



Christchurch Tap Dancing Teachers Association (CTDTA) Syllabus

2026 National Young Performer of the Year Award Nominations for Tap, Ballet & Troupes

Tuesday 14th April – Saturday 18th April 2026

Troupes, NYPA Tap & Troupe Nomination & possibly some Solos/Duos/Trios
14th April: Aurora Centre, Burnside High School, Greers Rd

15th-18th April Solos/Duos/Trios; Tap, Ballet (including NYPA Nomination), Jazz (proposed Genre order)
The Grange Theatre, Arthur St, Upper Riccarton

ENTRY SECRETARY Sara Lyman

Email: ctdta1960@gmail.com

ENTRY FEES

ADMIN FEE (1 Dancer): \$25

ADMIN FEE (2 or more Dancers from immediate family): \$30

ADMIN FEE (Troupes per Dance School): \$30

SOLO: \$12.50

DUO & TRIO: \$15 (Duo/Trios to be entered by ONE competitor only)

CHAMPIONSHIPS/SUPERSTARS: \$15 (see rules of competition)

TROUPE CLASSES (each): \$25

NYPA SOLO NOMINATION: \$30

NYPA TROUPE NOMINATION: No Cost

REFUND POLICY - No refunds will be offered for this competition if you are unable to attend for any reason.

ENTRIES

Entries will be available through the app (link posted in Facebook group & website when open).

ENTRY CLOSING DATE: 24th February.

Please note that entries may close earlier if we reach our maximum limit. No late entries will be accepted.

ADJUDICATORS –

Kaela Scott (Sydney) & Nicole Vella (Sydney):



Kaela Scott has had a long and rewarding career, spanning over three decades in the dance and performing arts industry.

In this time Kaela has trained at some of the most prestigious schools both nationally and internationally Including;

Steps on Broadway (NYC), Broadway Dance centre (NYC), Millenium Dance Complex (LA), The Edge (LA), Debbie Reynolds dance studios (LA) Pineapple studios (London), Brent st (Sydney) and The McDonald college (Sydney).

With this training that Kaela became a very well-rounded performer, excelling in many styles of dance; as well as gymnastics, acrobatics, Contortion and American cheerleading.

Kaela performed in her first professional musical at the age of seven and since then has worked all around the world dancing, performing, modelling, and choreographing.

Highlights of her professional performing career include, Disneyland park (L.A), Universal studios (L.A), Movie World (AUS), Kelly Rowland, Jessica Mauboy, NRL Raiderettes and a vast array of Broadway Musical credits including; Jesus Christ Superstar, Les miserables, The sound of music and Cats.

Along With the many choreography credits to her name, the most memorable was when she was scouted to attend the world cup in South Africa (2010) to choreograph several fashion parades for Victoria Beckham.

Kaela is an accomplished model, representing Australia many times overseas in modelling competitions and beauty pageants. Along with taking the prestigious Miss World Australia title, Kaela has also been involved in many print and advertising campaigns.

Kaela has also been privileged to coach and choreograph for a variety of international teams, she excels in Jazz, Lyrical and Contemporary.

Since hanging up her professional dancing shoes, Kaela has gone on to receive a Bachelor of Dance and Physical Education and a Bachelor of Arts and Psychology. Her focus has been on educating the next generation of dancers and for over the last decade has been working full time as a teacher and choreographer, both nationally and internationally.

In the last few years, Kaela has been working on the development of her own coaching company, called 'ConfiDANCE' after realising the need for dancers to holistically train their minds as well as their bodies.

Kaela has a special love of adjudication and judging dance competitions, with both national and international credits to her name (Jump dance convention (USA), ICU world cheerleading championships, Starpower (USA) and in Australia she has been a regular on the adjudicating scene. Kaela has become well known for her in depth voice critiques that offer advice technically but also positive reinforcement. (Kaela is also very experienced in working with a scribe).

