



ROYAL SOUTH STREET SOCIETY
BALLARAT EISTEDDFOD

Schimmel Pianoforte and Celebrating Chopin Competition 2026

Dates:
15 - 21 June 2025

VENUE:

Ballarat Mechanics Institute
Minerva Room
117 - 119 Sturt Street, Ballarat Central 3350

Further Information Contact
Events Coordinator
Office: 53321054
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Entries open 01 March and close 30 April, 2025

Adjudicators

Coady Green (Pianoforte and Chopin)
Caroline Almonte (Chopin)

Discipline Chair

Carolyn Bennett

With thanks to - Barb Stead (Committee) and advisors Lauren Knight, Katie Apps, Deborah Gilchrist, Bronislaw Sozanski, Wendy Rechenberg, Anna Whitehead and Glenn Riddle.

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ADJUDICATORS

Coady Green (Pianoforte and Chopin)

Caroline Almonte (Chopin)

SPECIAL PRIZES

Deborah Gilchrist Award – 9 Years and Under

\$50 will be awarded, at the discretion of the adjudicator, to a promising young pianist in the 9 Years and Under sections (this should not be the aggregate winner).

Mr Brakes Ballarat Aggregate Prize – 9 Years and Under

\$50 will be awarded to the aggregate winner.

Mr Brakes Ballarat Aggregate Prize – 10 Years and Under

\$50 will be awarded to the aggregate winner.

\$25 will be awarded, at the discretion of the adjudicator, to a pianist who is worthy of encouragement

Frank Robertson-Smith Trust –12 Years and Under

\$75 will be awarded to the aggregate winner.

\$25 will be awarded, at the discretion of the adjudicator, to a pianist who is worthy of encouragement.

Jess Crowe Memorial Shield and Aggregate Award – 15 Years and Under

\$200 and a shield will be awarded to the aggregate winner.

Frank Robertson-Smith Trust – 15 Years and Under

\$25 will be awarded, at the discretion of the adjudicator, to a pianist who is worthy of encouragement.

Frank Robertson-Smith Trust – 19 Years and Under

\$150 will be awarded to the aggregate winner.

\$50 will be awarded, at the discretion of the adjudicator, to a pianist who is worthy of encouragement.

Frank Robertson-Smith Trust Encouragement Award – Open Age sections.

\$175 will be awarded to the aggregate winner.

\$75 will be awarded, at the discretion of the adjudicator, to a pianist who is worthy of encouragement.

Local Encouragement Awards - \$25 offered to a competitor in each of 9 Years and Under, 10 Years and Under, 12 Years and Under, 15 Years and Under, 19 Years and Under who live or study piano within a 50km radius of Ballarat. The adjudicator will select students who show potential, but not necessarily prize winners. Students will need to play in at least 3 sections to be eligible.

TIME LIMITS (unless otherwise specified)

9 Years and Under / 10 Years and Under – 3 minutes

12 Years and Under – 4 minutes

15 Years and Under – 5 minutes

19 Years and Under – 6 minutes

Open – 10 minutes

SECTIONS

This schedule of sections encourages participation and supports students at all stages – from beginners to advanced performers.

This schedule is split into FOUR main categories:

- [Aggregate Sections](#) – Placings will earn points toward an overall [aggregate prize](#)
- [Novice Sections](#)
- [General Sections](#)
- [Celebrating Chopin](#)

AGGREGATE SECTIONS

Prize winners in these sections earn points toward an overall aggregate prize (see [Special Prizes](#)).

You may choose to enter your age group or a higher one; however, it's best to stay within a single age group for each section, as aggregate points do not transfer between age groups.

Competitors must adhere to the [time limit](#) for each age group.

Traditional Piano Solo

Entrants may choose a piece of their own selection in any traditional style (not popular). Can include folk, renaissance, baroque, classical, romantic, contemporary classical.

700	9 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$20	Prize; Medals and Ribbons
710	10 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$20	Prize; 1 st \$30 & Medal 2 nd & 3 rd Medals
720	12 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$22	Prize; 1 st \$40 & Medal 2 nd \$20 & Medal 3 rd \$10 & Medal
730	15 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$24	Prize; 1 st \$50 & Medal 2 nd \$25 & Medal 3 rd \$15 & Medal
740	19 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$26	Prize; 1 st \$60 & Medal 2 nd \$30 & Medal 3 rd \$20 & Medal
750	Open Elsie Morrison Prize	Entry Fee \$30	Prize; 1 st \$70 & Medal 2 nd \$35 & Medal 3 rd \$25 & Medal

Popular Piano Solo

Entrants should choose a piece from the popular piano repertoire. This may include pop, rock, jazz, stage and film music. Competitors should avoid traditional classical music (eg Bach, Beethoven etc) and contemporary classical (eg Debussy, Sculthorpe etc)

