



ROYAL SOUTH STREET SOCIETY
BALLARAT EISTEDDFOD

Freemasons Vocal and Herald Sun Aria Competition 2025

Fri 18 July to Mon 04 August 2025

VENUE:

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

Discipline Chair

Carolyn Bennett

Committee

Jason Wasley
Jacqueline Kalogerakis
Anna Whitehead
Danielle Larkins

ENTRIES OPEN MARCH 01 and CLOSE APRIL 30

Further Information Contact
Events Coordinator
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ADJUDICATORS

Phoebe Humphreys (28 July – 02 Aug)

Phoebe Humphreys is a Sydney based professional singer, multi-disciplinary teacher and vocal coach & international adjudicator. She holds a Masters of Vocal Performance from GSMD London, as well as a Bachelor of Music (Voice) & has worked as a professional singer since the age of 16 across all styles. Phoebe has work for Opera Australia as a soprano with the chorus for 10 years. Over this time with Opera Australia she has also sung MainStage roles & covers. Phoebe teaches and adjudicates all styles of vocals & prides herself in her ability to safely guide & inspire developing voices.



Phoebe has won over 150 vocal awards and has performed professional stage roles & concerts in Australia & Europe. She has worked professionally on national tour with Ian Moss, Wendy Mathews, Guy Sebastian, session work with Sony through to as a soloist with the London Symphony Orchestra, Dutch National Opera & Grange Park Opera, UK.

Phoebe is excited to bring her 20 years of experience to the table, to inspire, collaborate & achieve with the future generation of singers.

Sally Bourne (18 – 20 July)

Sally has been working professionally for 40 years in musicals, on T.V, in cabaret, concerts and as a comedian.

Her theatre credits in Australia include; Brigadoon, Company, Moonshadow, The Boy From Oz, Once We Lived Here (Victorian Green Room nomination for Female in a Supporting Role) & Shane Warne – The Musical (Original Cast). Sally was also Australia's original Annie in the 1978 production!

Sally lived & worked in London for 13 years, her work there included many musicals and she made her debut as a stand up comic & was a finalist in the "So You Think You're Funny" awards in 1998 as well as appearing at the Edinburgh Festival.



Sally has appeared in cabaret in London & Australia. She was one of many resident performers at Centrestage in Leicester Square as well as performing cabaret shows at Pizza On the Park, The Piccadilly Hotel, Jerman Street Theatre and Simpson's on the Strand.

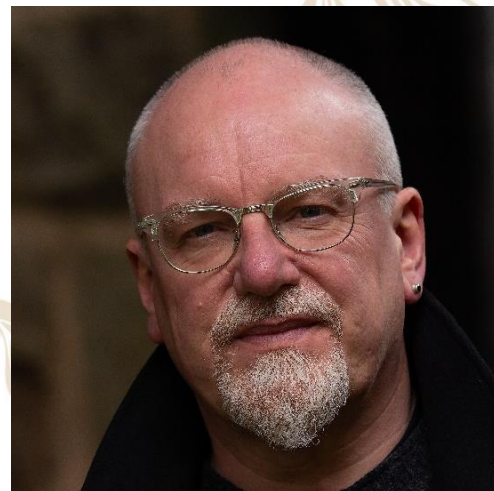
After returning to Australia in 2004, Sally wrote The Sally Bourne Identity which was a two season sell out & appeared at The Adelaide Cabaret Festival in 2009, as well as gaining a Victorian Green Room award for Best Original Songs in Cabaret. Sally is also one of the resident performers with the improv comedy show Spontaneous Broadway.

Richard Chew (02 August)

Professor Richard Chew is Director of the Arts Academy, Federation University Australia.