Away from dance, you will find Kaela exploring the world with her two young daughters, husband and two fur babies aptly named Mr Bojangles and Twinkle toes.



Nicole Vella completed her training at Brent Street Studios in Sydney. Since graduating Nicole has cemented herself in the industry as a Vibrant and Energetic Triple Threat.

Nicole's professional credits include an ensemble role & assistant choreographer of *Kiss Me Kate* (Neglected Musicals), the original Australian cast of *Elf the Musical* (GFO/Crossroads live), the Global Premier of *Elvis; A Musical Revolution* (DVE) as On- stage swing and Assistant Dance Captain as well as understudying the roles of Ann-Margret, Marion Keisker & Dixie. *The Wedding Singer* (DVE) as understudy to the lead roles of Holly and Julia, a Swing role in the Australian Touring Company of *Joseph & the Amazing Technicoloured Dreamcoat* (TML Enterprises), *Bring it On the Musical* (Supply Evolution Productions) in the role of Kyler, and an ensemble role in *Nice Work If You Can Get It* (Neglected Musicals).

Most recently Nicole appeared in the 2025 edition of *A Very Musical Christmas* (Michael Cassel Group) performing alongside Caroline O'Conner, Casey Donovan, Rob Mills and many more, all while raising funds for Beyond Blue.

Nicole has also performed in Royal Caribbean's *Spectra's Cabaret* and Norwegian Cruise Line's *VELVET* and *Prohibition – The Musical* as well as the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

On screen, Nicole has appeared on *Nickelodeon Kid's Choice Awards*, *Everybody Dance Now*, *Australia's Got Talent* and *Young Talent Time*. Nicole has also worked with many iconic Australian artists including Guy Sebastian, Delta Goodrem and Ricki Lee.

RETURN OF TROPHIES

Please ensure trophies won last year are engraved and returned by 1st March.

All Cups and Trophies must be returned in a clean and tidy condition by the due date, or a \$5.00 Trophy Cleaning and/or \$5.00 late Fee will be charged, and your entry will not be accepted.

This will be strictly enforced.

The Property Boss

2/211 Ferry Road

Christchurch 8011

Please drop off during the following hours:

Monday -Friday 7.30am-4.00pm

RULES OF COMPETITION

CLASSES: The committee reserves the right to amalgamate and divide or cancel classes. Competitors can not repeat a solo except in a Ballet Championship class & Tiny Tots.

NOVICES: Novice classes are open to competitors who have never won a first place at any competition in the class they have entered. Novice competitors can choose to enter either the Novice OR Open class but are not able to enter both. Only a novice competitor is permitted a second chance but cannot be placed.

If after entering a CDTA novice class a competitor wins that class at another competition (prior to CDTA dates) the competitor must notify the Entry Secretary ASAP to be moved to the open class.

TINY TOTS: The Tiny Tots class is a display only class (and is not judged) and is open to dancers Under 6 years of age who have not won a novice section in that genre. For example, if a dancer has previously won a tap class, then they cannot enter that tap dance in the Tiny Tots class, however they could do a different genre dance (Jazz, Ballet, Hip Hop etc) if they were still a novice in that.

Tiny Tots may repeat their dance in another class.

SPECIAL INCLUSION: The Special Inclusion class is specifically for anyone with an impairment, who is unable to enter in another section of our competition to have an opportunity to perform on stage. Dancers can be of any age and perform any genre. Teachers or support persons may be on stage during the performance either prompting or supporting. The class is not judged; each dancer is presented with a special award on stage at the conclusion of the class.

MUSICAL THEATRE CLASSES: Must be from a Broadway show or Musical.

DUOS & TRIOS: If both/all competitors are not of the same class i.e. Novice or Open, the duo/trio must dance in the Open class. Competitors may appear with different partner(s) in a maximum of two Duo/Trio items only per class. Use the average age of competitors to determine class.
Duo/Trios to be entered by ONE competitor only.