701	9 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$20	Prize; Medals and Ribbons
711	10 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$20	Prize; 1 st \$30 & Medal 2 nd & 3 rd Medals
721	12 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$22	Prize; 1 st \$40 & Medal 2 nd \$20 & Medal 3 rd \$10 & Medal
731	15 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$24	Prize; 1 st \$50 & Medal 2 nd \$25 & Medal 3 rd \$15 & Medal
741	19 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$28	Prize; 1 st \$60 & Medal 2 nd \$30 & Medal 3 rd \$20 & Medal
751	Open age	Entry Fee \$30	Prize; 1 st \$70 & Medal 2 nd \$35 & Medal 3 rd \$25 & Medal

Australian Composer Piano Solo

Entrants should choose a piece written by an Australian Composer. Styles may include Classical, Jazz or Popular.

702	9 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$20	Prize; Medals and Ribbons
712	10 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$20	Prize; 1 st \$30 & Medal 2 nd & 3 rd Medals
722	12 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$22	Prize; 1 st \$40 & Medal 2 nd \$20 & Medal 3 rd \$10 & Medal
732	15 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$24	Prize; 1 st \$50 & Medal 2 nd \$25 & Medal 3 rd \$15 & Medal
742	19 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$28	Prize; 1 st \$60 & Medal 2 nd \$30 & Medal 3 rd \$20 & Medal
752	Open age	Entry Fee \$30	Prize; 1 st \$70 & Medal 2 nd \$35 & Medal 3 rd \$25 & Medal

Piano Recital Solo

Entrants should choose TWO contrasting works. Although the **VCE and VET** section has been retired, we strongly encourage students studying VCE Music (Units 1-4) or VCE VET Music Industry (Performance) to enter the Recital section. This section provides the perfect platform to present repertoire from your VCE/VET program while also giving you the freedom to showcase your versatility.

Competitors in this section must adhere to the following time limits;

9 Years and Under / 10 Years and Under – Max 5 minutes

12 Years and Under – Max 7 minutes

15 Years and Under – Max 7 minutes

19 Years and Under – Max 15 minutes

Open Age – Max 15 minutes

703	9 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$26	Prize; Medals and Ribbons
713	10 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$30	Prize; 1 st \$30 & Medal 2 nd & 3 rd Medals
723	12 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$34	Prize; 1 st \$40 & Medal 2 nd \$20 & Medal 3 rd \$10 & Medal
733	15 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$26	Prize; 1 st \$50 & Medal 2 nd \$25 & Medal 3 rd \$15 & Medal
743	19 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$30	Prize; 1 st \$60 & Medal 2 nd \$30 & Medal 3 rd \$20 & Medal
753	Open Age	Entry Fee \$34	Prize; 1 st \$70 & Medal 2 nd \$35 & Medal 3 rd \$25 & Medal

Adjudicator Challenge Quick Study Piano Solo

Music is chosen by the adjudicator and will be emailed to the entrants 14 days prior to the date of this section. The adjudication will favour musicianship and expression.

Standard of Piece to be supplied;

9 Years and Under – Grade 1 piece

10 Years and Under – Grade 2 piece

12 Years and Under – Grade 2 piece

15 Years and Under – Grade 3 piece

19 Years and Under – Grade 4 piece

Open Age – Grade 4 piece

704	9 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$20	Prize; Medals and Ribbons
714	10 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$24	Prize; 1 st \$30 & Medal 2 nd & 3 rd Medals
724	12 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$28	Prize; 1 st \$40 & Medal 2 nd \$20 & Medal 3 rd \$10 & Medal
734	15 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$20	Prize; 1 st \$50 & Medal 2 nd \$25 & Medal 3 rd \$15 & Medal
744	19 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$24	Prize; 1 st \$60 & Medal 2 nd \$30 & Medal 3 rd \$20 & Medal
754	Open Age	Entry Fee \$28	Prize; 1 st \$70 & Medal 2 nd \$35 & Medal 3 rd \$25 & Medal

NOVICE SECTIONS

These sections are for competitors who have not won a 1st prize in any Pianoforte section at RSSS during 2024 or 2025. Competitors must adhere to the [time limit](#) for each age group.

In fairness to all competitors, we recommend students entering the novice sections should be working at a maximum grade (AMEB or Equivalent) level of;

9 Years and Under – Max Grade 2	Time Limit – 3 minutes
10 Years and Under – Max Grade 2	Time Limit – 3 minutes
12 Years and Under – Max Grade 3	Time Limit – 4 minutes
15 Years and Under – Max Grade 3	Time Limit – 5 minutes
19 Years and Under – Max Grade 4	Time Limit – 5 minutes
Open Age – Max Grade 4	Time Limit – 5 minutes

Anyone working above this standard should enter the [Aggregate Sections](#) and [General Sections](#)

Traditional Piano Solo NOVICE

For competitors who have not won a 1st prize in any Pianoforte section at RSSS during 2024 or 2025.