Richard studied at the International Opera School, Royal College of Music, London and was awarded the President's Rose Bowl, presented by H.M. The Queen Mother. He worked as a principal baritone with many of the UK's major companies including the Royal Shakespeare Company, English National Opera, Glyndebourne, Opera North, Opera Factory and Music Theatre London. Career highlights as a singer include a lieder recital at the National Portrait Gallery for BBC Radio 3, Juan, in the world premiere of Mark Anthony Turnage's opera *Country of the Blind* (ENO, 50th Aldeburgh Festival, BBC Radio 3), Dad, in Turnage's *Greek* (Queen Elizabeth Hall, London and Cite de la Musique, Paris), Sam, in Leonard Bernstein's *Trouble in Tahiti* (Barbican Theatre London, City of London Sinfonia with conductor Marin Alsop) and Papageno (*The Magic Flute*), QEH, London and Symphony Hall, Birmingham.

Richard is an acclaimed composer, and commissions include works for the Adelaide Festival, Adelaide Cabaret Festival, Vienna Festival, English National Opera, Welsh National Opera, Young Vic Theatre Company (Barbican and New Victory Theatre, Broadway), Festival of Arts and Ideas, New Haven USA, and Salisbury Cathedral (750th Anniversary commission). Richard is an Associate Artist with the Australian Music Centre and his music is published by Wirripang.



ACCOMPANIST

Konrad Olszewski (02 – 04 August)

Konrad Olszewski is a professional pianist who is in great demand as a performer, accompanist, repetiteur and teacher.

He completed his Master of Music degree with a postgraduate scholarship at the University of Melbourne, studying with Glenn Riddle. While at Melbourne University Konrad received many awards including the J.S Bach Prize, the Lady Turner Exhibition Prize and the Searle Piano Faculty Merit Scholarship. He was selected as one of 20 finalists to participate in the Sydney International Piano Competition and won the John Allison/B.M. Henderson Piano Scholarship at the Sydney Eisteddfod. Konrad has also studied overseas with leading virtuosos including Leslie Howard (London), Piotr Paleczny (Warsaw) and Klaus Hellwig (Berlin). He is regularly invited to perform recitals around Australia, including performances at the BMW (now Deakin) Edge in Melbourne, and the Sydney Town Hall where he recently performed the Paderewski Piano Concerto. As associate artist he has won numerous awards, notably at the Liederfest and Mietta Song competition. Most recently he has won the Richard Bonyngé accompanist prize at the 2023 Sydney International Song Prize competition. Konrad also enjoys composing and performing jazz and works in popular styles and genres.



SPECIAL PRIZES

Optiform Aggregate Award – 10 Years and Under - \$100

Optiform Aggregate Award – 11 to Under 14 Years - \$100

Optiform Aggregate Award – 14 to Under 16 Years - \$100

Optiform Aggregate Award – 16 to Under 18 Years - \$100

Optiform Aggregate Award – 18 Years and Over - \$100

Aggregate Trophies Sponsored by Andrew James Lovell – Stolen Generation Survivor

MEDALS AND RIBBONS FOR ALL SECTIONS SPONSORED BY THE HENKELL FAMILY FUND @ AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY.

Marjorie Davies Encouragement Prize – \$100 awarded to a male competitor in 11 to Under 14 Years who is worthy of encouragement.

The Nicholas McMahon Prize for the best boy soprano – \$100 awarded to a male competitor in any age group who displays the best technique or most potential.

Sally Bourne Music Theatre Prize* – Win a coaching session with a top industry professional. Competitors must compete in 'Contemporary Stage and Screen Combo' to be eligible. *Not available in 10 Years and Under.

The Nicholas McMahon Prize for the best male in Stage and Screen – \$100 awarded to a male competitor in 16 to Under 18 Years who shows the most potential for a career on the stage.

The Andrew James Lovell Award for a person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent – 2 x \$100 scholarship prizes awarded to (two) competitors of the adjudicators choosing who are worthy of encouragement. Winners must have an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island descent.

ANATS Victoria Prize - \$100 awarded to the singer in the 14 to Under 16 Years age group who, in the opinion of the adjudicator, shows the most potential for a singing career.

Suttons House of Music Perpetual Shield – Competitor in 16 to Under 18 Years who is worthy of encouragement.

