



ROYAL SOUTH STREET SOCIETY  
BALLARAT EISTEDDFOD

# Freemasons Vocal and Herald Sun Aria Competition 2026

13, 14, 22 - 29 June 2026

**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  
Sophie Walters

**ENTRIES OPEN MARCH 01 and CLOSE APRIL 30**

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## Special Prizes and Aggregates – TBC shortly

## AGGREGATE SECTIONS

Competitors who place in these sections will accrue points toward an overall aggregate prize.

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.

**\*\*New for 2026\*\* No backing vocals of any kind allowed. See [‘backing tracks and removing vocals’](#)**

### Upbeat Pop/Rock Vocal Solo

Singers must choose a song from the contemporary popular repertoire in an **upbeat** pop/rock style.

540	Under 10 Years	Entry Fee \$20	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> Medals
550	10 to Under 12 Years	Entry Fee \$22	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$50 & Medal, 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Medals
560	12 to Under 14 Years	Entry Fee \$24	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$70 & Medal 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$35 & Medal 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize \$15 & Medal
570	14 to Under 16 Years	Entry Fee \$26	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$90 & Medal 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$45 & Medal 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize \$20 & Medal
580	16 to Under 18 Years	Entry Fee \$28	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$110 & Medal 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$55 & Medal 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize \$ 25 & Medal
590	18 Years and Over	Entry Fee \$30	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$130 & Medal 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$65 & Medal 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize \$ 30 & Medal

### Country Music Vocal Solo

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

541	Under 10 Years	Entry Fee \$20	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> Medals
551	10 to Under 12 Years	Entry Fee \$22	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$50 & Medal, 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Medals
561	12 to Under 14 Years	Entry Fee \$24	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$70 & Medal 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$35 & Medal 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize \$15 & Medal
571	14 to Under 16 Years	Entry Fee \$26	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$90 & Medal 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$45 & Medal 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize \$20 & Medal
581	16 to Under 18 Years	Entry Fee \$28	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$110 & Medal 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$55 & Medal 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize \$ 25 & Medal
591	18 Years and Over	Entry Fee \$30	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$130 & Medal 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$65 & Medal 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize \$ 30 & Medal

## Jazz Blues Soul Gospel Vocal Solo

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

562	12 to Under 14 Years	Entry Fee \$24	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$70 & Medal 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$35 & Medal 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize \$15 & Medal
572	14 to Under 16 Years	Entry Fee \$26	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$90 & Medal 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$45 & Medal 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize \$20 & Medal
582	16 to Under 18 Years	Entry Fee \$28	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$110 & Medal 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$55 & Medal 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize \$ 25 & Medal
592	18 Years and Over	Entry Fee \$30	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$130 & Medal 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$65 & Medal 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize \$ 30 & Medal

## Contemporary Ballad Solo

Singers must choose a ballad from the contemporary popular repertoire.

543	Under 10 Years	Entry Fee \$20	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> Medals
553	10 to Under 12 Years	Entry Fee \$24	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$50 & Medal, 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Medals
563	12 to Under 14 Years	Entry Fee \$24	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$70 & Medal 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$35 & Medal 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize \$15 & Medal
573	14 to Under 16 Years	Entry Fee \$26	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$90 & Medal 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$45 & Medal 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize \$20 & Medal
583	16 to Under 18 Years	Entry Fee \$28	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$110 & Medal 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$55 & Medal 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize \$ 25 & Medal
593	18 Years and Over	Entry Fee \$30	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$130 & Medal 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$65 & Medal 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize \$ 30 & Medal



## Contemporary Stage and Screen Combo

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 and 10 to Under 12 Years).

Time limit; 8 minutes

544	Under 10 Years	Entry Fee \$30	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> Medals
554	10 to Under 12 Years	Entry Fee \$33	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$75 & Medal, 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Medals
564	12 to Under 14 Years	Entry Fee \$36	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$105 & Medal 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$50 & Medal 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize \$25 & Medal
574	14 to Under 16 Years	Entry Fee \$39	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$135 & Medal 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$65 & Medal 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize \$30 & Medal
584	16 to Under 18 Years	Entry Fee \$42	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$165 & Medal 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$80 & Medal 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize \$40 & Medal
594	18 Years and Over	Entry Fee \$45	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$195 & Medal 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$100 & Medal 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize \$50 & Medal

## 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).

An official RSSS accompanist is provided for this section. You will be required to submit your sheet music one month prior to the competition.

Accompanists

545, 555, 565 – Poppy Robertson (TBC)

575, 585 – Jack Stacey (TBC)

595 – Konrad Olszewski

545	Under 10 Years	Entry Fee \$30	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> Medals
555	10 to Under 12 Years	Entry Fee \$33	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$50 & Medal, 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Medals
565	12 to Under 14 Years	Entry Fee \$36	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$70 & Medal 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$35 & Medal 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize \$15 & Medal
575	14 to Under 16 Years	Entry Fee \$39	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$90 & Medal 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$45 & Medal 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize \$20 & Medal

585	16 to Under 18 Years	Entry Fee \$42	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$110 & Medal 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$55 & Medal 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize \$ 25 & Medal
595	18 Years and Over	Entry Fee \$45	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$130 & Medal 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$65 & Medal 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize \$ 30 & Medal

## 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, 20<sup>th</sup> Century Art Song or Ballad. (Operatic Aria from Grand Opera, Operetta and Music Theatre **not** permitted in this section).

