

NZ HARP COMPETITION – 3 APRIL 2026



INTRODUCTION

The **NZ Harp Competition** will take place on Friday, 3 April 2026, at The Old Chapel, Dilworth School, Erin Street, Newmarket, Auckland.

Each entrant will perform two works at a Grade 4/5 level – one selected from the set works outlined below and one work of the entrant's choice.

Harp Aotearoa Foundation acknowledges the Margaret Neutze Memorial Fund, proudly managed by Perpetual Guardian, for their support of Harp Fest NZ 2026 including the NZ Harp Competition.

If you have any questions regarding the application procedure, repertoire, purchasing set works, or other matters related to the competition, please email harpsaotearoa@gmail.com

Key Dates for Entrants

1 Feb	Entries close (must be 25 years and under on 3 April 2026)
5 Feb	Advice to entrants of video pre-selection (if required)
1 Mar	Closing date for submission of pre-selection video (if required)
10 Mar	Advice of pre-selection video results (if required)
20 Mar	Final date to submit entrant repertoire list
31 Mar	Entrants advised of competition order
3 Apr	1.30pm - Harp Competition begins
3 Apr	7.00pm – NZ Harp Competition winner performance

The Competition Set Works

One work performed by each entrant must be selected from the Competition seven set works. Three of the works are by the prize winners of the Harps Aotearoa Foundation Composition Competition announced in October 2025. The remaining four works are by New Zealand harp teachers and composers. The set works are available on the Harp Fest NZ website under the 'Programming' page (www.harpfest.nz.co.nz/nz-harp-competition). As the works are only available in a digital format, you will need to retain proof of purchase to validate your ownership of the music.

Guidance for the Performance

- Carefully consider what you wear for your performance, dressing appropriately for the occasion.
- Enter the performance area with confidence and acknowledge the audience with a bow.
- Take time to ensure your seat, music/music stand (and any other equipment you need) is correctly positioned.
- At the end of the performance, it is good manners and appropriate presentation to acknowledge the audience. A confident smile and bow is always a good idea, no matter how you think your performance went.

THE RULES OF THE NZ HARP COMPETITION

1. The NZ Harp Competition ('Competition') will take place on Friday, 3 April 2026, at Dilworth School, Erin Street, Epsom, Auckland, New Zealand.
2. The closing date for applications is 1 February 2026 at 11.59pm (NZDT).
3. If more than 12 applications are received for the Competition, a video pre-selection will take place (see clauses 26-30 below).
4. The Competition is open to New Zealand citizens and permanent residents, or students enrolled in a recognised New Zealand school for two or more consecutive years.
5. The Competition is for non-professional harpists aged 25 years and under on 3 April 2026 and playing at a grade 4/5 level as validated by a teacher.
6. Students who have won the Upper Intermediate Class of the NZ Harp Performance Competition (Harps Aotearoa Foundation) are not eligible to enter.
7. Pedal and lever harp performances will be judged in the same Competition.
8. All performances are to be solo harp only.
9. Works may be performed by memory or with music, at the entrant's discretion.
10. The Competition performances will be open to an audience.
11. Any entrant aged 13 years and under must always be accompanied by a parent or caregiver during the Competition.
12. Practice rooms will be provided to entrants 30 minutes prior to their scheduled performance time. Guaranteed practice time will be the same for all entrants.
13. Entrants will be advised of practice times and performance order on 31 March 2026.
14. Harp movers will place each performance harp on stage at a marked and pre-selected position. The placement will be the same for all entrants and cannot be changed.
15. Each entrant agrees that their performance may be photographed or video recorded for promotion of the current and future competitions by Harps Aotearoa Foundation. Harps Aotearoa Foundation will take all reasonable steps to keep any imagery safe and secure.
16. Harps Aotearoa Foundation will take all care with applications but accepts no responsibility for any error, omission, deletion or other circumstance which may affect an entry or an entrant's participation in the Competition.
17. The judges will evaluate the musicianship, interpretation and presentation of each performance when awarding prizes.
18. The judges will deliberate immediately after the last entrant performs. The prize winners will be announced as soon as possible at the conclusion of the Competition.
19. The decision of the judges is final and all entrants agree to accept the judges' decision.
20. The winner of the Competition agrees to perform their two works at a Harp Fest NZ 2026 concert to be held on Friday, 3 April 2026, commencing at 7.00pm.
21. Any breach of the Competition Rules may disqualify a competitor from the Competition.

The Repertoire

22. Each entrant will perform two works at Grade 4/5 level. One work is to be selected from the Competition set works by New Zealand composers. The second work is free choice, however the timing of this work must not exceed four (4) minutes' duration. Entrants exceeding the time limit may have their performance interrupted or stopped.
23. The order of performance (set work and free choice) is at the discretion of each entrant. Choosing contrasting works can provide a balanced programme.



24. The entrant's repertoire must be submitted by 20 March 2026 and include: the full title and composer name for each work to be performed, and accurate playing times of each work. No programme changes will be accepted after 20 March 2026.
25. The Competition committee will review all repertoire and may contact an entrant if there is any concern about the free choice work meeting the Competition criteria.

Video Pre-Selection (if required)

26. If more than 12 applications are received by 1 February 2026, a video pre-selection round will take place.
27. Entrants will be advised by 5 February 2026 of the video pre-selection process (if required).
28. The video recording for the pre-selection process will be one of the proposed works to be performed by the entrant in the Competition.
29. The video must be recorded in one continuous take, from one camera angle, without filters. The video must show the entire harp and entrant. No editing or processing of the video is permitted. The audio and visual must be recorded in the same take.
30. Instructions will be given for submitting the video recording using the provided submission form.
31. The video recording must be submitted by 1 March 2026 and pre-selection for the Competition will be based solely on the video recording provided.

The Prizes

32. The following prizes will be awarded: First prize \$300, Second prize \$200 and Third prize \$100. A prize will also be awarded for the best performance of a set work. The prizes are in New Zealand dollars and are at the judges' discretion.

Registration and Entry Fee

33. The entry fee for the Competition is \$30. A discounted entry fee of \$20 is available to any entrant who has purchased a three-day weekend pass for Harp Fest NZ 2026.
34. If the video pre-selection process is required and the entrant does not proceed to the next stage, a refund of the entry fee will be made, excluding an amount of \$10 to cover the administration and selection process.
35. Entries are non-refundable. However, in the case of illness or accident, supported by a medical certificate, the entry fee may be refunded on application by the entrant.

Harp Fest NZ 2026 3-6 April 2026, Auckland, NZ

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