



ROYAL SOUTH STREET SOCIETY
BALLARAT EISTEDDFOD

Freemasons Vocal Competition and Herald Sun Aria 2026

Rules and Conditions of Entry

The following rules and conditions are specific to the Royal South Street Society Ballarat Eisteddfod Vocal Competition (Classical and Contemporary)

Further Information Contact
Events Coordinator
Office: 5332 1054
Email: info@royalsouthstreet.com.au

Contents

1. GENERAL	2
2. ENTRIES	2
2.1 Age Limit Vocal	2
2.2 Entries open 01 March	2
3. ENTRY FEES	2
4. PERFORMANCE STIPULATIONS	3
Herald Sun Aria	3
4.1 Time limits	3
4.2 Original sheet music	3
4.3 Backing tracks	3
4.4 Side stage	3
4.5 Accompanist	3
4.6 Backing tracks	3
4.7 Backing Tracks	3
4.8 Pre-Registration	3
4.9 Self- Accompaniment	3
4.10 Equipment	3
4.11 Song choice	3
5. COMPETITION ENTRY DISCLAIMERS	4
Copyright	4
Risk	4
Photography, Videography & Image Consent	4
Personal Details	5
Conditions	5
Medication	5
6. ADJUDICATORS	5
7. PRIZES	6
8. COMPETITORS OBLIGATIONS AND EXPECTATIONS	6
9. CHILD SAFE STANDARDS	7

1. GENERAL

- 1.1 A competitor performs an item in a section within a discipline (e.g. Vocal).
- 1.2 A competitor may only enter each section once, except for section 511 and 512 (Vocal Duet or Trio) where they may place several entries but must perform with different partners for each entry.
- 1.3 An item by a competitor can only be performed once during the current competition, except as specifically allowed in section 515, 516 and 517.
- 1.4 Competitors who have been taught or coached by the adjudicator of their section within the last 12 months are ineligible to enter or may sing for a crit only.
- 1.5 Previous 1st prize winners of the Herald Sun Aria are ineligible to enter the aria again.
- 1.6 The Royal South Street Society's preferred form of communication is via email info@royalsouthstreet.com.au
- 1.7 It is the responsibility of each competitor to ensure they are receiving any email sent by Royal South Street Society representatives.
- 1.8 All competitors and patrons must observe directions given by theatre personnel, Royal South Street Society Staff and Volunteers.

2. ENTRIES

- 2.1 Age Limit Vocal – The competitors age on 01 January of the current year should be deemed the current age.
- 2.2 Entries open 01 March and all entries must be received by the closing date 30 April.
- 2.3 An entry confirmation will be generated for the competitor, and it will be the competitors' responsibility to confirm all details of the entry are correct.
- 2.4 Should alterations be required, a request via email must be forwarded to info@royalsouthstreet.com.au.
- 2.5 The society is not responsible for entries lost through failed electronic transmission or incorrectly submitted online.
- 2.6 Please check your junk mail folder if you do not receive a confirmation email.

3. ENTRY FEES

- 3.1 No entry will be accepted unless processed online with full payment.
- 3.2 Entry fees are shown with discipline section items in the Competition Schedule.
- 3.3 Schools, clubs etc. may request an invoice by submitting a purchase order to info@royalsouthstreet.com.au which must be paid within 21 days of receiving the invoice.
- 3.4 Fees are invoiced and payable to the Royal South Street Society
- 3.5 Fees are non-refundable once entries close. For more information read our [Refunds, Withdrawals and Late Entry Policy](#).
- 3.6 The board reserves the right to refuse an entry subject to the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities.
- 3.7 The board or Discipline Chair may cancel or combine any section that has five or less entries (refunds will be given in the case of a cancellation).

4. PERFORMANCE STIPULATIONS

Herald Sun Aria – IMPORTANT information for all aria entrants - please read the Performance Stipulations document in conjunction with the Vocal Rules and Conditions.

