



KH SPEAR MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Saturday 14 November 2026

AFTERNOON

Children's Class (9-12 years)

Junior Youth (13-15 years)

Junior Ensemble (9-15 years)

EVENING

Youth (16-17 years) and Open (18+)

Senior Ensemble (16+ years)

ADJUDICATOR

Jo Hodgson



NPOS Complex - 76 King Street

www.npos.co.nz

www.khspear.co.nz



KH SPEAR MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

PM Saturday 14 November 2026

IMPORTANT DATES

Entries open: Saturday 12 September at 10am — the electronic entry form goes live, with links posted on www.khspear.co.nz

Entries close: Thursday 17 September at 10am (earlier if classes fill before this date)

Backing tracks & song titles due: Saturday 10 October - confirmed via email to khspear.npos@gmail.com

NPOS Costume Hire deadline: Saturday 10 October — costumes hired after this date will incur the standard NPOS costume hire fee





JO HODGSON - ADJUDICATOR KHS 2026

Jo is a Wellington free-lance classroom music teacher, singing coach and performer. Jo loves guiding students to find their authentic voice and she teaches a diverse range of students and vocal styles all the way from pre-schoolers to tertiary level and beyond, both in groups and individually.

She has a long history of choral training with all three of NZ's National Choirs, and she is currently co-director of Wellington Young Voices Children's Choir, Wellington City Barbershop Chorus and directs the junior choirs at Chilton St James School in Wellington.

A passion for music theatre has seen Jo perform in the NZ Tour of The Stetson Groups, *Evita*; and taking on roles such as; Grizabella in *Cats* for Wellington Musical Theatre; Mrs Noah in NZ Opera's production of Britten's *Noye's Fludde*; Octavia in a Jenden/Farr collaboration, *The Nero Show* at Circa Theatre; Hida in Red Scare Theatre's original production of *The Bone Thief*; Pirate Mother in the premiere of a new musical by Nino Raphael, *The Man Whose Mother was a Pirate* at Hannah Playhouse ; and is a backing vocalist for Capital Theatre Trust's production of *Matilda* this year.



Her musical direction credits include *Kia Ora Khalid* by Dave Armstrong and Gareth Farr – a production with Victoria University's MFA programme; Stagecraft's production of *Bare: A Pop Opera*; *Silver Linings* with Wellington Footlights; *Annie Jr* with Hutt City Musical Theatre and *Nunsense*, *Frozen Jr*, *Mary Poppins Jr* and *Addams Family Teen Edition* at Chilton St James School.





COMPETITION – The KH Spear Memorial Scholarship is a competition open to Taranaki amateurs only. An amateur means one whose income from the exercise of his or her talents in the particular section in which they may compete does not exceed \$3,000 per annum.

AGE LIMIT – ‘Age’ means as of 14 November 2026 (the day of the competition). The Child section: (9 to 12 years old). The Junior Youth section: (13-15 years old). The Youth section: (16-17 years old). The Open section: (18 years and over).

The Ensemble section is divided into two categories.

Youth Ensemble: (9 - 15 years old) and Senior Ensemble: (16 years plus).

SONG REQUIREMENTS - All songs presented must be from a musical. As has been the tradition of the KH Spear competition, Gilbert and Sullivan arias are not considered for this competition. Characterisation, vocal ability and stage presence will be considered in the judging.

- Songs must be from musicals that have originated on stage or are from a musical film.
- One small hand carried prop or chair is permitted.
- For solo songs, only one performer is permitted on stage at a time.
- Please observe the time limits as outlined in the class requirements below.

CONTRASTING SONG RECOMMENDATIONS - There are many different interpretations of what makes a song contrasting. This will ultimately rest with the adjudicator's own personal interpretation and will not be entered into after final placings have been announced. Therefore, consider the following as a rough guideline to help you consider your repertoire, but not definitive:

- Songs from two different eras (e.g. pre 1965/post 2000s)
- Songs with different moods (e.g. ballad/comedic)



CONTRASTING SONG RECOMMENDATIONS (continued):

- Songs of a different tempo (e.g. slow/fast)
- Songs sung in different stylistic ways (e.g. pop/classical/jazz/rock/country etc).

ENTRIES - The electronic entry form will go live on Saturday 12 September at 10am. The links for entry forms will be posted on the www.khspear.co.nz website. The deadline for entries (if classes don't fill before) is Thursday 17 September at 10am.

NB: Entries for the class will close EARLY if each class reaches a maximum number of people. For a class to run there must be a minimum of at least three entries.

ENTRY FEE - The fee to enter the KH Spear competition is \$10. The fee is to be paid into the NPOS account after you have received email confirmation from the convenor that your entry has been submitted and place confirmed.

Bank Account: 15-3953-0473329-00

Particulars: KH Spear

Reference: Surname of competitor

Entries are non-refundable (unless payment has been made to NPOS after the classes have been closed or the class does not run due to insufficient entries).

TARANAKI BORN OR RESIDENT - The KH Spear is a Taranaki scholarship. To enter you must be Taranaki born or currently reside in Taranaki.

BACKING TRACKS - Backing tracks must be supplied in MP3 format by competitors to NPOS (email: khspear.npos@gmail.com) no later than Saturday 10 October. Non-MP3 formats (websites, YouTube links, MP4s, WAVs etc.) will not be accepted. Please ensure backing tracks do not contain backing vocals. Please double-check you are sending the correct format before emailing, as we may not have time to request a replacement.