An official RSSS accompanist is provided for this section. You will be required to submit your sheet music one month prior to the competition.

### Accompanists

546, 556, 566 – Poppy Robertson (TBC)

576, 586 – Jack Stacey (TBC)

596 – Konrad Olszewski

546	Under 10 Years	Entry Fee \$30	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> Medals
556	10 to Under 12 Years	Entry Fee \$33	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$50 & Medal, 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Medals
566	12 to Under 14 Years	Entry Fee \$36	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$70 & Medal 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$35 & Medal 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize \$15 & Medal
576	14 to Under 16 Years	Entry Fee \$39	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$90 & Medal 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$45 & Medal 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize \$20 & Medal
*586	16 to Under 18 Years	Entry Fee \$42	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$110 & Medal 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$55 & Medal 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize \$ 25 & Medal
*596	18 Years and Over	Entry Fee \$45	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$130 & Medal 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$65 & Medal 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize \$ 30 & Medal

## GENERAL SECTIONS

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

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.

**\*\*New for 2026\*\* No backing vocals of any kind allowed. See [‘backing tracks and removing vocals’](#)**

### 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.

547	Under 10 Years	Entry Fee \$20	Critique only
557	10 to Under 12 Years	Entry Fee \$24	Critique only
567	12 to Under 14 Years	Entry Fee \$24	Critique only
577	14 to Under 16 Years	Entry Fee \$26	Critique only
587	16 to Under 18 Years	Entry Fee \$28	Critique only
597	18 Years and Over	Entry Fee \$30	Critique only

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

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

### 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

Section Sponsor: Michel Antoine in honour of his wife Robyn who loves the Enduring Classics!

*502	16 to Under 18 Years	Entry Fee \$28	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$110 & Medal 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$55 & Medal 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize \$ 25 & Medal
*503	18 Years and Over	Entry Fee \$30	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$130 & Medal 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$65 & Medal 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize \$ 30 & Medal



## 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 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$110 & Medal 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$55 & Medal 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize \$ 25 & Medal
*505	18 Years and Over	Entry Fee \$30	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$130 & Medal 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$65 & Medal 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize \$ 30 & Medal

## Art Song or Lied

Singers must choose a Lied, 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 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$110 & Medal 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$55 & Medal 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize \$ 25 & Medal
*507	18 Years and Over	Entry Fee \$30	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$130 & Medal 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$65 & Medal 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize \$ 30 & Medal

TBC: An Art Song and Lied masterclass will be offered following this section

## 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 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> Medals
509 Intermediate (Grade 3 & 4)	Entry Fee \$24	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$70 & Medal 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$35 & Medal 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize \$15 & Medal
510 Advanced (Grade 5 & 6)	Entry Fee \$28	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$110 & Medal 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$55 & Medal 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize \$ 25 & Medal



## 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 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$90 & Medal 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$45 & Medal 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize \$20 & Medal
512	16 Years and Over	Entry Fee \$30	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$130 & Medal 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$65 & Medal 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize \$ 30 & Medal

## 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 of 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 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$90 & Medal 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$45 & Medal 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize \$20 & Medal
514	16 Years and Over	Entry Fee \$30	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$130 & Medal 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$65 & Medal 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize \$ 30 & Medal

## 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

Although the *VCE and VET Vocal Solo* section has been retired, we strongly encourage students studying VCE Music (Units 1–4) or VCE VET Music Industry (Performance) to enter the *Strut Your Stuff* 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.

515	Under 16 Years	Entry Fee \$42	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$135 & Medal 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$65 & Medal 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize \$30 & Medal
516	Over 16 Years	Entry Fee \$45	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$195 & Medal 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$100 & Medal 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize \$50 & Medal

## 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.

To be eligible for this section, competitors must have performed in at least one other vocal section (2026)

Singers may repeat one song (only) from another section if they wish. Time limit 10 mins.

\*517 Junior Champ Under 16 Years Entry Fee \$42

1<sup>st</sup> Prize \$100 & Medal  
2<sup>nd</sup> Prize \$75 & Medal  
3<sup>rd</sup> Prize \$25 & Medal

\*518 Senior Champ 16 Years and Over Entry Fee \$45

1<sup>st</sup> Prize \$500 & Medal  
2<sup>nd</sup> Prize \$100 & Medal  
3<sup>rd</sup> Prize \$50 & Medal

\*Competitors in these sections are eligible to be invited to take part in *The Big Sing* as part of the 2026 Ballarat Opera Festival. Sponsored by Victorian Opera.

# 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 28 June 2026  
Semi Final: Monday 29 June 2026  
Final: TBC

## Adjudicators

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