TROUPES: Troupe age is taken as the average age of all competitors in the troupe routine on the first day of the competition. Studio must email their Team lists ASAP after entering for programming purposes.

PROGRAMME: Competitors must perform in the order set in the programme unless otherwise directed by the stage manager. The committee reserves the right to make appropriate changes to the programme if required.

AGE LIMIT: Competitor's age will be taken as at the first day of competition.

COMPETITORS: The CDTA competitions are open only to amateurs. The competition is not open to professional performers. 'Professional' means any performer who has achieved this status by qualification or full-time paid work experience.

The committee may decline the entry of any competitor. Entries will not be accepted unless full payment of entry fees is made at the time of entering.

MUSIC: Will be uploaded through the competition app. Please have a USB available as a backup.

TIME LIMITS:

All under 12 years solo, duo and trio classes:	2½ minutes maximum
Competitors 12 years and over:	3 minutes maximum
Song & Dance:	4 minutes maximum
Troupe items:	5 minutes maximum

ADJUDICATORS: The decision of the adjudicators is final. No Competitor who has been taught by the Adjudicators in the last two years are permitted to enter this competition. (Summer Schools etc or examination tuition exempt.) No competitor, parent, caregiver or teacher shall communicate with the adjudicator prior or during the festival.

FILMING & PHOTOGRAPHY: No photography is permitted in the theatre. Family members may film their child only. For Troupes the teacher may nominate a studio representative to video. Under no circumstances may anyone film any competitor that is not their own child / student or troupe. This will result in disqualification of your own child or troupe.

CUPS AND TROPHIES: All cups and trophies remain the property of CDTA and are held by the winner for the remainder of the competition year only. Trophies and cups must be returned engraved when requested. Engraving cups is the responsibility of the holder before returning. The Society is not responsible for engraving. Trophies must be returned undamaged and polished. Competitors will be held liable for any damage incurred while in the possession of in transit.

BACKSTAGE/DRESSING ROOM AREA: Backstage is a shared space. Please make sure you are courteous to fellow competitors backstage and please be respectful of the venue. Please use rubbish bins provided & clear the dressing room promptly after completion of your classes. **Competitors must follow the instruction of the Backstage Manager at all times.**

SIDE STAGE AREA: Out of respect **for the dancer on stage** only 2 dancers are to be in the side stage area at any time. **Competitors must follow the instruction of the Backstage Manager at all times.**

LIABILITY: While every care is taken to ensure the safety of competitors and members of the general public, the Society takes no responsibility for any unforeseen event, damage to, or loss of personal property that may occur. Competitors undertake to compete at their own risk and are urged to take the necessary precautions to protect themselves and their personal property.

DAMAGE: If any damage occurs to the venue, or property of the Competition Society or venue, the Society reserves the right to invoice any parties involved for the full cost of repairing or replacing the property.

PROTESTS: Must be lodged in writing to the Secretary within 1 hour of the Adjudicator announcing the class results, accompanied by a non-refundable fee of \$5. The decision of the Protest Committee shall be final.

PROMPTING: No Prompting will be permitted in the Open Sections.

CHAMPIONSHIP RULES OF PARTICIPATION

Competitors cannot enter an Open Championship unless they have won a Restricted Championship. However, if no Restricted Championship is offered, they may enter the Open Championship.

To be eligible to dance in Championships, competitors must enter at least TWO solo dances in the relevant genre. Championship dances may not be repeated in solo classes **except for Ballet** (which may repeat a dance).

Tap Championships must include the rhythms specified and may be danced in any order.

Under 12 Years: 1 chorus of slow, 2 choruses of buck/fast

OR 1 chorus of slow, 1 chorus of rhythm/medium, 1 chorus buck/fast.

12 years & Over: 1 chorus of slow, 1 chorus of rhythm/medium, 1 chorus buck/fast.

