



Stella's a writer of note

Song-writer Stella Kelly.

Stella Kelly is combining her Year 12 studies at St Hilda's with her love of song writing, and her creative passion has been recognised on the national stage.

One of four finalists, she has just returned from Sydney where she co-wrote the 2016 Song of the Year for the Music Count Us In (MCUI) competition.

Stella, who usually writes songs alone at home, said working collaboratively with the other finalists was a great opportunity.

"I learnt such a lot from mentors Jay Laga'aia [of Play School and Star Wars fame] and John Foreman, of Good Morning Australia," she said.

"The experience opened my mind to the use of melody, lyrics and rhythm."

Stella is secretive about the

style of the finished song but says it's upbeat.

It will be released in early November to more than 500,000 students nationally at schools registered with MCUI.

Stella began at St Hilda's in Year 7 after winning a music scholarship.

Now in her final school year, she is music captain and loves sharing her passion for music with younger students.

"I love guiding other students and seeing their potential," she said.

"I started voice lessons as soon as I started at St Hilda's and was inspired to write songs

by my guitar teacher in Year 9.

"Our school recording facilities and amazing support from my teachers have encouraged me to pursue my music dreams."

Stella is committed to a career in the music industry.

"I'm having the best time at school but I can't wait to leave and pursue what I love doing," she said.

Stella plays with three other St Hilda's students in a band called Sonrisa (Spanish for "smile"), which recently played at the Ellington Jazz Club.

Stella has also appeared at the Nannup Music Festival and last year one of her songs was nominated for the WA Music Song of the Year.