

## Frequently Asked Questions

### General

#### What is NT Music Schools' UnCovered Song Writing Competition?

NT Music School's UnCovered is a song writing competition open to NT upper primary schools as well as middle, and senior school student songwriters.

#### What can I win?

Please consult the Prizes Table on NT Music School's website – Focusrite Australia, Top End Music Centre, Darwin, Rock City Music, Alice Springs, and NT Music School are major sponsors.

#### How do I enter?

See the [How to enter page](#) for details.

**When does the competition close?** The competition closes at 4:00 pm on Thursday September 17.

#### What are the categories that I can enter in?

There are three categories you can enter. Each category has a winner and runner-up prize. You must choose the correct category when uploading your application. The categories are:

- Contemporary Melodic - music with lyrics and sung melodies. Anything from hard rock to country ballads, R&B, and anything in between.
- Rap and Rhyme – music and beats with lyrics spoken, rapped, spat, chanted, can also contain some melodically sung passages.
- Instrumental – Beats, electronic dance music, acoustic and or electric instruments. Can include minimal lyrics and/or vocal effects, but predominantly instrumental.

#### How will my composition be judged?

Judging criteria for each category can be found [here](#).

#### Who will be judging my work?

NT Music School engages judges from various music industry backgrounds from outside of the school. Judges can be subject to change according to their personal availability.

#### When will the finalists be announced?

Finalists will be announced on Tuesday November 3.

## **Eligibility**

### **Who can enter?**

NT Music Schools' UnCovered is open exclusively to upper primary (grades 5 and 6) and high school students in government schools in the Northern Territory.

### **We would like to do this as a class project, can the whole class collaborate on writing and performing the song?**

Schools are encouraged to apply as groups if this suits your program.

### **Can I enter more than one song?**

There is a limit of three compositions per student or performance group. The same composition cannot be entered into multiple categories.

### **I am collaborating with students from different schools. Can we still enter?**

Yes, if all members are current NT Government upper primary or high school students.

### **My music style is jazz/folk/country/funk/heavy metal/rap/instrumental etc, can I enter?**

There are no restrictions on the style of music that can be entered in NT Music Schools' UnCovered. However, you must choose from the genres of Contemporary Melodic, Rap and Rhyme or Instrumental when uploading your song.

### **My lyrics may be offensive to some people, is that okay?**

NT Music Schools' UnCovered is a school-based program and all students participating will be subject to normal school policies. Unacceptable themes include

- Swearing
- Racist language
- Adult themes – sex, violence, drug and alcohol abuse

### **Do I have to be the one to perform my song on the recording?**

That depends, if you are entering under Contemporary Melodic or Rap and Rhyme, you may use other musicians to perform for you. However, these musicians must be current NT Government school students and be listed in your application. If you are entering an instrumental, you and or your band must be the performer/s on the recording.

**I have a band, can we enter?**

Yes, you can enter as a band if all members are current NT Government school students.

**Can I/we sing to a backing track?**

Yes, if the backing track was created by an NT Government school student.

**Can I use samples of other songs?**

No, you must own the copyright to the songs that you write and any samples that you use.

**Is there a restriction on song length and file size?**

As a guide, recorded compositions should be submitted as an mp3, be no longer than 4 minutes in length and no larger than 5Mb.

**Are there any other eligibility requirements or restrictions?**

Please ensure that you read and understand the Terms and Conditions.

**Where do I send my entry?**

Uploading your entry is easy. Head to NT Music Schools' website, click on the links to UnCovered and follow the instructions.

**Recording my Song**

**Will I be judged on the quality of my song recording?**

No. You will not be judged on the quality of your composition recording. However, you will be judged on the quality of the musical delivery of your composition.

**Can I record my song on my phone?**

Yes, if you upload your application to NT Music School's website.

**Is there a limit to how many people can perform on the recording?**

No. You can record yourself as a soloist, a class, or anything in between.

**What if I am having problems recording/uploading or other?**

Please see if your music teacher can help you in the first instance, but if you are still having trouble, reach out to the NT Music School via our email [nt.musicschool@education.nt.gov.au](mailto:nt.musicschool@education.nt.gov.au) or phone 89635550.