

Dear Competitor

We are looking forward to welcoming you to the 2025 Herald Sun Aria competition for Royal South Street Society! To assist you in your preparation for the competition... here are answers to some FAQ's

WHEN TO ARRIVE

There are two heats this year, and we ask that you are present for the entirety of your heat as we often run ahead of time and as per the rules, competitors must perform in the order that has been set.

Aim to arrive 15-30 minutes before the scheduled start time of your heat. This allows the registration team time to ensure they have the correct details for you and allows you time to settle into the venue and find your way around.

The timetable for the competition is on our website under ['Aria Timetable'](#)

PRE REGISTRATION

We ask that everyone completes their pre-registration by **02 July**. Pre-registration includes listing the names of all four arias, uploading a PDF of all four arias, and uploading an introduction spiel about your first aria which will be read out as you are introduced.

Pre-Registration is done by logging into your MyStage account and following the prompts. There is also a handy guide located on our website under ['Navigating MyStage'](#)

TICKETS AND MERCHANDISE

Friends and family can buy tickets for \$10 at the door, or via our website prior to the event. There is a new Multipass Ticket available this year. This is a discount for those who are attending multiple sessions, even across a selection of different disciplines.

Guidebooks are also available at the door for \$5 and a range of RSSS merchandise including a RSSS Tshirt, candles, stickers, badges, certificates and more.

WHAT TO BRING

Bring one photocopy of each aria with bars numbered (for the adjudicators).

Bring your originals for registration to sight on your arrival.

Bring your CV (in case you are chosen for the final)

Read through the Herald Sun Aria [performance stipulations](#) to ensure you have everything covered.

REHEARSALS WITH THE ACCOMPANIST

The official accompanist is Konrad Olszewski. He will be given access to the arias you upload via MyStage to look through prior to the heats. If you would like to arrange a private rehearsal with Konrad (at your own expense) prior to the heat, you may contact him on konradfolszewski@gmail.com.

If you make it through to the semi-final, a 20-minute rehearsal time will be provided for you on the afternoon of Monday 04 August.

WHO ARE THE ADJUDICATORS

Greg Hocking and Simon Meadows and the two adjudicators for 2025. They will provide written feedback for each competitor.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY

There is an official photographer and videographer. Please be respectful of copyright and child safety laws and do not use your device to take any photos of any performer during the performance.

Some photos will be taken by staff during award ceremonies to be used on social media. If you do not wish for you/your child's photo to be published on our website, please speak to the Stage Manager or the Chairperson.

THE ROYAL TREASURE TRAIL

This is a new initiative and designed to share with you some of Ballarat's wonderful local shops, eateries and entertainment venues. Take a moment to look at what is on offer and remember to say you're from Royal South Street Society. Who knows what special treats are in store for you! [Explore the Royal Treasure Trail](#)

PARKING

Competitions will be held at the Minerva Room in the Ballarat Mechanics Institute on Sturt Street. As it is in the centre of town, parking is limited to street parking, which is FREE on Sundays (for the heats) and charged at an hourly rate on weekdays. Take a moment to look at this website for ideas of free and cheap parking within walking distance.

<https://www.parkopedia.com.au/>



HOW DO I CONTACT THE OFFICE IF I NEED HELP

If you have any issues on the day and need to contact us, please phone the office on 5332 1054. If you can't get through on that number, phone the RSSS mobile on 0472 626 777.

Leave a message or text and we'll reply as soon as possible.

VOLUNTEERS

Please remember that the competition is run largely by a group of passionate volunteers who just enjoy helping in the community. They enjoy seeing young performers and giving them a chance to get up on stage. Without our volunteers, this competition would not be able to run. Please take a moment to say thank you or a kind word and have patience if someone seems to be learning or unsure.

SURVEY

We are currently gathering data to help highlight the impact that our Eisteddfod has on the Ballarat community. This data will help us apply for funding, sponsorships and grants, so please take a moment to fill out the survey via the QR codes located at the Eisteddfod.

LASTLY...

Have fun! We love a friendly, happy and supportive comp. We hope you enjoy the experience of performing and get some valuable advice from the adjudicators. We encourage you to watch your full heat and the semi-final if you can, to show support for all performers.