

# Have a Question?

## **Who is SAE?**

As the only University College delivering creative and technology courses nationwide, SAE stands out from the crowd. With almost 50 years of experience in education, our unique approach to tech and creative media equips you with the practical skills, real-world experience and industry connections you need to make your mark.

Our courses are locally accredited and internationally recognised, unlocking global opportunities for SAE graduates. Our University College status gives you a competitive edge, backed by strong industry relationships and a reputation for producing confident, competent graduates.

## **Who is BayFM 99.9?**

BayFM is a powerhouse of community spirit, fueled by the energy of the people. Since 1991, BayFM has been the heartbeat of the Northern Rivers, proudly amplifying the diverse voices and vibrant views of our unique region. With a focus on inclusion and respect, BayFM is all about celebrating local talent, especially the amazing music scene that makes the Northern Rivers' community shine.

### **1. What is an independent artist?**

An artist who is not signed to a record label, management company or publisher.

### **2. I release my music through my own label, can I still enter?**

If you release and distribute solely your own music (i.e. no other artists), you are considered an independent artist, and you are eligible to enter BaySounds Songwriting Competition.

### **3. What is the prize?**

One lucky Youth and one Adult winner of the BaySounds Songwriting Competition will have their original song recorded and mastered at SAE by final-year Audio Engineering students in the state-of-the-art recording studio through the amazing Neve analogue desk (winner must be available to record in September 2026). Plus you'll also receive a minimum of four weeks of guaranteed airplay rotation on BayFM 99.9.

The best of our Adult entries will also have the opportunity to perform at the BaySounds Live Event on Saturday 21 November 2026 featuring a live broadcast on BayFM 99.9.

And the best of our Youth entries will have an opportunity to perform at an all ages showcase at Howl and Moan Records in Byron Bay in September 2026.

Your recording session and BaySounds Live and Howl and Moan Records Showcase performances will be filmed for promotion on BayFM and SAE's social media platforms to showcase your talents even further.

**4. Are there different categories?**

No. All genres are accepted but must be able to be performed live. This does not include DJs or instrumentals.

**5. Can I upload my instrumental?**

Unfortunately, we cannot accept instrumentals for this competition.

**6. Can I have another vocalist sing the song I wrote?**

Yes, but the vocalist and any other instrumentalists need to be available for the performance day if you win the competition.

**7. Do you accept songs in languages other than English?**

Yes. If your song is in a language other than English, please include the lyrics with translation (and transliteration, if applicable).

**8. Does my song have to be original?**

Yes, your song must be original. No covers of previously released songs, parodies, or spoof songs will be accepted.

**9. Can I enter my original song that has already been released?**

Yes. Choose the song that has the best chance of winning.

**10. Is there a time limit for the song I enter?**

Yes. Your song must be a minimum of 90 seconds and a maximum of five minutes.

**11. What are the recording criteria?**

a. All submissions must be uploaded to a downloadable cloud-based Storage (e.g. Dropbox, Google Drive). Your track must be a high-resolution **MP3 360kbps** file &/or **16bit/44.1kHz wav**.

Along with your track, you must include your bio; 100 words on what your song is about and what it means to you; song lyrics; an image of you and the band; and your artist/band name.

Please ensure this is submitted via a cloud-based storage service (e.g. Google Drive, Dropbox) and please ensure it is downloadable, with **permissions** shared to anyone with the link.

b. All submissions MUST also include streaming links (e.g. SoundCloud, Bandcamp) or smart URL/ Linktree link with all streaming links connecting to the song. DO NOT send a link to an entire LP album or EP. It must ONLY be the song you are entering into the competition. Voice memos will not be accepted.

c. Please make sure the file name clearly shows your name and the song title separated by a – dash (-). For example,

John-Doe-Best-Song-in-the-World.mp3 or Tamar-Levy-Better-song-than-his.wav

All entries must include written lyrics.