Ballarat Carols by Candlelight Vocal Opportunity – One performer will be chosen from the 11 to Under 14 Years age group to sing a solo at Ballarat Carols by Candlelight on Saturday 20 December 2025. The chosen performer will get the opportunity to perform with a full concert band in front of a crowd of approximately 6,000 people. www.ballaratcarolsbycandlelight.org.au

Ballarat Opera Festival Vocal Scholarship – Sponsored by Victorian Opera

Competitors in Classical Vocal Solo*, Sacred or Oratorio, Art Song or Leider, Operetta and Enduring Classics, and Crossover Championship sections are eligible to be invited to take part in *The Big Sing* as part of the Ballarat Opera Festival. Recipients gain access to rehearsals with the Ballarat Choral Society, Ballarat Symphony Orchestra, their respective conductors, and Victorian Opera's Head of Music Phoebe Briggs. They then go on to perform with Victorian Opera's Emerging Artist Prize winners at the Ballarat Civic Hall on Sunday 30 November 2025.

*see section details for more information

MASTERCLASS – Masterclass presenter sponsored by Optiform Ballarat

Art Song and Lieder Masterclass with Dr Richard Chew – The top 4 prize winners in this section will be selected to participate in the Masterclass with Dr Richard Chew. All competitors across the competition are invited to attend free of charge. Parents and Friends are welcome to buy a ticket at the door.

AGGREGATE SECTIONS

These sections are all included in an overall aggregate prize. Competitors may enter any of these sections even if not actively competing for the aggregate.

Time limit for all sections is 4 minutes unless otherwise specified. Please cut backing tracks or accompaniments to ensure your song fits within the time limit.

To view examples of songs that suits the style of each section, please follow this link [RSSS Suggested Song List](#). Competitors are welcome to choose any songs, whether they appear on the list or not.

Contemporary Upbeat Pop/Rock Vocal Solo

Singers must choose a song from the contemporary popular repertoire in an upbeat style.

550	10 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$20	1 st Prize \$50 The Shine Centre 2 nd Prize \$25 Andrew James Lovell 3 rd Prize \$10 Andrew James Lovell
560	11 to Under 14 Years	Entry Fee \$24	1 st Prize \$70 Ryans IGA Community Rewards 2 nd Prize \$35 Andrew James Lovell 3 rd Prize \$15 Andrew James Lovell
570	14 to Under 16 Years	Entry Fee \$26	1 st Prize \$90 Oaktree Dental 2 nd Prize \$45 Andrew James Lovell 3 rd Prize \$20 Andrew James Lovell
580	16 to Under 18 Years	Entry Fee \$28	1 st Prize \$110 Ryans IGA Community Rewards 2 nd Prize \$55 Oaktree Dental 3 rd Prize \$25 Leroy Mac Designs
590	18 Years and Over	Entry Fee \$30	1 st Prize \$130 Field Air 2 nd Prize \$65 Freemasons Victoria Foundation 3 rd Prize \$30 Leroy Mac Designs

Country Music Vocal Solo

Singers must choose a song from either contemporary country or the traditional country and western repertoire.

551	10 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$20	1 st Prize \$50 ANATS Victoria 2 nd Prize \$25 Andrew James Lovell 3 rd Prize \$10 Andrew James Lovell
561	11 to Under 14 Years	Entry Fee \$24	1 st Prize \$70 The Piano Bar 2 nd Prize \$35 Andrew James Lovell 3 rd Prize \$15 Andrew James Lovell
571	14 to Under 16 Years	Entry Fee \$26	1 st Prize \$90 Freemasons Victoria Foundation 2 nd Prize \$45 Andrew James Lovell 3 rd Prize \$20 Andrew James Lovell
581	16 to Under 18 Years	Entry Fee \$28	1 st Prize \$110 Leroy Mac Designs 2 nd Prize \$55 Leroy Mac Designs 3 rd Prize \$25 Leroy Mac Designs
591	18 Years and Over	Entry Fee \$30	1 st Prize \$130 Field Air 2 nd Prize \$65 The Shine Centre 3 rd Prize \$30 Freemasons Victoria Foundation

Jazz Blues Soul Gospel Vocal Solo

Singers must choose a song within the Jazz/Blues/Soul/Gospel repertoire, either up tempo or ballad.