- 4.1 Time limits - Songs should not exceed 4 minutes, except as noted in the senior classical sections.
- 4.2 Original sheet music - IS required for classical sections. Original sheet music is NOT required for contemporary vocal sections but competitors must own a legitimately purchased backing track.
- 4.3 Backing tracks - Backings cannot be ripped from YouTube or any free music site. Refer to RSSS Copyright Grant of Licence
- 4.4 Side stage - reserved only for competitors and event volunteers. No access will be given to parents, family members or friends unless in the case of extenuating circumstances. In this event, a WWCC must be supplied.
- 4.5 Accompanist - provided for all classical vocal sections. You will be asked to provide music to the accompanist one month prior to the Eisteddfod and failure to do so may result in you being asked to perform with a backing track. An accompanist is NOT provided for contemporary vocal sections or junior classical sections. Please contact the RSSS Office for a list of suggested local accompanists if required, or you may bring your own.
- 4.6 Backing tracks - Tracks must not contain any vocals– this includes lead vocals, backing vocals, harmonies, or guide tracks. Instrumental tracks are allowed for contemporary sections. Piano backings are allowed for classical sections (using the official accompanist is preferred for classical).
- 4.7 Backing Tracks – should be in MP3 or M4A format. Ensure the backing is good quality. The recommendation of RSSS is a commercially purchase backing through iTunes or similar (not converted from YouTube or recorded on a phone)
- 4.8 Pre-Registration - You will be required to upload your backing tracks prior to the beginning of the competition. It is suggested that you also bring the backing track on a USB as a back-up.
- 4.9 Self- Accompaniment - Competitors may bring their own accompanist, accompany their own item or sing to a live instrumental backing group of no more than four members.
- 4.10 Equipment - RSSS will provide: a keyboard or piano, microphones (both roving and standard) and a sound system that plays MP3 and M4A backings.
- 4.11 Song choice – If a competitor performs a song that does not fit the section criteria, the adjudicator will provide a critique only and the competitor would be ineligible to win a prize.

5. COMPETITION ENTRY DISCLAIMERS

Copyright

- 5.1 I/we declare that I/we own the original of my chosen work and can present the original, or proof of purchase, if requested. This includes the original sheet music, music book, and/or the purchase of authorised sound recordings. For a detailed list of the RSSS copyright agreement, please refer to:

RSSS Copyright Grant of Licence

- 5.2 I/we recognise failure to comply with copyright conditions and procedures will result in the competitor being unable to compete.

Risk

- 5.3 I/we recognise that the Royal South Street Society is insured for public liability which does not comprehensively cover injury to performers, and that individuals or schools must ensure that they are adequately covered whilst performing in these competitions or otherwise enter at their own risk.
- 5.4 I/we recognise that the Royal South Street Society is insured for public liability which does not comprehensively cover injury to performers, and that individuals or schools must ensure that they are adequately covered whilst performing in these competitions or otherwise enter at their own risk.

Photography, Videography & Image Consent

- 5.5 We encourage all schools/group/clubs to assist us to promote the performing arts and the RSSS Eisteddfod. The Royal South Street Society reserves the right to promote our core business (eisteddfod) for marketing and sponsorship which is critical to the ongoing promotion of the performing arts and our success. As such we must take and share professional photographs and/or video footage of various performers on our stage for all our disciplines. It is impossible for us to check with every school, for group/school/club photography consent for every single performer on our stage. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the school/group/club to inform us prior to the discipline competition commencing, if the school/group cannot be photographed for any reason. As per our Child Safe Policy, consent can be advised or withdrawn throughout the competition, but the onus to do so is on the school. Parents/carers are given an opportunity to provide consent for individual entries when they enter as individuals/soloists.
- 5.6 In support of Child Safe Standards, Royal South Street Society provides parents/guardians/teachers and entrants (over the age of 18) an advance option (for consent or non-consent) for children (under the age of 18) to be photographed (as per the following clauses) upon initial eisteddfod registration, and the reminder and/or opportunity to review their decision periodically (in case circumstances change or the child in question would prefer not to be photographed). Royal South Street Society reserves the right to use this initial and ongoing consent information to guide the following photography, videography and image use on an annual eisteddfod basis:
- 5.7 Any such photograph, recording or broadcast may be used at RSSS's discretion for publicity or promotional purposes, including, but not limited to, competition results, print and broadcast media and social media. Any use of

images shall not necessarily constitute an endorsement of any participants, and no remuneration or compensation whatsoever shall be attributable to any participants so featured.

