trek*, has been an integral part of *ScoreIT!* since the program has been running.

“Every year that I’m involved with *Score IT!*, I’m constantly amazed at the calibre of the submissions we receive across all the categories,” Mr Patrick said.

“The creativity and quality of the scores and the maturity of musical expression never ceases to amaze me.”

To register and submit an entry visit the webpages for [On Song](#) and [Score IT!](#) at qmf.org.au. Entries for *On Song* close on Friday 31 March, and entries for *Score IT!* close on Friday 19 May.

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

Score IT! is presented by Queensland Music Festival and Brisbane City Council and proudly supported by Griffith Film School Griffith University, Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University, Queensland School of Film and Television and PixelFrame.

-ENDS-

Queensland Music Festival is a state-wide celebration with a vision to transform lives and communities through music.

The *On Song* project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, and the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland's Playing Queensland Fund.

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Mitchell Van Homrigh

Agency North

0432 157 268

mvanhomrigh@agencynorth.com.au



Queensland Music Festival is an initiative of the Queensland Government