Entrants may choose a piece of their own selection in any traditional style (not popular). Can include folk, classical, baroque, contemporary classical.

706	9 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$20	Prize; Medals / Certificates
716	10 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$24	Prize; Medals / Certificates
726	12 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$28	Prize; Medals / Certificates
736	15 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$20	Prize; Medals / Certificates
746	19 Years and Under (NOVICE any style)	Entry Fee \$24	Prize; Medals / Certificates
756	Open (NOVICE any style)	Entry Fee \$28	Prize; Medals / Certificates

Popular Solo NOVICE

For competitors who have not won a 1st prize in any Pianoforte section at RSSS during 2024 or 2025.

Entrants should choose a piece from the popular piano repertoire. This may include pop, rock, jazz, stage and film music. Competitors should avoid traditional classical music (eg Bach, Beethoven etc) and contemporary classical (eg Debussy, Sculthorpe etc)

707	9 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$20	Prize; Medals / Certificates
717	10 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$24	Prize; Medals / Certificates
727	12 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$28	Prize; Medals / Certificates
737	15 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$20	Prize; Medals / Certificates

Australian Composer Piano Solo NOVICE

For competitors who have not won a 1st prize in any Pianoforte section at RSSS during 2024 or 2025.

Entrants should choose a piece written by an Australian Composer. Styles may include Classical, Jazz or Popular.

708	9 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$20	Prize; Medals / Certificates
718	10 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$24	Prize; Medals / Certificates
728	12 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$28	Prize; Medals / Certificates
738	15 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$20	Prize; Medals / Certificates

GENERAL SECTIONS

These sections are not included in the aggregate but offer a range of performance opportunities to extend the experience for pianists of all ages and standards.

Competitors must adhere to the time limit for each age group.

Piano Duet

Entrants should choose a piano duet of their own selection in any style. All competitors in the duet must be within the specified age group. Time Limit – 5 minutes

760	10 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$20	Prize; 1 st \$30 & Medal / 2 nd & 3 rd Medals
770	15 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$24	Prize; 1 st \$40 & Medal / 2 nd & 3 rd Medals
780	Open Age	Entry Fee \$30	Prize; 1 st \$50 & Medal / 2 nd & 3 rd Medals

Piano Trio

Entrants should choose a piano trio of their own selection. All competitors in the trio must be within the specified age group. Time Limit – 5 minutes

761	10 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$20	Prize; \$30 & Medal / 2 nd & 3 rd Medals
771	15 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$24	Prize; \$30 & Medal / 2 nd & 3 rd Medals
781	Open Age	Entry Fee \$30	Prize; \$60 & Medal / 2 nd & 3 rd Medals

Piano Composition or Original Arrangement Solo

Entrants should perform their original composition or arrangement. Compositions will be submitted to the adjudicator one month prior to Eisteddfod and then performed by the composer on the day of the competition. Submissions may be an audio recording if the composer is unable to notate the work.

This section is not included in the aggregate and competitors must adhere to the time limit as listed here;

Maximum time limit for this section;

10 Years and Under – 3 minutes

15 Years and Under – 5 minutes

Open Age – 7 minutes

762	10 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$20	Prize; \$30 & Medal / 2 nd & 3 rd Medals
772	15 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$24	Prize; \$40 & Medal / 2 nd & 3 rd Medals
782	Open Age	Entry Fee \$30	Prize; 1 st \$60 & Medal / 2 nd & 3 rd Medals 2 nd \$30 & Medal / 2 nd & 3 rd Medals 3 rd \$15 & Medal / 2 nd & 3 rd Medals

A composition masterclass will be offered following this section – Details TBC

Accompanist of the Future

This section is designed to showcase the skill, sensitivity, and musicianship of the accompanist. The accompanist's ability to support and enhance the soloist's performance will be the primary focus of adjudication; however soloists can opt to receive comments as well.

This section is open to collaborations with vocal or instrumental soloists and will be timetabled within the Pianoforte dates (15 – 20 June)

The Age Limit is specific to the accompanist (not the soloist).

Time limit; 5 mins

790	10 Year and Under	Entry Fee \$20	Prize; 1 st Prize \$30 & Medal / 2 nd & 3 rd Medals
791	15 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$24	Prize; 2 nd Prize \$40 & Medal / 2 nd & 3 rd Medals
790	Open Age	Entry Fee \$35	Prize; 1 st \$80 & Medal 2 nd \$40 & Medal 3 rd \$20 & Medal

TBC: An accompanist masterclass will be offered following this section (sponsored by Tim Ryan) –
Details TBC



ROYAL SOUTH STREET SOCIETY
BALLARAT EISTEDDFOD

CELEBRATING CHOPIN

These two sections are the ultimate challenge for pianists to showcase their skills!

