Ray Columbus: the Modfather: life and times of a rock ‘n’ roll pioneer / Ray Columbus with Margie Thomson
One of pioneers of modern music in New Zealand, Ray Columbus began his career in 1959 at the tender age of 17. After more than four decades at the top of the New Zealand entertainment industry as a singer, songwriter, bandleader and TV star, having penned classics such as 'She's a Mod' and 'Till We Kissed', Ray is well and truly a household name. Surprisingly, Ray's story has never been told until now. Illustrated with photographs and ephemera from Ray's personal collection, it is a disarmingly candid memoir, a snapshot of a bygone era, a behind-the-scenes expose, and a great read!

Nice work if you can get it: notes from a musician’s diary / Don Franks
Don tells lively tales from the life of a gigging musician as few outside the business know it. Don has played at restaurants, dances, pubs, festivals, weddings and funerals. He’s taught music in schools, night classes, prisons, and to private students. A left-wing activist, Don has performed at protests and picket lines and recorded two albums of his protest songs. He currently produces a weekly Access Radio programme of music and social commentary.

Waiata: Maori songs in history: an anthology / introduced and translated by Margaret Orbell
In waiata our forebears spoke their hearts - in grief and celebration. For many hundreds of years this great oral tradition of song flourished in Aotearoa. During the second half of the nineteenth century, Maori scholars recorded for the future the words of thousands of waiata. Margaret Orbell has brought to light and translated many of these texts. In this new anthology she places waiata of the nineteenth century in their social and political setting. There is a fascinating richness of detail here about traditional Maori life, with insights into the lives of ordinary people as well as into tribal relations and the interaction of Maori and Pakeha.

The point of the baton: memoir of a conductor / John Hopkins with William Cottam
The Point of the Baton is the personal and surprisingly candid story of John Hopkins, from his first cello lesson at sixteen, to chief conductor of the BBC at 24, 'Mr. Music' of New Zealand, federal director of ABC music, founding Dean of music at the Victorian College of the Arts, director of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, and ever an inspiring teacher. This story recounts his experience with divas and artists - Stravinsky, Te Kanawa, Ashkenazy, Arrau, Menuhin, Kodaly, and Oistrakh - and his experiences conducting in Soviet Moscow, in Mao’s China, and taking orchestral music to the dangerous townships of South Africa immediately after apartheid ended.

Gutter black: a memoir / Dave McArtney
An intimate, raw memoir by a founding member of one of NZ's iconic rock bands, Hello Sailor; a tale of creativity, misadventure, success and excess. Dave McArtney was one of New Zealand's best known musicians and songwriters. As a founding member of the legendary Hello Sailor, he wrote or co-wrote most of their best known songs, including 'Gutter Black,' one of the country's best known and best loved hits. Dave McArtney's description of Hello Sailor's campaign to conquer the American music scene is as funny as it is accurate. In this long-awaited memoir, completed just weeks before his untimely death, Dave gives the reader an access-all-areas pass to the life of a working rock'n'roll musician.
Onsong : stories behind New Zealand pop classics / Simon Sweetman
On Song is a lively journey through New Zealand's diverse pop landscape. Prolific music journalist Simon Sweetman has interviewed the writers and performers of beloved Kiwi classics, presenting 'in conversation' text that illuminates the fascinating stories behind the pop songs we all know and love, all complemented with a plethora of artists' personal imagery and archival photography.

Pop songs include: Don't dream it's over, For today, Slice of heaven, E Ipo, (Glad I'm) not a Kennedy, Drive, In the neighbourhood, Out on the street, Nature…

Mother's day / by Laurence Fearnley
Life is tough for 40-year-old solo mother Maggie, a home help caregiver. Her three children are all giving her a hard time, especially Bevan, who's in trouble with the police. But when she's assigned a musician in a wheelchair to care for, something new enters her life. Maggie's a singer, Tim a fine guitarist. They'll make music together, but tragedy is just around the corner. Then it's Mother's Day, and Maggie and her family gather...This touching new novel from Laurence Fearnley contains many gems of warmth, affection, love and hope.

The Chimes / Anna Smaill
Written by a NZ author, this remarkable novel is set in a reimagined London in a world where people cannot form new memories, and the written word has been forbidden and destroyed. A boy stands on the roadside on his way to the city, alone in the rain. No memories, beyond what he can hold at any given moment. No directions, as written words have been forbidden. No parents - just a song that says if he can get to the capital, he may find some answers about what happened to them. Here, life is orchestrated by a vast musical instrument that renders people unable to form new memories. But slowly, inexplicably, Simon is beginning to remember. He awakes each morning with a pricking feeling, a sense there is something he urgently has to do.

Music from a distant room / Stephanie Johnson
"I'll give you his beginning, and then you can tell me his ending. In exchange."
A fortnight after jazz pianist Carl Tyler's funeral, Tamara has one week before she leaves New Zealand to return to her native Chicago. Nola wants to solve the mystery of her son's death, to know everything Tamara knows, so she begins to tell Carl's lover about her son's conception, his childhood and his early love of music, in the hope that Tamara will remember. *Music from a distant room* is a book about storytelling, fate, forgiveness and the search for meaning in loss.

More
Non-Fiction:
The Anzacs : 100 years on in story and song : Australia and New Zealand in World War 1 / Ted Egan
Blue smoke : the lost dawn of New Zealand popular music, 1918-1964 / Chris Bourke
Bogan : an insider's guide to metal, mullets, and mayhem / Dave Snell
Fantasy & folly : the lost world of New Zealand musicals, 1880-1940 / by Peter Harcourt
God defend New Zealand : a history of the national anthem / Ashley Heenan
How bizarre : Pauly Fuemana and the song that stormed the world / Simon Grigg
Piano in the parlour : when the piano was New Zealand's home entertainment centre / John MacGibbon