NATIONAL YOUNG PERFORMER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Please read the Criteria for National Young Performer of the Year (Attached)

To be eligible for nomination for the National Young Performer of the Year awards, competitors **must enter and compete in at least three (3) classes in the relevant genre of this competition.**

VENUE HEALTH & SAFETY

CTDTA ask you to please assist us and our venues with Health & Safety.

As a competitor, you are required to take all reasonable precautions for your own health and safety, and the health and safety of others. It is necessary for you to ensure there is no danger or fault in any equipment or props supplied or used by you, that may endanger the health and safety of you or others. If we, as a committee, consider that props or equipment used or supplied by you, pose a safety risk to you or others, we reserve the right to restrict or prohibit their use. If you see any potential hazards or risks, please let a Committee Member and/or Theatre Staff know immediately.

- Please respect the venue.
- Follow the instructions of the Committee and/or Theatre Staff in case of an emergency.
- Please keep all passageways clear and free of clutter.
- Dressing Rooms must be kept in a clean and tidy condition. Clean up your own rubbish and put in the bins provided.
- NO playing on any of the Stairwells at the venue.
- PROPS, please keep these in the allocated storage area until needed.

NO ROSIN allowed – please respect this request of our venues.

Section	Class	Description
Special Inclusion Class (Not Judged)		Special Inclusion Star
Tiny Tots (Not Judged) (Please see General Rules of Competition for details)	0	Tiny Tots Solo (Any Style Under 6yrs)
Tap Solo Classes	1	Novice Tap Solo Under 6 years
	2	Novice Tap Solo 6 & under 8 years
	3	Novice Tap Solo 8 & under 10 years
	4	Novice Tap Solo 10 & under 12 years
	5	Novice Tap Solo 12 years & over
	6	Open Tap Solo under 6 years
	7	Open Tap Solo 6 & under 8 years
	8	Open Tap Solo 8 & under 10 years
	10	Open Tap Solo 10 & under 12 years
	12	Open Tap Solo 12 & under 15 years
	14	Open Tap Solo 15 years & over
Song & Tap Solo Classes	15	Novice Song & Tap Solo under 6 years
	16	Novice Song & Tap Solo 6 & under 8 years
	17	Novice Song & Tap Solo 8 & under 10 years
	18	Novice Song & Tap Solo 10 & under 12 years
	19	Novice Song & Tap Solo 12 years & over
	20	Open Song & Tap Solo under 6 years
	21	Open Song & Tap Solo 6 & under 8 years
	22	Open Song & Tap Solo 8 & under 10 years
	24	Open Song & Tap Solo 10 & under 12 years
	26	Open Song & Tap Solo 12 & under 15 years
	28	Open Song & Tap Solo 15 years & over
Waltz Tap Solo Classes	29	Novice Waltz Tap Solo under 8 years
	30	Novice Waltz Tap Solo 8 & under 10 years
	31	Novice Waltz Tap Solo 10 & under 12 years
	32	Novice Waltz Tap Solo 12 & under 15 years
	33	Novice Waltz Tap Solo 15 years & over
	34	Open Waltz Tap Solo under 10 years
	35	Open Waltz Tap Solo 10 & under 12 years
	36	Open Waltz Tap Solo 12 & under 15 years
	38	Open Waltz Tap Solo 15 years & over
Speed Tap Solo Classes	56	Novice Speed Tap Solo under 12 years
	57	Novice Speed Tap Solo 12 years & over
	58	Open Speed Tap Solo under 10 years
	59	Open Speed Tap Solo 10 & under 12 years
	60	Open Speed Tap Solo 12 & under 15 years
	61	Open Speed Tap Solo 15 years & over
Slow Tap Solo Classes	39	Novice Slow Tap Solo under 10 years