#### **11. When is the deadline to enter the BaySounds Songwriting Competition?**

Applications open Monday 13 April 2026 at 9am and close Sunday 12 July 2026 at midnight.

#### **12. Can I enter my song(s) if I live outside NSW Northern Rivers?**

Unfortunately not. BaySounds will only accept songs from artists who live in the following council areas:

- Tweed
- Byron Bay
- Ballina
- Clarence Valley
- Richmond Valley
- Lismore
- Kyogle.

#### **14. Are there age restrictions?**

Yes. There are two competitions available for different age groups:

- The Youth BaySounds competition is open to participants aged 12 to 17 years as of 31 December 2025. Youth entrants must have their parent or guardian sign the application form.
- The Adult BaySounds competition is open to individuals aged 18 years and older as of 31 December 2025.

#### **15. How many original songs can I enter?**

Strictly only 1 song entry per contestant, so pick your best song.

#### **16. How long should my bio be?**

100 words. See the application for more details.

**17. Can AI-generated songs be submitted?**

No. Songs generated using AI tools such as Suno, Udio or similar platforms are strictly prohibited. Any song suspected of being made with AI-generating software or assisted by AI will be disqualified.

Songs must be performable live as a part of the prize package.

**18. Does my photo need to be professionally taken?**

No. However, the more effort you make to represent yourself in the best and most accurate way, the better!

**19. Who are the judges?**

- Dirk Terrill, Senior Lecturer, Audio & Music SAE
- Nathan Kaye, host of BayFM Living Your Arts Off
- Ange Kent, host of BayFM Northern Rivers Music Box.

**20. Do you accept CDs?**

No. All songs must be uploaded via the BaySounds Songwriting Competition website: <https://sae.edu.au/baysounds/>

**21. Do I need a social media profile to submit entries?**

No, but it helps us to get an idea of who you are. You can provide these details on your application form. Don't worry - we don't care about how many followers you have on socials!

**22. If I win, what dates do I need to be available?**

The Adult winner of the BaySounds Songwriting Competition will need to be available on Saturday 21 November 2026 to play at the BaySounds Live Event and BayFM Outside Broadcast.

The Youth winner of the BaySounds Songwriting Competition will need to be available in September (date to be confirmed) to play at a BaySounds Youth Showcase hosted by Howl and Moan Records in Byron Bay.

You will also need to be available in September for the first prize recording package, which will be organised by SAE.

**23. Will BaySounds notify me when my entry has been received?**

Yes, we will notify you via email to confirm that your entry has been received.

**24. Will BaySounds notify me about the progress of my application?**

No, this will remain a surprise until the winner is announced.

**25. I have entered my song, what happens next?**

Sit back and chill out! The winners will be announced on BayFM's local music show, Northern Rivers Music Box on Friday 14 August 2026 at 5pm. In the meantime, listen to BayFM's Living Your Arts Off Mondays from 9am Northern Rivers Music Box Fridays at 4pm and Off The Charts Fridays at 2pm as your entry may get airplay.

**26. How and when will the winner be announced or notified?**

The winner will be announced on BayFM's local music show, Northern Rivers Music Box on Friday 14 August at 5pm. The winner will also be notified by email.

**27. Will BaySounds give feedback on my song entry?**

No.

**28. Can I enter songs that have been entered into other songwriting competitions?**

Yes.

**29. Do I have any specific instructions for how to submit my song?**

See Question 11 for details.

**30. Does entering this competition give permission for BayFM to play my song on radio?**

Yes.

**31. Should my song be submitted to a performing rights royalty organisation like APRA?**

It is highly recommended, but not compulsory.

**32. What are the eligibility requirements for teenagers?**

See Question 14.

**33. Does BaySounds own my song once I've entered it?**

No. You own the copyright to your song, including performance rights.

**34. May I enter a song that I wrote if the rights are owned by a publisher, label or management company?**

No.