562	11 to Under 14 Years	Entry Fee \$24	1 st Prize \$70 Chris Gardner 2 nd Prize \$35 Andrew James Lovell 3 rd Prize \$15 Andrew James Lovell
572	14 to Under 16 Years	Entry Fee \$26	1 st Prize \$90 Chris Gardner 2 nd Prize \$45 Andrew James Lovell 3 rd Prize \$20 Andrew James Lovell
582	16 to Under 18 Years	Entry Fee \$28	1 st Prize \$110 Chris Gardner 2 nd Prize \$55 Freemasons Victoria Foundation 3 rd Prize \$25 Freemasons Victoria Foundation
592	18 Years and Over	Entry Fee \$30	1 st Prize \$130 Field Air 2 nd Prize \$65 Freemasons Victoria Foundation 3 rd Prize \$30 Freemasons Victoria Foundation

Contemporary Stage and Screen Combo *NEW

Singers must choose **TWO contrasting** songs from the stage or screen (can include cabaret and standalone songs in the same style). Singers in this section are eligible to be selected for the Sally Bourne Music Theatre Award (excludes 10 years and under).

Time limit; 8 minutes

553	10 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$35	1 st Prize \$75 BLOC 2 nd Prize \$35 Andrew James Lovell 3 rd Prize \$20 Andrew James Lovell
563	11 to Under 14 Years	Entry Fee \$39	1 st Prize \$105 BLOC 2 nd Prize \$50 Andrew James Lovell 3 rd Prize \$25 Andrew James Lovell
573	14 to Under 16 Years	Entry Fee \$41	1 st Prize \$135 BLOC 2 nd Prize \$65 Andrew James Lovell 3 rd Prize \$30 Andrew James Lovell
583	16 to Under 18 Years	Entry Fee \$43	1 st Prize \$165 BLOC 2 nd Prize \$80 The Pancake Kitchen 3 rd Prize \$40 The Pancake Kitchen
593	18 Years and Over	Entry Fee \$45	1 st Prize \$195 The Pancake Kitchen 2 nd Prize \$100 The Pancake Kitchen 3 rd Prize \$50 The Pancake Kitchen

Pre 1960's Classic Stage and Screen Solo

Singers must choose an upbeat or ballad stage or screen song from the pre-1960's stage and screen repertoire (can include cabaret and standalone songs in the same style).

555	10 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$20	1 st Prize \$50 The Ballarat Vocal Studio 2 nd Prize \$25 Andrew James Lovell 3 rd Prize \$10 Andrew James Lovell
565	11 to Under 14 Years	Entry Fee \$24	1 st Prize \$70 Ballarat Vocal Studio 2 nd Prize \$35 Andrew James Lovell 3 rd Prize \$15 Andrew James Lovell
575	14 to Under 16 Years	Entry Fee \$26	1 st Prize \$90 Homeground Cafe 2 nd Prize \$45 Andrew James Lovell 3 rd Prize \$20 Andrew James Lovell
585	16 to Under 18 Years	Entry Fee \$28	1 st Prize \$110 Ballarat Vocal Studio 2 nd Prize \$55 Optiform 3 rd Prize \$25 Optiform
595	18 Years and Over	Entry Fee \$30	1 st Prize \$130 Anita Stapp (Louis & John Stapp) 2 nd Prize \$65 Optiform 3 rd Prize \$30 Optiform

Contemporary Ballad Solo

Singers must choose a ballad from the contemporary popular repertoire.

