

## HSNZ Scholarship Outline (Confirmed June 2023)

### Purpose

The HSNZ Scholarship is to support young New-Zealand-based harpists (either lever or pedal) with the costs of their music education. It may be used towards tuition costs or one-off harp-related purchases, including towards the purchase of a harp. The HSNZ aims through this Scholarship to support young players to advance their skills and become ambassadors for the harp in our community.

### Amount and Frequency

The HSNZ Scholarship awards to a promising student the sum of NZ\$800 biannually in odd-numbered years, with applications open through January and a decision on the award made in February. The scholarship panel reserves the right not to award the scholarship in any period if they feel that none of the applications received are sufficiently strong, or if the Treasurer deems that the HSNZ has insufficient funds available.

### Eligibility

To be eligible for the HSNZ Scholarship, a student must meet the following criteria:

- have been a fully paid member of the HSNZ for a minimum of 2 consecutive years prior to the application being made, or they must purchase a 2-year membership.
- be currently resident in New Zealand
- be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident, **or** hold a visa that does not require you to have a ticket booked to leave NZ
- be under the age of 30 as at 1 March in the year the scholarship is awarded.
- have reached a minimum standard of Grade 5 performance at the harp
- not be a prior recipient of the HSNZ Scholarship.

### Application requirements

Students wishing to apply for the HSNZ Scholarship must submit to the HSNZ:

- either an exam certificate at or above Grade 5 level from the past 2 years, or a letter from a current teacher confirming the student's playing level and recent study
- a completed application form including personal details, teacher information, information about what they wish to spend the scholarship money on including evidence of research/applications as appropriate, and a statement of their future musical goals
- a digital photo and short (100-200 words) bio for the HSNZ's use; the photo must be licensed for print and web use
- an unedited video recording of 4-8mins playing duration (NOT including speaking, breaks, tuning, etc), in which the applicant verbally introduces and then plays two contrasting works of their choice. The works should feature the harp prominently but do not have to be solo (although solo works are also fine). The applicant should choose works which (a) are representative of the top end of their current playing level; and (b) reflect their future musical goals. Excerpts from longer works are acceptable.

### Awards process

Each scholarship year, once applications have closed the HSNZ committee will appoint a panel of 3 professional harpist judges who will individually review all the applications and then meet to discuss the final outcome. A committee member who is not on the jury will

also be nominated to compile the list of finalists and liaise with the jury and the candidates as required. The jury will consist of at least one pedal harpist, at least one lever harpist, at least one harpist based in New Zealand, and at least one harpist based outside of New Zealand. (A harpist who regularly plays both pedal and lever can be considered to fill either role.) The HSNZ committee will endeavour to avoid having the same adjudicators for consecutive scholarships. Where a candidate's teacher is on the jury, that jury member will be ineligible to comment or vote on their own student's performance. (The HSNZ will attempt to find a panel with as few conflicts of interest as possible, but NZ is a small place...)

The panel will be asked to judge each student on the following criteria:

- accuracy of performance, including rhythm, pitch, and attention to other details on the score
- musicality of performance, including genre-appropriate choices and individual expression
- presentation and performance skills, including clarity of speaking and "stage" presence
- harp tuning
- apparent future potential of the student to contribute to NZ's harp community, including an assessment of their musical goals and how they want to spend the scholarship money.

The panel will be asked to balance all of the above factors, but in cases of doubt will especially consider the impact that the scholarship money could have, directly or indirectly, on the NZ harp community if given to a particular student.

The scholarship winner will be notified by email and will be asked to write a short piece about their harp journey for the HSNZ journal.

All candidates will receive a short note from each juror on their performance, and the jurors will be asked to provide feedback to the HSNZ on the scholarship process.

The HSNZ reserves the right, between March and December each year, to make changes to the scholarship eligibility criteria and processes as the committee sees fit.