

PHILIP NEILL MEMORIAL PRIZE IN MUSIC

Established in 1943 and first awarded in 1944 to Douglas Lilburn, the Prize is awarded annually for excellence in original composition.

The competition is open to all past and present students of the universities of New Zealand.

The value of the 2025 prize is \$1,500.

2025 topic and requirements:

The composition must be written for taonga pūoro (one player) and one other instrument/voice from the following list:

- Violin
- Cello
- Mezzo soprano
- Piano

Taonga pūoro may include a wide range of Māori instruments. More details of the instruments and pitch ranges will be available on request - contact Associate Professor Jennifer Cattermole at the School of Performing Arts.

Please also note the below:

- The work should be between 8-15 minutes in duration
- You should include a programme note and any performance notes necessary
- Compositions MUST include a computer-set musical score and a MIDI recording.

Please note these requirements should be read in conjunction with the Prize Regulations following. An application form is attached.

Applications close with the University on 1 July 2025

All related enquiries can be made to: scholarships@otago.ac.nz

PHILIP NEILL MEMORIAL PRIZE IN MUSIC

Application Form

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

New Zealand University attended: _____

Years Enrolled: _____

Pseudonym: _____

Title of Composition: _____

I declare that this work is new (original and unaided work) and has not been previously recorded or performed in public.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Applications must be submitted digitally by the closing date of **1 July 2025** to:

Attn: Prizes Administrator
scholarships@otago.ac.nz

Phone: 0800 80 80 98 (within New Zealand)
+64 3 479 7000

Philip Neill Memorial Prize in Music

This prize was founded in the year 1943 in memory of the late Philip Foster Neill, by his sister, who in that year settled the sum of £1,000 with the Trustees, Executors and Agency Co. Ltd., with instructions to pay the annual income to the Council. The late Mr Philip Neill was a medical student of the University of Otago, who died in 1943.

1. The prize is awarded annually by the University Council for excellence in Original Composition and shall be the sum set down in the current prize schedule.
2. The test shall be the composition of a work in a form of structure to be prescribed by the examiners, such prescription to vary from year to year. If in the opinion of the examiners no composition of sufficient merit is submitted in any year the prize shall not be awarded, but the income from the trust fund for that year shall be carried forward. If and whenever there shall be a surplus of income in any year this may at the discretion of the Council of the University either be used for giving an additional prize or prizes in that year or it may be accumulated and used to provide an additional prize or prizes in some subsequent year when the standard of entry justifies such action, or it may be added to the capital of the trust fund.
3. The prize shall be awarded by the Council of the University on the recommendation of the Senate, to which the examiners shall submit a report on the work of the competitors, and the founder of the prize shall be advised in writing by the University of the name of each prize-winner as soon as the prize has been awarded.
4. The examiners shall be the Blair Professor of Music in the University and one other person who shall be appointed by the Council after nomination by the Senate.
5. The prize or prizes shall be open for competition to all past and present students of a university in New Zealand, but no winner of the prize in any year shall be eligible to compete again therefore until five complete years shall have elapsed since the year in which the candidate was awarded the prize.
6. The Registrar of the University shall annually notify the other universities through their Registrars of the prescribed work for the year and of the terms and conditions of the prize, with the request that due publicity be given to the same through the University Calendars and otherwise.
7. Entries must in every case be accompanied by a signed declaration by the competitor that the composition is his or her own original and unaided work. An exercise which has been submitted for the degree of Bachelor of Music or a composition which has been already published in written or recorded form including public broadcast will not be accepted.

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8. The successful composition shall become the property of the University and shall be placed in the University Library and may be published by the Council if it shall so desire. The Council shall arrange for the successful composition, with any other compositions deemed worthy, to be performed publicly, and also, if possible, to be broadcast from any of the National Stations on the 30th day of September in each year (that being the birthday of Mr Philip Neill) or as near to that date as possible.
9. In any year, if no entry is considered by the examiners to be worthy of the prize, the prize may be awarded as a commission for a composition which shall be performed publicly.
10. Compositions must be in the hands of the Undergraduate Scholarships Administrator of the University of Otago not later than 1 July of any year. They must be inscribed with a nom de plume chosen by the competitor and accompanied by a sealed envelope bearing the nom de plume on the outside and the competitor's name and address within. Where possible, a sound recording of the score should also be included. This may be electronically created.
11. The Council of the University shall have the power from time to time upon the recommendation of the Senate to alter, amend and enlarge the trust hereby created and the conditions and regulations for the time being thereunder, but any such alterations and amendments shall be confined to the original purpose of the trust and shall during the lifetime of the founder of the prize be subject to her consent in writing.
12. Any prize from the funds of this memorial may be awarded and held by any student of the University in addition to any other prize which the holder thereof for the time being may be receiving or entitled to receive from the University or from any other source.
13. If and whenever it shall be necessary to appoint a new trustee or new trustees of the original trust fund any such appointment may be made by a resolution of the Council of the University.