



ROYAL SOUTH STREET SOCIETY BALLARAT EISTEDDFOD

Dear Competitor

We are looking forward to welcoming you to the 2026 vocal and aria competition for Royal South Street Society! To assist you in your preparation for the competition... here are answers to some FAQ's

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WHEN TO ARRIVE

Aim to arrive 15-30 minutes before the scheduled start time of your session. 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. If your section is later during the session, you may arrive later, but it's best to err on the side of caution, as we may run ahead of time.

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

PRE REGISTRATION - VOCAL

Everyone must complete their pre-registration ONE MONTH prior to the commencement of the competition. Pre-registration includes uploading your backing track, sheet music (if needed) and listing the title of your song. This can be done by logging into your MyStage/Artfuel account following the prompts. There is also a handy guide to pre-registration located on our website under '[Navigating MyStage/ArtFuel](#)'

Pre-registration must be completed no later than ONE MONTH prior to the Eisteddfod.

2026 Pre-registration cut off is Wednesday 13 May.

This allows the committee time to check the tracks and to forward sheet music to the accompanist.

PRE REGISTRATION - ARIA

Everyone must complete their pre-registration ONE MONTH prior to the commencement of the competition. Pre-registration includes

- listing the names of all four arias, operas and composers
- uploading a PDF of all four arias
- uploading an introduction spiel about your first aria which will be read out as you are introduced.

This can be all be done by logging into your MyStage/Artfuel account following the prompts. There is also a handy guide to pre-registration located on our website under '[Navigating MyStage/ArtFuel](#)'

2026 Pre-registration cut off is Thursday 28 May.

This allows the committee time to check the details and to forward sheet music to the accompanist.

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 - VOCAL

- Contemporary - a back-up copy of all your backing tracks (in mp3 format) on a **labelled** USB.
- Classical - your original music for us to 'sight' at registration (view our copyright laws) and a photocopy of your sheet music **with numbered bars** to hand in at registration. This copy goes to the adjudicator and will be shredded after the competition.
- Classical – your accompaniment on a backing track (in mp3 format) in case of any issues with the sheet music that has been provided to the accompanist (ie. Sheet music in a different key to your practise track!)

WHAT TO BRING - ARIA

- Bring one photocopy of each aria with bars numbered (for the adjudicators)
- Bring your originals for registration to sight on your arrival (for arias under copyright).
- 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.

WHAT TO WEAR

Dress for your performance! If singing a classical song, usually competitors will dress in a more formal manner than if singing a pop rock song. If singing in a stage and screen section, you are welcome to dress in costume to suit your character (optional!). Remember, it's a performance, so take pride in your appearance and this may help you to present confidently on stage.

Formal attire is acceptable for the aria competition.

MICROPHONE USE

Microphone technique is not part of the judging criteria. We recommend that singers use microphones in the contemporary sections, however a singer may choose to sing acoustically if they prefer. Singers may **not** use a microphone in any of the classical sections.

HOW AM I MARKED - VOCAL

There is an adjudication guide, including how marks are allocated, on our [website](#). At the end of each section, your crit will be available to view on [MyStage/ArtFuel](#). This feedback is one of the most important reasons to enter a competition, so don't forget to log in and check your results!

HOW AM I MARKED - ARIA

There are two adjudicators who will provide you with a written critique of your performance. They will choose the top 12 performers from the Heats to advance to the Semi-Final.

You will be able to collect your critique at the completion of the heats.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY

There is an official videographer onsite for vocal this year. Please be respectful of child safety laws and do not use your device to take any photos of any child 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 charged at an hourly rate or, take a moment to look at this website for ideas of free and cheap parking within walking distance.

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



REHEARSALS WITH THE ACCOMPANIST

The official accompanists for 2026 are;

Poppy Robertson – poppyrobertsani@gmail.com

Under 10 yrs, 10 – Under 12 yrs, 12 to Under 14 yrs

TBC

14 to Under 16 yrs, 16 to Under 18 yrs

Konrad Olszewski - konradfolszewski@gmail.com

18 yrs and Over, Aria

If you would like to arrange a private rehearsal (at your own expense) prior to the competition, you may contact the accompanists directly to arrange.

There will be an opportunity to have a brief run through your piece with Poppy and TBC on the morning of your performance (you will not need to pay extra for this). Details about booking a timeslot will come out closer to the competition.

Aria entrants who progress to the semi-final will be allocated a rehearsal timeslot on Monday 29 June.

WHEN ARE THE ARIA FINALS

Aria Heats – Sunday 28 June all day (Ballarat Mechanics Institute)

Aria Semi-Final – Monday 29 June 7pm (Ballarat Mechanics Institute)

Aria Final – TBC (Melbourne Recital Centre)

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.

LASTLY...

Have fun! We love a friendly, happy comp. It's always fun to win a prize, but regardless, we hope you enjoy the experience of performing and get some valuable advice from the adjudicators. Support and encourage other singers, come and watch other sections, take part in the masterclasses on offer, and enjoy your time at the 2026 Eisteddfod!