



ROYAL SOUTH STREET SOCIETY
BALLARAT EISTEDDFOD

Freemasons Vocal & Herald Sun Aria 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

Further Information Contact
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Contents

ADJUDICATORS	2
ACCOMPANISTS	2
MASTERCLASSES	2
SPECIAL PRIZES	3
RESOURCES.....	3
AGGREGATE SECTIONS	4
Upbeat Pop/Rock Vocal Solo.....	4
Country Music Vocal Solo.....	5
Jazz Blues Soul Gospel Vocal Solo	5
Contemporary Ballad Solo.....	6
Contemporary Stage and Screen Combo	7
Pre 1960's Classic Stage and Screen Solo.....	8
Classical Vocal Solo.....	9
GENERAL SECTIONS	10
Novice Vocal Solo	10
Accompanist of the Future.....	10
Operetta and Enduring Classics	11
Sacred or Oratorio.....	11
Art Song or Lieder.....	12
AMEB / Rock School / ANZCA Exam Syllabus Repertoire.....	12
Vocal Duet or Trio	13
Original Song	13
Strut Your Stuff.....	14
Championship Challenge.....	14
VIDEO SUBMISSION SECTIONS.....	15
Classical Video Submission.....	15
Stage and Screen Video Submission	15
Contemporary/Commercial Video Submission.....	16
Video Submission Details	16
HERALD SUN ARIA	17
Herald Sun Aria.....	17

ADJUDICATORS

Carrie Barr	13, 14, 27 June	Vicky Jacobs	24 – 26 June
Melissa Langton	22 – 24 June	Greg Hocking	28 – 29 June

ACCOMPANISTS

Poppy Robertson	Under 10 Pre 1960's Classic Stage and Screen / Classical Solo 10 to Under 12 Pre 1960's Classic Stage and Screen / Classical Solo 12 to Under 14 Pre 1960's Classic Stage and Screen / Classical Solo
Jack Stacey	14 to Under 16 Pre 1960's Classic Stage and Screen / Classical Solo 16 to Under 18 Pre 1960's Classic Stage and Screen / Classical Solo
Konrad Olszewski	18 Years and Over Classical Solo 18 Years and Over Operetta and Enduring Classics 18 Years and Over Sacred of Oratorio 18 Years and Over Art Song or Lieder Under 16 Years Junior Championship Challenge 16 Years and Over Senior Championship Challenge Herald Sun Aria Heats and Semi Final
Daniel Tusjak	18 Years and Over Pre 1960's Classic Stage and Screen 16 to Under 18 Years Operetta and Enduring Classics 16 to Under 18 Years Sacred or Oratorio 16 to Under 18 Years Art Song or Lieder

MASTERCLASSES

As part of our commitment to providing extension and learning opportunities for our entrants, and to supporting pathways into the performing arts industry, we offer a series of masterclasses throughout our Eisteddfod.

These valuable sessions deliver in-depth knowledge and meaningful industry connections. Be sure to check the schedule for further details and mark the dates in your diary — these are opportunities not to be missed!

SPECIAL PRIZES

MEDALS AND RIBBONS FOR ALL SECTIONS SPONSORED BY Henkell Family Fund @ Australian Community Foundation

Aggregate Trophies Sponsored by [Would you like to sponsor?](#)

Optiform Aggregate Award – 10 Years and Under - \$40
Optiform Aggregate Award – 10 to Under 12 Years - \$60
Optiform Aggregate Award – 12 to Under 14 Years - \$80
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 - \$120

Marjorie Davies Encouragement Prize – \$70 awarded to a male entrant in 12 to under 14 Years who is worthy of encouragement.

Marjorie Davies Encouragement Prize – \$70 awarded to a male entrant in 14 to under 16 Years who is worthy of encouragement.

The Nicholas McMahon Prize for the best boy soprano – \$100 awarded to a male entrant 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. Entrants must compete in 'Contemporary Stage and Screen Combo' to be eligible.
*Not available in 10 Years and Under or 10 to Under 12 Years

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

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

TBC 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. TBC

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

Ballarat Carols by Candlelight Vocal Opportunity – One performer will be chosen from the 12 to under 14 Years age groups to sing a solo at Ballarat Carols by Candlelight on 19 December 2026. 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

Entrants in selected 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.

