

Royal South Street Society Ballarat Eisteddfod

Vocal & Herald Sun Aria – Rules and Conditions of Entry

Aligned to RSSS Strategic & Operational Plan 2026–2029: clarity, consistency, child safety, artistic excellence, digital-first administration, and risk governance.

1. General

- An **entrant** performs an item in a section within a discipline (e.g. Vocal).
- An entrant may enter each section **once**, except Duet/Trio sections (different partners required for each entry).
- An item may be performed **once per season**, except where explicitly permitted (sections 515–518).
- Entrants taught or coached by the adjudicator in the **past 12 months** are ineligible to compete and may perform for critique only.
- Previous **1st prize winners** of the Herald Sun Aria are ineligible to re-enter the Aria.
- RSSS communicates primarily by **email**. Entrants are responsible for ensuring messages from RSSS are received.
- All entrants and patrons must follow directions from theatre staff, RSSS staff and volunteers.

2. Entries

- **Age** is determined as at **1 January** of the competition year.
- Entries open **1 March** and close **30 April**.
- Entrants must review their confirmation and request corrections via **info@royalsouthstreet.com.au**.
- RSSS is not responsible for entries lost through incorrect or failed electronic submission. Check junk mail if confirmation is not received.

3. Entry Fees

- Entries are accepted **online only** with full payment.
- Fees are listed in the Schedule and are **non-refundable** once entries close ([refer Refunds, Withdrawals & Late Entry Policy](#)).
- Schools or organisations may request an invoice with a purchase order (payable within **21 days**).

- The Board may refuse entries in accordance with the **Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities**.
- Sections with **five or fewer entries** may be cancelled or combined (refunds issued if cancelled).

4. Performance Stipulations

Aria entrants must also read the [Herald Sun Aria Performance Stipulations](#).

4.1 Time Limits

- Items must not exceed **4 minutes**, except where specified for senior classical sections.

4.2 Music & Copyright

- **Original sheet music** is required for classical sections.
- Contemporary sections require a **legitimately purchased** backing track.
- Tracks must not be sourced from YouTube or free sites. See **RSSS Copyright Grant of Licence**.

4.3 Backing Tracks

- Instrumental only – **no vocals** (including guide or harmony tracks).
- File formats: **MP3 or M4A**, good quality.
- Upload backing tracks/sheet music **one month prior** to performance. Bring a USB backup. See [Guide to Backing Tracks](#) for more information.

4.4 Accompaniment

- RSSS provides an accompanist for **classical vocal sections**.
- Music must be supplied **one month prior** or entrants may be required to use a backing track.
- Entrants may provide their own accompanist or self-accompany. Live backing groups limited to **four** performers.

4.5 Equipment & Stage Access

- RSSS provides piano, microphones and playback equipment.
- Side stage access is restricted to entrants and authorised personnel only. WWCC required where applicable.

4.6 Song Choice

- Items not meeting section criteria will receive **critique only** and are ineligible for prizes.

5. Entry Declarations & Disclaimers

Copyright

- Entrants confirm ownership or licensed use of all music and materials and compliance with RSSS copyright requirements. Non-compliance may result in disqualification. See [Copyright Summary](#) for clarification.

Risk

- Entrants participate **at their own risk**. RSSS public liability insurance does not comprehensively cover performer injury.

Photography, Videography & Image Use

- RSSS may record performances for promotional, marketing and reporting purposes.
- Photography/videography is **prohibited** in dressing rooms and the auditorium.
- Schools/groups must notify RSSS in advance if consent is withdrawn, in line with the Child Safe Policy. [Follow this link to withdraw consent](#).

Privacy

- Personal information is used for RSSS administration and may be shared with trusted organisations only where beneficial to the entrant and after consultation.

Conditions

- By entering, entrants/guardians agree to these Rules. Breaches may result in disqualification or future ineligibility.
- Decisions of the Board or Discipline Chair are **final**.

Medication

- Entrants requiring medication must carry it and have a responsible person available to administer it if required.

6. Adjudicators

- The Board or staff may appoint substitute or additional adjudicators.
- Adjudicators' decisions are **final**.
- Direct communication with adjudicators is prohibited except through Discipline Chairs or delegates.

7. Prizes

- Adjudicator critiques are provided for all sections.
- Prizes are presented onstage (Aria prizes at the final).
- Aggregates are calculated: **1st = 5, 2nd = 3, 3rd = 1**. . Tie-breaks are determined by countback. (ie greatest number of 1st prizes, greatest number of 2nd prizes etc) Prize division applies where ties remain.

- Honorable Mention is fourth, and Highly Commended may be awarded to anyone worthy of acknowledgement and not necessarily as fifth place.
- The adjudicator may withhold prizes or award commendations at their discretion.

8. Entrant Obligations

- Proof of age must be provided on request.
- Dress and performances must be age-appropriate and reflect community standards.
- Entrants are encouraged to remain for the full section.
- Withdrawals should be advised to info@royalsouthstreet.com.au.

9. Child Safe Standards

- RSSS complies with its **Child Safe Policy** (effective July 2023).
- All adults accessing dressing rooms or backstage areas must hold a **WWCC or equivalent**. Full details can be found on our [Child Safe Policy](#).