**Louise Gaul:** The best part about doing the performing arts was having that emotional release and doing performing arts gave me a lot more joy even when it was a bit of a struggle.

I'm Louise, I'm a singer-songwriter, I'm from Heathdale Christian College and I'm part of Top Acts 2018.

Being a performing arts student in VCE, it was challenging having to balance regular practice but it was really fun, like all throughout VCE I always had something to enjoy, VCE was never, it didn't feel like a chore because of how much I enjoyed the subjects and specifically what I was doing.

And I just had teachers that never stopped encouraging me I had really awesome teachers.

**Ben Salvador (Louise's teacher):** I'm really glad that Louise wrote original music for her year 12 work and I'm really glad that that work was recognised for the Top Acts concert by VCAA and I'm glad that something really original and unique is included in the program.

**Louise:** The piece I'm gonna be performing for Top Acts is called 'Still'. It's a contemporary music piece. It's basically about how sacrifices that we make you know, for the good of people that we love, how suffering in the moment eventually meets a greater good and just you know holding on and being hopeful and patient through those times.

**Ben Salvador:** Louise's strength in all her song writing is her lyrics and 'Still' has exceptionally good lyrics and really tells a story and paints a picture for the people listening to it. She's got a really good message and she's got a lot to say and a lot to tell her audience about so I think that's probably one of

the strongest things about 'Still'.

**Dan Mitchell (Top Acts 2018 Artistic Director):** Louise Gaul, she has a real feel for original composition. I think she does stillness really well as a performer as well and I really just loved the delicate nature of the work and I think as an audience member that's a real gift because it's sort of a way of reflecting in the space that you're in and enjoying the music.

**Mark Pullin (VCE VET Program Manager at VCAA):** In terms of Louise's piece 'Still' I think it's an amazing original composition. She's an outstanding performer and obviously a very talented songwriter as well.

I think the great thing about completing a VCE VET qualification in performance is that it gives students the opportunity to explore this music that they really enjoy, and to also work out where there might be a market for their music. So it's great to be a talented musician and songwriter but who's going to buy that music, can I turn that into a career, and what options are there for me as a young person wanting to enter the music industry.

As well as combining the study with your VCE or VCAL you can complete a nationally recognised qualification. So this particular qualification is

Certificate 3 in Music Industry and it's recognised not only across Australia but also internationally so you're really gaining in a qualification within your senior secondary as well.

**Louise:** I didn't expect to get into Top Acts and I'm really honoured that I get to perform. The performance on Friday, I think I'm more excited than nervous. I love having opportunities to share my music live.

My plan for the future is just to keep on writing, keep on recording, keep on being inspired by music because I intend to continue pursuing music. And enjoying it along the way.

To anyone who wants to do music expose yourself to as much creativity as

possible and let yourself be inspired

#And so it is

#Just as you promised

#I will beg my way most of the time

#Everyone's raising trembling hands

#To cover lips of poison and wine

#We could let it be

#Wander lonely streets

#We could lose our minds

#Hold on tighter

#The tempest will bring you to the other side

#Hold on tighter

#Deep breath in the rising waters

#And so it is

#Just as you promised

#I still fight for my way most of the time

#Like fire and brimstone

#We let it rain

#'Cause we're dust to dust

#Bound in cells of lust

#But flesh and blood

#Hold on tighter

#The tempest will bring you to the other side

#Hold on tighter

#Deep breath in the rising waters

#Hold on tighter

#'Cause even blooming gardens

#They still taste ash and snow

#I gave my empty words, my empty all

#We can’t let it be, won’t let it go

#So stand still in the shallows

#And so it is

#Just as you promised

**Louise:** Thank you