**Ceridwen McCooey:** So I started playing the cello when I was 9 and I started composing or kind of arranging when I was in year 10. I realised I really enjoyed it and had a massive passion for it and it was kind of what I really wanted to continue doing for a long time

Hi, my name is Ceridwen McCooey, I am from the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School and my composition 'Nothing to do with Calypso' is in Top Acts 2018.

**Sue Lyons (Ceridwen's teacher):** I was very excited when I received the email telling me that Wynn had got into Top Acts. I enjoyed hearing her composition at Top Class Sound so for her to get into Top Acts I thought was really well-deserved and a really fitting tribute to her talent and her hard work.

I greatly enjoyed teaching Wynn in 2017 when she was in year 12. She was always a very enthusiastic and hard-working student. She showed great commitment and dedication during her two years as a solo cellist at VCASS and she put considerable time and effort into her composition and all of her academic subjects as well.

**Ceridwen:** So the piece I'm playing on Friday night is called 'Nothing to do with Calypso'and it is written for looping and cello so I'm combining the two more traditional styles of cello playing with very contemporary ideas of looping and layering sounds so that they create a more full texture so instead of it sounding like one instrument it sounds like four or five at a time.

So it's got three main sections, more generally it goes in a kind of arch shape. It's building in tension and then the last section, the C section, is kind of this release of tension and yeah I really wanted to make sure that that was something that was audible. That building of tension and release because I think that kind of satisfaction in music is really, yeah, gratifying when listening to and I think it makes a good work.

**Dan Mitchell (Top Arts 2018 Artistic Director)**: Yeah so with Ceridwen's piece tonight that she's performing, it's a, well once again a great composition of original and classical form with the cello and using the loops the way she does is quite inventive, and she sort of also brings in a contemporary rhythm to her work and then we've sort of layered over with the classical form.

**Helen Champion (former VCAA Performing Arts Curriculum Manager):** The piece that Ceridwen is going to perform in this concert is really interesting because of the way she uses the elements of music, the way she structured the work to move through different sections that each feature different textures the way she's created melodies and harmonies the way she varies dynamics, uses rhythmic patterns and tone colour.

**Ceridwen:** Yeah I'm definitely nervous for my performance on Friday. As much as I love performing and it's something I really love doing, it's quite nerve-wracking especially when it's your own composition. It feels more personal, not only are you performing and presenting to an audience how you play something but you're also presenting with it the actual composition so they're not only potentially judging you on your performance and how you interpret the work but actually the work itself so it feels a little bit more personal but in saying that I think if done well the reward is therefore greater because people appreciate the fact that you have done both perform and compose.

So to anyone who is thinking of a career in music or just wants to pursue music my advice would be to be passionate make sure you love it, make sure you're doing it for yourself and try something new as well don't settle for what previous artists have done with your instrument or your style, try and break away from that because new music is created all the time and we should be the ones who are creating it.