556	10 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$20	1 st Prize \$50 The Shine Centre 2 nd Prize \$25 Andrew James Lovell 3 rd Prize \$10 Andrew James Lovell
566	11 to Under 14 Years	Entry Fee \$24	1 st Prize \$70 The Buninyong Hotel 2 nd Prize \$35 Andrew James Lovell 3 rd Prize \$15 Andrew James Lovell
576	14 to Under 16 Years	Entry Fee \$26	1 st Prize \$90 Coward-Lemke School of Music 2 nd Prize \$45 Andrew James Lovell 3 rd Prize \$20 Andrew James Lovell
586	16 to Under 18 Years	Entry Fee \$28	1 st Prize \$110 The Buninyong Hotel 2 nd Prize \$55 Freemasons Victoria Foundation 3 rd Prize \$25 Freemasons Victoria Foundation
596	18 Years and Over	Entry Fee \$30	1 st Prize \$130 Oaktree Dental 2 nd Prize \$65 The Shine Centre 3 rd Prize \$30 Freemasons Victoria Foundation

Classical Vocal Solo

Singers must choose a song from the classical repertoire for example (but not limited to) Early Renaissance, Sacred, Folk, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Lieder, 20th Century Art Song or Ballad. (Operatic Aria from Grand Opera, Operetta and Music Theatre not permitted in this section).

NB No accompanist is provided for these sections (with the exception of 18 Years and Over).

Please bring your own accompanist or source a good quality backing track from [Your Accompanist - Piano Accompaniment MP3 Downloads for Singers and rehearsal tracks](#) or similar. If you can't find the arrangement or key that suits, please contact the office on info@royalsouthstreet.com.au so we can put you in touch with an accompanist who will record a backing for you (\$25 per track).

557	10 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$20	1 st Prize \$50 The Shine Centre 2 nd Prize \$25 Andrew James Lovell 3 rd Prize \$15 Andrew James Lovell
567	11 to Under 14 Years	Entry Fee \$24	1 st Prize \$70 The Buninyong Hotel 2 nd Prize \$35 Andrew James Lovell 3 rd Prize \$15 Andrew James Lovell
577	14 to Under 16 Years	Entry Fee \$26	1 st Prize \$90 William Morrell Memorial Fund 2 nd Prize \$45 Andrew James Lovell 3 rd Prize \$20 Andrew James Lovell
*587	16 to Under 18 Years	Entry Fee \$28	1 st Prize \$110 Caine Real Estate 2 nd Prize \$55 Henkell Family Fund 3 rd Prize \$25 Henkell Family Fund
*597	18 Years and Over (accompanist is provided for 597)	Entry Fee \$30	1 st Prize \$130 Henkell Family Fund 2 nd Prize \$65 Henkell Family Fund 3 rd Prize \$30 Henkell Family Fund

*Competitors in these age groups are eligible to be invited to take part in *The Big Sing* as part of the 2025 Ballarat Opera Festival. Sponsored by Victorian Opera.

GENERAL SECTIONS

These sections are not included in the aggregate but offer a wide range of performance opportunities for singers of all ages and standard.

Time limit for all sections is 4 minutes unless otherwise specified. Please cut backing tracks or accompaniments to ensure your song fits within the time limit.

Novice Vocal Solo

Singers may choose a song from any genre to perform for adjudication only. Competitors in this section are singing for experience only, and placings are not awarded.

558	10 Years and Under	Entry Fee \$20	Critique only
568	11 to Under 14 Years	Entry Fee \$24	Critique only
578	14 to Under 16 Years	Entry Fee \$26	Critique only
588	16 to Under 18 Years	Entry Fee \$28	Critique only
598	18 Years and Over	Entry Fee \$30	Critique only

VCE and VET Vocal Solo

For students studying Voice in VCE Music (Unit 1 - 4) in either VCE Performance (Repertoire or Contemporary), or VCE VET Music Industry (Performance). Singers must perform two contrasting songs from their VCE program. Microphone use is optional.

Critiques and feedback for this section will be judged on a 'standard' award system using the VCAA marking criteria as a guide.

Time limit; 8 mins

500	Open Age	Entry Fee \$35	Critique only
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A Special Prize of \$75 donated by Tim Ryan will be awarded by the adjudicator to a competitor of their choice in this section to assist with tuition fees.

Solo and Accompanist

For soloists wishing to collaborate with an accompanist. Both soloist and accompanist will be judged as an ensemble. This may include collaborations from VCE/VET students and will be open to vocal and instrumental soloists. This item will be timetabled within the discipline that submits the most entries for this section (Vocal, Instrumental, Piano).