	40	Novice Slow Tap Solo 10 & under 12 years
	41	Novice Slow Tap Solo 12 & under 15 years
	42	Novice Slow Tap Solo 15 years & over
	43	Open Slow Tap Solo under 10 years
	44	Open Slow Tap Solo 10 & under 12 years
	45	Open Slow Tap Solo 12 & under 15 years
	46	Open Slow Tap Solo 15 years & over
Tango/Latin American Solo Classes	47	Open Tango/Latin American Solo Under 13 years
	49	Open Tango/Latin American Solo 13 years & over
Tap Championships (Please see General Rules of Competition for details)	65	Restricted Tap Championship under 12 years
	65a	Restricted Tap Championship 12 years & over
	66	Open Tap Championship under 10 years
	67	Open Tap Championship 10 & under 12 years
	68	Open Tap Championship 12 & under 15 years
	69	Open Tap Championship 15 years & over
Tap Duo/Trio Classes	70	Novice Tap Duo/Trio Any Age
	73	Open Tap Duo/Trio under 12 years
	74	Open Tap Duo/Trio 12 years & over
	75	Novice Song & Tap Any Age
	78	Open Song & Tap under 12 years
	79	Open Song & Tap 12 years & over
Hip Hop Solo Classes	123	Hip-Hop Solo under 12 years
	124	Hip-Hop Solo 12 years & over
Jazz Solo Classes	99a	Novice Jazz Solo under 8yrs
	99	Novice Jazz Solo 8 & under 10 years
	100	Novice Jazz Solo 10 & under 12 years
	100b	Novice Jazz Solo 12 & under 15 years
	100c	Novice Jazz Solo 15 years & over
	100a	Open Jazz Solo under 8yrs
	101	Open Jazz Solo 8 & under 10 years
	102	Open Jazz Solo 10 & under 12 years
	103	Open Jazz Solo 12 & under 15 years
	104	Open Jazz Solo 15 years & over
Contemporary Solo Classes	117a	Novice Contemporary Solo Under 10 years
	117	Novice Contemporary Solo 10 & under 12 years
	118	Novice Contemporary Solo 12 & under 15 years
	118a	Novice Contemporary Solo 15 years & over
	119	Open Contemporary Solo Under 10 years

	120	Open Contemporary Solo 10 & under 12 years
	121	Open Contemporary Solo 12 & under 15 years
	122	Open Contemporary 15 years & over
Lyrical Solo Classes	125	Novice Lyrical Solo Under 10 years
	125a	Novice Lyrical Solo 10 & Under 12 years
	125b	Novice Lyrical Solo 12 & under 15 years
	126	Novice Lyrical Solo 15 years & over
	127	Open Lyrical Solo Under 10 years
	128	Open Lyrical Solo 10 & under 12 years
	129	Open Lyrical Solo 12 & under 15 years
	130	Open Lyrical Solo 15 years & over
Song & Dance (Soft Shoe) Solo Classes	106	Novice Song & Dance (Soft Shoe) Any Age
	107	Open Song & Dance (Soft Shoe) under 10
	108	Open Song & Dance (Soft Shoe) 10 & under 12
	109	Open Song & Dance (Soft Shoe) 12 & under 15
	110	Open Song & Dance (Soft Shoe) 15 years & over
Musical Theatre Solo Classes* Title Required (Must be from a Broadway show or Musical)	62	Musical Theatre Jazz Solo under 12 years
	64	Musical Theatre Jazz Solo 12 & under 15 years
	64a	Musical Theatre Jazz Solo 15 years & over
Modern/Jazz Championships Classes (Please see General Rules of Competition for details)	131	Restricted Modern/Jazz Championship Under 12 years
	131a	Restricted Modern/Jazz Championship 12 years & over
	132a	Open Modern/Jazz Championship under 10 years
	132	Open Modern/Jazz Championship 10 years & Under 12 years
	136	Open Modern/Jazz Championship 12 & Under 15 years
	133	Open Modern/Jazz Championship 15 years & over
Jazz Duo/Trio Classes	134a	Novice Jazz Duo/Trio under 12 years
	134b	Novice Jazz Duo/Trio 12 years & over
	134	Open Jazz Duo/Trio under 12 years
	135	Open Jazz Duo/Trio 12 years & over
Song & Jazz Duo/Trio Class	135a	Open Song & Jazz Duo/Trio Any Age
Hip Hop Duo/Trio Class	182	Hip Hop Duo/Trio under 12 years
	182a	Hip Hop Duo/Trio 12 years & over
Contemporary Duo/Trio Class	181	Contemporary Duo/Trio under 12 years
	181a	Contemporary Duo/Trio 12 years & over
Lyrical Duo/Trio Class	180	Lyrical Duo/Trio under 12 years
	180a	Lyrical Duo/Trio 12 years & over

