



Music: Count Us In Song Brief 2010

Calling all student songwriters: want your song performed by hundreds of thousands of Australians? Here's your chance to be part of a co-writing team to come up with the Song that Stops Australia!

Music: Count Us In sees hundreds of thousands of students in schools all over Australia learn, rehearse and perform the same song, at the same time, to celebrate the importance of music.

Read this song brief, get creative, then submit your best idea to our panel of music experts to win your place at the co-writers' table.

One submission per student.

Maximum 1 minute MP3 submission – music and lyrics.

Also submit maximum 100 words on 'why I should have a place on the writing team.'

Details on how you make your submission are at www.musiccountusin.org.au

If your idea is picked, you'll be one of a small group of students from around Australia who will work with one of three celebrity songwriter Mentors as well as producer, John Foreman, in a songwriting session to come up with the final song.

Then you'll get to see and hear your song professionally recorded, as well as arranged for every conceivable music scenario, from choirs to orchestras.

Song brief

Key words for vibe of song: powerful, melodic, inspiring, cool, Australian, positive, motivational, celebratory, anthemic.

Genre: Pop/rock, rootsy, up tempo.

Lyric themes

- Relays a positive message about the power of music: to kids (young and older), teachers, parents, principals.
- Music as a lifelong companion.
- Music as a form of creative expression. Often music is the only way something can be 'said', particularly during adolescence.
- Just doing it, having a go, exploring, participating, 'feeling it' – this is more important than getting it right every time.
- Learning: the payoff if you stick at something and get good at it.
- Metaphors and symbols – nothing too oblique. It needs to be obviously about music, ie incorporate words about music: 'harmony' 'rhythm' 'tempo' 'beat', etc.
- Could include references to working together, cooperating, creating something together, working towards a goal...these are critical aspects of learning music.
- Important: this is about **making and participating in music**, rather than about merely listening to it.

Structure

- Entire song not too much longer than 3 minutes.
- 'Radio friendly' song structure (a standard pop structure would be preferred).
- Keep the time signature pretty simple eg 4/4, 6/8 or 2/2 etc.
- Think about key signatures without too many black notes! However, people *will* be able to get transposed arrangements...Our experts advise that examples of child-friendly keys include F maj and G maj.
- Bear in mind that primary school kids with unbroken voices are going to be singing this, too. Experts also tell us that a nine-note range is probably max for most kids (and teachers!). As a guide, think about the D an octave above middle C as the highest note, with middle C as the lowest note. That's probably the kind of range we need to be staying within.
- Recording: vocal and simple instrumental accompaniment will be provided as MP3 and CD for the purposes of final song selection.
- Final song will be professionally recorded by artist/s of the Music Council of Australia's choosing.
- Song should lend itself to 'makeover' arrangements for choirs (SATB, though, realistically, two parts maximum for most school choirs), wind bands, rock bands, strings, etc.
- Stem files from professional recording will be made available over the web for remix competitions and the like.
- (Arranger will be commissioned separately to work from songwriters' notation).

Note:

- The song will be used for in-school activities such as singing, performances of the song in various arrangements by existing school groups, as an arranging task for more advanced secondary students, stem files of recordings available on Garage Band, etc and so on.
- It will be supported in schools with teaching guides and curriculum materials around the song, including DVD and/or CD ROM.
- It will be incorporated into music advocacy materials for principals, teachers, school councils and parents, include downloadable online materials.
- It will be written and recorded in a key that is appropriate for young children to sing.