780	Open Age	Entry Fee \$35	1 st Prize; \$80 Frank Robertson Smith Trust Fund
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A Special Prize of \$150 (\$75 for accompanist and \$75 for singer) donated by Tim Ryan will be awarded by the adjudicator to a vocal/instrumental duo of their choice in this section to assist with tuition fees.

Operetta and Enduring Classics

Singers must choose one song from Operetta or the enduring vocal classics. For example (but not limited to) Gilbert and Sullivan, Sigmund Romberg, Ivor Novello, Franz Lehar. Time limit 5 mins.

502	16 to Under 18 Years	Entry Fee \$28	1 st Prize \$110 In honour of Robyn Antoine 2 nd Prize \$55 Freemasons Victoria Foundation 3 rd Prize \$25 Leroy Mac Designs
*503	18 Years and Over	Entry Fee \$30	1 st Prize \$130 In honour of Robyn Antoine 2 nd Prize \$65 Coward-Lemke School of Music 3 rd Prize \$30 Freemasons Victoria Foundation

*1st Prize winner also receives a double pass to Katya Kabanova (14-16 October, Palais Theatre, St Kilda). Sponsored by Victorian Opera.

Competitors in this section are eligible to be invited to take part in *The Big Sing* as part of the 2025 Ballarat Opera Festival. Sponsored by Victorian Opera.

Sacred or Oratorio

Singers must choose one song from the Sacred or Oratorio repertoire. Time limit 5 mins.

504	16 to Under 18 Years	Entry Fee \$28	1 st Prize \$110 Caine Real Estate 2 nd Prize \$55 ANATS Victoria 3 rd Prize \$25 Freemasons Victoria Foundation
505	18 Years and Over	Entry Fee \$30	1 st Prize \$130 Caine Real Estate 2 nd Prize \$65 Freemasons Victoria Foundation 3 rd Prize \$30 Freemasons Victoria Foundation

Competitors in this section are eligible to be invited to take part in *The Big Sing* as part of the 2025 Ballarat Opera Festival. Sponsored by Victorian Opera.

Art Song or Lieder

Singers must choose a Lieder, French Melodie or English Art Song from the classical art song repertoire. Time limit 5 mins.

506	16 to Under 18 Years	Entry Fee \$28	1 st Prize \$110 Henkell Family Fund 2 nd Prize \$55 Caine Real Estate 3 rd Prize \$25 Freemasons Victoria Foundation
*507	18 Years and Over	Entry Fee \$30	1 st Prize \$130 Henkell Family Fund 2 nd Prize \$65 Freemasons Victoria Foundation 3 rd Prize \$30 Freemasons Victoria Foundation

The top 4 prize winners in this section will be selected to perform in the Masterclass with Dr Richard Chew. All competitors across the competition are invited to attend free of charge. The masterclass will directly follow adjudication.

*1st Prize winner also receives a double pass to Katya Kabanova (14-16 October, Palais Theatre, St Kilda). Sponsored by Victorian Opera.

Competitors in this section are eligible to be invited to take part in *The Big Sing* as part of the 2025 Ballarat Opera Festival. Sponsored by Victorian Opera.

AMEB / Rock School / ANZCA Exam Syllabus Repertoire

Singers preparing for a vocal exam can choose one song from their exam syllabus (this can include Classical, Music Theatre, CPM or Singing for Leisure). Students can only enter ONE of these sections and should choose the highest level that they are currently working at in fairness to all who enter.

508	Beginner (Prelim-Grade 2)	Entry Fee \$20	1 st Prize \$70 Caine Real Estate 2 nd Prize \$30 Andrew James Lovell 3 rd Prize \$15 Andrew James Lovell
509	Intermediate (Grade 3 & 4)	Entry Fee \$24	1 st Prize \$90 Elsie Morrison Trust 2 nd Prize \$45 Andrew James Lovell 3 rd Prize \$20 Andrew James Lovell
510	Advanced (Grade 5 & 6)	Entry Fee \$28	1 st Prize \$110 Coward-Lemke School of Music 2 nd Prize \$55 Andrew James Lovell 3 rd Prize \$25 Andrew James Lovell

Vocal Duet or Trio

Any song choice is permitted but must include some harmony. Accompaniment is optional and sheet music does not need to be submitted. You must select the age group appropriate to the oldest person in your group.

