

Press Release  
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## Spotlight on young performers

The spotlight will shine on New Zealand's most talented artists at the National Young Performer Awards in Invercargill next week.

The annual event has attracted 110 competitors from around the country to contest four disciplines – ballet, tap, pianoforte and vocal.

PACANZ executive officer Sue Patterson, of Queenstown, said the calibre of entries was high.

"We are going to see New Zealand's very best right from the start and then it will build to the crème-de-la-crème as the competition progresses," she said.

"We have record numbers in the ballet with 40 dancers and I've heard from several sources that the standard among the 42 tap entrants is very high."

The awards will be hosted in Invercargill for the second consecutive year following funding of \$10,000 and \$15,000 respectively from the Invercargill Licensing Trust and the ILT Foundation.

Internationally-acclaimed adjudicators will be assessing the performances on stage.

Ballet adjudicator Andrea Briody, of Sydney, has an impressive performance and teaching background, both in Australia and Europe, and has worked for Opera Australia and the Sydney Dance Company.

The only New Zealander in the ranks, although based in New South Wales, vocal adjudicator Anthea Moller has a wealth of singing experience and over 40 years teaching, mainly within the university system in Australia and New Zealand.

Pianoforte adjudicator Max Olding, of Queensland, is one of Australia's most distinguished musicians and has performed extensively in the UK, US, New Zealand, Asia and the Pacific as a pianist, duo-pianist and conductor.

Carrie Green, of Melbourne, has vast experience in dance performance, choreography and teaching in theatre, cabaret and television to call on as she adjudicates the tap dancing. She has performed in Australian opera works, the Victoria State Opera and Young Talent Time, as well as teaching extensively.

ILT Foundation and Invercargill Licensing Trust chairman Alan Dennis said the National Young Performer Awards would showcase New Zealand's emerging talent.

"It will be wonderful to see these exceptionally-talented performers on stage in Invercargill," he said.

Tickets to the event are on sale from the ICC booking office, including an all-encompassing season's pass for \$75. During the event tickets will be available to each session and cost just \$11 for adults and \$5 for children.

"The whole point of being a charitable trust is to make it accessible for the community," Patterson said.

"Most of the time, they can attend all four art forms in the one session which is fantastic."

Competition starts on Saturday, October 16, and, with the exception of tap dancing on Saturday at Centrestage, all categories will be staged at the Civic Theatre, including the vocal competition in the Victoria Room upstairs. Finals will be held in the afternoon on Sunday, October 17.

Ends

Photograph 1: Max Olding – pianoforte adjudicator  
Photograph 2: Andrea Briody – ballet adjudicator

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