Classical Ballet Solo Classes	140b	Novice Classical under 8 years
	140	Novice Classical 8 & under 10 years
	140a	Novice Classical 10 & under 12 years
	141	Novice Classical 12 years & over
	142	Open Classical under 8 years
	142a	Open Classical 8 & under 10 years
	161	Open Classical 10 & under 12 years
	143	Open Classical 12 & under 15 years
	162	Open Classical 15 years & over
Neoclassical Solo Class	183	Neoclassical Any Age
Barefoot Solo Classes* Title Required	163	Barefoot under 8 years
	163a	Barefoot 8 & under 10 years
	144	Barefoot 10 & under 12 years
	164	Barefoot 12 & under 15 years
	145	Barefoot 15 years & over
Demi Character Solo Classes* Title Required	146	Demi Character under 8 years
	146a	Demi Character 8 & under 10 years
	165	Demi Character 10 & Under 12 years
	147	Demi Character 12 & Under 15 years
	166	Demi Character 15 years & Over
National Character Solo Classes* Title Required	148	National Character Under 10 years
	167	National Character 10 & Under 12 years
	149	National Character 12 & Under 15 years
	168	National Character 15 years & Over
Variation Solo Classes* Title Required	169	Variation under 12 years (Own Selection -No Pointe)
	169a	Variation 12 & under 15 years (Own Selection – En Pointe Optional)
	172	Variation 15 years & Over (Own Selection – En Pointe)
Ballet Championship Classes (Please see General Rules of Competition for details)	151	Ballet Championship Under 12 years (No Pointe)
	152	Ballet Championship 12 & Under 15 years (Pointe Optional)
	173	Ballet Championship 15 years & Over (En Pointe)
Ballet Duo/Trio Class	150	Ballet Duo/Trio Any Age
Entertainment Solo/Duo/Trio Class	155a	Entertainment Class Any Age/Any Genre
Veterans Solo Any Genre	155b	Veterans Solo Any Genre
Veterans Duo/Trio Class	155c	Veterans Duo/Trio Any Genre
Cultural Dance Under 12 Solo	201	Cultural Dance Under 12 years
Cultural Dance 12 Years and Over Solo	202	Cultural Dance 12 Years and Over
Cultural Dance Duo/Trio	203	Cultural Dance Duo/Trio

Troupe Classes (Average Age)	84	Tap Team Under 12 years
	85	Tap Team 12 years & over
	86	Song & Tap Team Under 12 years
	87	Song & Tap Team 12 years & over
	98	Production Team Any Age/any genre
	91	Jazz Team under 12 years
	92	Jazz Team 12 years & over
	95	Song & Dance (Soft Shoe) Team under 12 years
	96	Song & Soft Dance (Soft Shoe) Team 12 years & over
	93	Lyrical Team Under 12 years
	94	Lyrical Team 12 years & over
	37	Contemporary Team Under 12 years
	37a	Contemporary Team 12 years & over
	48	Hip Hop Team Any Age
(Must be from a Broadway show or Musical)	154	Musical Theatre Team Any Age
	153	Ballet Team Under 12 years
	153a	Ballet Team 12 years & over
	156	Cultural Team Any Age
	89	Veterans Team Any Genre
	200	Tiny Tots Display Team (Any Style Under 6yrs)