- 5.8 No photography or videography of any kind or any mobile device is permitted in the dressing rooms by any participant, teacher, supporter, RSSS staff member or stakeholder.
- 5.9 No remuneration or compensation whatsoever shall be attributable to any participants so featured in promotional publications or material.
- 5.10 Should the entrant have any personal or legal reasons which would preclude them from this, Royal South Street Society should be notified upon entry, or throughout the competition season. Consent can be withdrawn via this form; [Withdraw My Consent](#)
- 5.11 Royal South Street Society may publicise the name, profile and photograph of an entrant in eisteddfod publications and results, via electronic, social and printed media at its discretion.

Personal Details

- 5.12 Personal details provided by an entrant via entry form are for Royal South Street Society identification use only and are not released to third parties except at Royal South Street Society's discretion, after consultation with the entrant, to known organisations, when an opportunity may be beneficial to an entrant such as a scholarship, for example.

Conditions

- 5.13 Competitors/guardians acknowledge that I/we have read and agree to abide by the RSSS Vocal Competition Rules and Conditions or Entry.
- 5.14 Competitors/guardians acknowledge that failure to comply with any of the foregoing rules and conditions may result in disqualification, the withholding of prizes, and a future bar in competition.
- 5.15 The decision of the Board or Discipline Chair in all questions or disputes arising out of or not provided for, by the rules and regulations, will be final.
- 5.16 All entries are received according to this condition and in the spirit of friendly competition upon which the eisteddfod is based; accordingly, no dispute shall become the subject of any appeal at law.

Medication

- 5.17 Competitors/guardians acknowledge that it is the responsibility of individual competitors who require medication to ensure that they always carry medication with them and have it easily accessible side stage in the event they should require it. It is the individual competitor's responsibility to have a responsible person present to administer the medication in case of an emergency.

6. ADJUDICATORS

- 6.1 The board reserves the right to appoint a co-adjudicator, or assistant, or substitute adjudicator when necessary.
- 6.1 The adjudicator's decision shall be final.

- 6.2 Any unwanted communication with the adjudicators, either by competitors, teachers, parents or other interested parties during the competition is prohibited. Discipline Chairs or their delegates from their sub-committee may approach the Adjudicators when and if required to do.

7. PRIZES

- 7.1 A detailed critique by the adjudicator will be provided for competitors in each section or heat. It may be collected at the end of each section.
- 7.2 Prize money, medals and ribbons will be presented onstage at the end of each section, except in the Herald Sun Aria where prizes will be presented onstage at the conclusion of the final.
- 7.3 Certificates may be purchased through the office or via this link [Order My Certificate](#).
- 7.4 Aggregates are determined by adding points assigned to first, second and third places. Points are assigned thus; 1st = 5 points 2nd = 3 points 3rd = 1 point.
- 7.5 Aggregate ties – in the case of a tie, the greatest number of firsts will decide the winner. If equal, the greatest number of 2nds. If a tie still exists, prize money will be divided between both competitors.
- 7.6 The adjudicator has the right to withhold any prize. In the event of a tie for first in any section the first and second prize shall be divided equally between the tied competitors and no second will be awarded. The competitor with the next highest points will be awarded third. In the event of a tie for second prize, the second and third prize shall be equally divided between the tied competitors and no third will be awarded.
- 7.7 Honourable Mention is fourth, and Highly Commended may be awarded to anyone in the section worthy of acknowledgment and not necessarily awarded as fifth place.

8. COMPETITORS OBLIGATIONS AND EXPECTATIONS

- 8.1 Proof of Age – The board reserves the right to ask any competitor to provide a proof of age. Any prize money may be withheld until such proof has been provided.
- 8.2 Personal presentation – All competitors are requested to dress neatly and present well on stage.
- 8.3 Performances should be appropriate to the competitors' age and to community values. Inappropriate language and movements are not appreciated.
- 8.4 Competitors are expected and encouraged to be present for the entire section in which they are entered.
- 8.5 Withdrawals - As a courtesy, please inform the office info@royalsouthstreet.com.au if you are not able to attend your section.

9. CHILD SAFE STANDARDS

- 9.1 In accordance with the current Child Safe Policy (effective July 2023) all persons attending RSSS Competitions should have read the current Child Safe Policy. As indicated in this policy, all persons over 18 entering the Dressing Rooms or Back Stage areas will need to show their Working With Children Card or equivalent.
- 9.2 For full details on our Child Safe Policy, please visit; [Compliance and Child Safety - Royal South Street](#)