511	Under 16 Years	Entry Fee \$28	1 st Prize \$110 The Buninyong Hotel 2 nd Prize \$25 Andrew James Lovell 3 rd Prize \$15 Andrew James Lovell
512	16 Years and Over	Entry Fee \$30	1 st Prize \$150 Field Air 2 nd Prize \$60 Freemasons Victoria Foundation 3 rd Prize \$30 Freemasons Victoria Foundation

Original Song

Competitors can enter as either a solo singer songwriter, or as part of a small ensemble. They must present an original song as written by themselves or a member or their ensemble. Adjudication will be based on both the composition of the song and the vocal proficiency of the performer/s.

513	Under 16 Years	Entry Fee \$28	1 st Prize \$110 The Buninyong Hotel 2 nd Prize \$25 Andrew James Lovell 3 rd Prize \$15 Andrew James Lovell
514	16 Years and Over	Entry Fee \$30	1 st Prize \$130 Piano Bar Ballarat 2 nd Prize \$65 BCMA 3 rd Prize \$30 Freemasons Victoria Foundation

Strut Your Stuff

Performers must choose TWO songs in ANY STYLE to showcase their talent to the best of their ability. Adjudication will be based on performance, charisma, and vocal proficiency. Singers may repeat one song (only) from another section if they wish. Time Limit 8 mins

515	Open Age	Entry Fee \$35	1 st Prize \$130 Freemasons Victoria Foundation 2 nd Prize \$65 BCMA 3 rd Prize \$30 Piano Bar Ballarat
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Championship Challenge

The ultimate challenge to prepare you for life in the performance industry! Singers must choose TWO songs, one Stage and Screen and one classical (there are no restrictions on choice of classical song). Adjudication will be based on performance, charisma, vocal proficiency, and ability to show effective vocal styling within each genre. Singers may repeat one song (only) from another section if they wish. Time limit 10 mins.

516	Junior Champ Under 16 Years	Entry Fee \$35	1 st Prize \$100 Henkell Family Fund 2 nd Prize \$75 Henkell Family Fund 3 rd Prize \$25 Henkell Family Fund
517	Senior Champ 16 Years and Over	Entry Fee \$50	1 st Prize \$500 Henkell Family Fund 2 nd Prize \$100 Henkell Family Fund 3 rd Prize \$50 Henkell Family Fund

1st Prize winner also receives a 2026 Season Pass to Victorian Opera. Season pass sponsored by Victorian Opera.

Competitors in this section are eligible to be invited to take part in *The Big Sing* as part of the 2025 Ballarat Opera Festival. Sponsored by Victorian Opera.

HERALD SUN ARIA

Herald Sun Aria

melbourne
opera

Australia's oldest and most prestigious prize for emerging classical singers.

In partnership with Melbourne Opera and proudly supported by

MEDOWNICK

LASER EYE CLINIC

Dates

Heats: Sunday 03 August, 2025
Semi Final: Monday 04 August 2025
Final: TBC

Adjudicators

Greg Hocking

TBA

Accompanist

Konrad Olszewski

Prizes

Medownick First Prize ~ \$30,000

Dame Elizabeth Murdoch Prize ~ \$10,000

Richard Divall Prize ~ \$10,000

John Fulford Prize ~ \$10,000

Entry Fee \$99.00

All competitors must read the [Rules and Conditions](#) of Entry and the [Performance Stipulations](#) for Herald Sun Aria before submitting their entry.

We encourage Herald Sun Aria competitors to enter at least one of the following senior vocal sections. These sections will run the day prior to the heats and are held in the same venue, with the same accompanist.

- Operetta and Enduring Classics
 - Sacred or Oratorio
 - Art Song or Lieder
- Championship Challenge