ACCOMPANIMENT - An electric piano will be at the venue if the competitor chooses live accompaniment. The competitor must supply their own accompanist if not using backing tracks.

COSTUMES - Competitors can supply their own costume or they can hire a costume free of charge from NPOS Costume Hire. If you choose this option you will need to choose/finalise your costume no later than Saturday 10th October. Please come and pick your costume up from the costume hire on the Saturday morning of the competition. If you have hired a costume from NPOS costume hire, you will need to return your costume to the Board room in the NPOS complex after your KH Spear class.

NO REPEAT SONGS - keep it fresh and stay challenged! If you have previously performed a song at KH Spear (regardless of whether you placed or not), we are keen to hear you sing a new song. Therefore, no repeats of songs you have performed at previous KH Spear competitions.

COMPETITION DAY

VENUE - The competition will be held in the upstairs rooms at New Plymouth Operatic Society Complex, 76 King Street. The dressing rooms and warm up space will be in the building next door (Limelight Studio) also known as Studio 72, and is located upstairs in the adjoining building of NPOS complex on 72 King Street.

BRIEFING - There will be a health and safety briefing at 11am on the Saturday morning of the competition for all competitors at 76 King Street in the NPOS complex. This will also be the time to come and pick up your costumes and transport them upstairs to the dressing rooms.

ARRIVAL TIMES - Competitors must report to the Studio 72 space at least 45 minutes before their performance.



CLASSES - A guideline of timings of the day will be published on the programme which will be released prior to the competition after entries have been collated. Expect the competition for 9 - 15 year olds to run from 1.30pm - 5pm and the senior part of the competition (16 - open) from 6.30pm onwards, but this will be confirmed when we have finalised the number of entries.

CHILDREN'S SECTION (9 to 12 years old) – 1 song per competitor. Only one competitor on the stage at a time. The song must be from a musical from any era or genre. 3 minute limit.

JUNIOR YOUTH SECTION (13 – 15 years) - 1 song per competitor. Only one competitor on the stage at a time. The song must be from a musical and can be from any era or genre. 4 minute limit.

YOUTH SECTION SOLO (16 - 17 years) and OPEN SECTION (18 years and over)
For both classes the same rules apply. Only one competitor on the stage at a time. Songs must be from a musical of any genre and era. Competitors are asked to prepare two contrasting songs (see 'contrasting elements of a song' bullet point for guidelines on what is considered contrasting). 5 minute limit.

FINALISTS - This year the senior classes (16-17 and 18 plus) will go down to finalists. After round 1, the adjudicator will select her best competitors to come back and sing a second song in a finals situation.

NO COSTUME FOR SECOND SONG in SENIOR/OPEN SOLOS - The second song for both the senior (16-17 years) and open classes (18 plus) is not in costume (therefore only one costume to be borrowed from the NPOS Costume Hire for the first song). However, the same performance requirements (i.e acting through song/staging) will be adjudicated.



YOUTH ENSEMBLE (9- 15 years) - 1 song per group (max 6 people). No more than one entry per competitor in this class. 4 minute limit.

SENIOR ENSEMBLE (16 years and over) - 1 song per group. (Maximum of 10 people per group). A competitor may sing in two different items with different groups in this class, but no more than two songs. 5 minute limit.

ENSEMBLE AGE CROSS-OVER GUIDELINES - For competitors who are 13 - 15 years old and have been working within an ensemble with older members - they are able to move into the senior ensemble class. However, no competitors under the age of 13 permitted to compete in the senior ensemble.

SPECTATORS - Entry is a gold coin donation on the day of the competition.

MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS - A minimum of three competitors must enter for a class to go ahead. Classes will close when a maximum of competitors have entered.

STAGING – There is a walk through hallway area from Studio 72 to the main stage in the main NPOS complex and competitors will be expected to do this rather than entering from the audience. A stage manager and back stage helpers will be on hand to help and direct.

COMPETE AT OWN RISK - All competitors participate at their own risk. The New Plymouth Operatic Society accepts no liability for injuries or accidents, or damage to, or theft of property.



AWARDS – The decision of the adjudicator shall be final in all classes and no correspondence or objections entered into. Prize money will be awarded to first, second and third placings in each section.

RESULTS - Entry into these competitions constitutes your permission to publish results as well as photos of the competition day. Results will be posted on the website and Facebook page.

PRIZE MONEY

Solo: Children (9 - 12 years)

1st - \$75; 2nd – \$50; 3rd – \$25

Solo: Junior Youth (13 – 15 years)

1st - \$100; 2nd – \$75; 3rd – \$50

Ensemble: Children/Junior Youth (9 – 15)

1st - \$100; 2nd – \$75; 3rd – \$50

Solo: Youth (16 – 17)

1st - \$150; 2nd – \$100; 3rd - \$50

Solo: Open (18 years +)

1st – \$200; 2nd – \$150; 3rd - \$75

Ensemble (16 years +)

1st – \$150; 2nd - \$100; 3rd – \$50

CANCELLATION OR CHANGES - New Plymouth Operatic Society reserves the right to change, suspend or cancel, some or all of the conditions of the competition, with respect to any or all entrants, at any time without notice.



COMMUNICATIONS - All communications and queries can be directed as follows:

- The www.khspear.co.nz website will contain all relevant information and will be one stop shop if you seek further clarifications
- Alternatively you can email: Philippa Drinkwater (convenor):
khspear.npos@gmail.com
- Stay abreast about all NPOS updates by following our Facebook page.

www.npos.co.nz
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