Sunday 21 June

Acknowledgement

The Royal South Street Society acknowledges the generosity of Mr Andrew Cochrane AM & family who have honoured the society with the prizes for both the Junior & Senior Chopin sections in memory of their mother, Margaret Schofield, now in their 15th year of sponsoring.

Since 2015 Celebrating Chopin competitors have played a Schimmel Konzert Series Grand Piano providing the ultimate experience in concert dynamic performance. Schimmel is Germany's largest and most awarded piano manufacturer. The piano is provided by our Pianoforte sponsor, Bernie's Musicland, Ringwood.

VENUE:

Ballarat Mechanics Institute
Minerva Room
117 – 119 Sturt Street, Ballarat Central 3350

Entries open 01 March and close 30 April 2025

Adjudicators

Coady Green and Caroline Almonte

Discipline Chair

Carolyn Bennett

With thanks to – Barb Stead (Committee) and advisors Lauren Knight, Katie Apps, Deborah Gilchrist, Bronislaw Sozanski, Wendy Rechenberg, Anna Whitehead and Glenn Riddle.

798 Junior Chopin Solo – Entry Fee \$40

16 Years and Under

Own choice of one (or more) complete works or movement of Chopin.

Time Limit: 10 minutes

All competitors must have competed in at least **ONE** other Pianoforte section.

Prize Money

1st \$500 and medal

2nd \$300 and medal

3rd \$150 and medal

Encouragement Award - \$50 at the discretion of the adjudicator

799 Margaret Schofield Memorial Prize for a Performance of the Music of Chopin - Entry Fee \$90

17 to 32 Years

Competitors must present at least two significant works of Chopin. The program may include an Etude, a Ballade, Sonata movement, Scherzo, the Barcarolle, or a similar large work.

Time Limit: Minimum 15 minutes – Maximum 20 minutes

Prize Money

1st \$5000 and medal

2nd \$2500 and medal

3rd \$1000 and medal

Encouragement Award - \$500 at the discretion of the adjudicator

Margaret Schofield Biography

OAM B. Mus 1918 - 2004



Margaret Schofield was one of the Australia's leading pianists during her distinguished career, performing as a soloist, accompanist and actively teaching the piano for almost 60 years.

Margaret was born in Melbourne and already as a young teenager was teaching piano during the years of the Great Depression to supplement her family's income. She gained a scholarship to university and studied music at the University of Melbourne from 1935 to 1938, gaining a Bachelor of Music degree.

After the war, she studied piano in London from 1947 to 1949 under the direction of Solomon, while engaged as a staff pianist at the BBC. She took part in solo and chamber music concerts and accompanied well-known artists regularly on television.

In 1951 & 1952 she visited the USA and performed regularly and gave a series of recitals for the Canadian Broadcasting Company. In 1952 she revisited England and gave a recital at Wigmore Hall and a series of BBC recitals.

She returned to Australia with her husband, and during the 1950s and 1960s she had regular concert tours with visiting overseas musicians, including violinists Jean-Pierre Wallez, Alfredo Campoli and Maurice Hasson, cellists Edmund Kurtz and Rohan de Saram, sopranos Elisabeth Schwarzkopf and Eileen de Tullio, tenors Ronald Dowd and Gerald English, flautist Jean Pierre Rampal and saxophone player Sigurd Rascher. During this period, she had two children, Andrew & Fiona.

In 1963 she travelled overseas and again broadcast for the BBC London. In 1966 she was appointed Chief Study Teacher at the University of Melbourne Conservatorium, she also lectured in accompanying and piano at the Melba Conservatorium, examined for the Australian Music Examinations Board and adjudicated at many eisteddfods and competitions.

She continued to give regular concert recitals, and performances with Musica Viva, Soirees Musicales, and played regularly with chamber music groups. Unfortunately, her career suffered a major interruption, resulting from a severe pedestrian accident in 1985, which resulted in three months hospitalization and rehabilitation.

However, after recovery she was able to continue to give regular recitals, performances at regional music clubs and in 1990 she gave a Chopin Recital at the Camberwell Civic Centre with great success. She was a founding supporter and a regular accompanist for the Lieder Society, she gave numerous performances for charity, including the Red Cross, the Brotherhood of St. Lawrence and for the sisters of Charity of St. Vincent's Hospital.

In 1988 she was awarded the OAM (Order of Australia Medal) for her services to music and the community. She continued to teach and play regularly until almost 80 years of age.