RESOURCES

RSSS Suggested Song List - a list of appropriate song choices for each section for inspiration! This is not an exhaustive list and entrants are welcome to choose songs that don't appear on this document

Backing tracks and removing vocals – a simple guide to getting the best tracks for your performance

Vocal Rules – read through these to ensure you comply

Vocal FAQ's – answers to many of the regularly asked questions about competing at RSSS

AGGREGATE SECTIONS

Entrants 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.

SECTION	ENTRY FEE	PRIZE DETAILS
540 Under 10	\$20	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd Medals – Henkell Family Fund @ Aust Community
550 10 to Under 12	\$22	1 st Prize \$50 & Medal – Field Air 2 nd & 3 rd Medals – Henkell Family Fund @ Aust Community
560 12 to Under 14	\$24	1 st Prize \$70 & Medal – Field Air 2 nd Prize \$35 & Medal – Field Air 3 rd Prize \$15 & Medal - Field Air
570 14 to Under 16	\$26	1 st Prize \$90 & Medal – Homeground Cafe 2 nd Prize \$45 & Medal – <i>Would you like to sponsor?</i> 3 rd Prize \$20 & Medal – <i>Would you like to sponsor?</i>
*580 16 to Under 18	\$28	1 st Prize Rachael Coley Photography 2 nd Prize \$55 & Medal – Oaktree Dental 3 rd Prize \$ 25 & Medal – Oaktree Dental
590 18 and Over	\$30	1 st Prize \$130 & Medal – Piano Bar Ballarat 2 nd Prize \$65 & Medal – Oaktree Dental 3 rd Prize \$ 30 & Medal – Oaktree Dental

*The 1st Prize Winner of 580 will receive a professional headshot photography session, generously sponsored by Rachael Coley Photography. This prize has been created to give our entrants the opportunity to take the next step in their careers by strengthening and elevating their professional portfolio. Prize valued at **\$TBC**

A **Vocal Health Masterclass** with Meaghan Sullivan will be scheduled after section 580 as part of our Masterclass Series. Generously sponsored by Optiform and created to give our entrants the opportunity to take the next step in their careers by creating education opportunities and industry connections.

Country Music Vocal Solo

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

SECTION	ENTRY FEE	PRIZE DETAILS
541 Under 10	\$20	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd Medals - Henkell Family Fund @ Aust Community
551 10 to Under 12	\$22	1 st Prize \$50 & Medal – Field Air 2 nd & 3 rd Medals - Henkell Family Fund @ Aust Community
561 12 to Under 14	\$24	1 st Prize \$70 & Medal - <i>Would you like to sponsor?</i> 2 nd Prize \$35 & Medal - <i>Would you like to sponsor?</i> 3 rd Prize \$15 & Medal - <i>Would you like to sponsor?</i>
571 14 to Under 16	\$26	1 st Prize \$90 & Medal – Field Air 2 nd Prize \$45 & Medal – Field Air 3 rd Prize \$20 & Medal – Field Air
581 16 to Under 18	\$28	1 st Prize \$110 & Medal – Leroy Mac Design 2 nd Prize \$55 & Medal – Leroy Mac Design 3 rd Prize \$ 25 & Medal – Leroy Mac Design
591 18 and Over	\$30	1 st Prize \$130 & Medal – The Shine Centre 2 nd Prize \$65 & Medal – The Shine Centre 3 rd Prize \$ 30 & Medal – The Shine Centre

Jazz Blues Soul Gospel Vocal Solo

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

SECTION	ENTRY FEE	PRIZE DETAILS
562 12 to Under 14	\$24	1 st Prize \$70 & Medal – Chris Gardner 2 nd Prize \$35 & Medal – Leroy Mac Design 3 rd Prize \$15 & Medal - <i>Would you like to sponsor?</i>
572 14 to Under 16	\$26	1 st Prize \$90 & Medal – Chris Gardner 2 nd Prize \$45 & Medal – Leroy Mac Design 3 rd Prize \$20 & Medal – <i>Would you like to sponsor?</i>
582 16 to Under 18	\$28	1 st Prize \$110 & Medal – Chris Gardner 2 nd Prize \$55 & Medal - <i>Would you like to sponsor?</i> 3 rd Prize \$ 25 & Medal - <i>Would you like to sponsor?</i>
592 18 and Over	\$30	1 st Prize \$130 & Medal - <i>Would you like to sponsor?</i> 2 nd Prize \$65 & Medal - <i>Would you like to sponsor?</i> 3 rd Prize \$ 30 & Medal - <i>Would you like to sponsor?</i>

Contemporary Ballad Solo

Singers must choose a ballad from the contemporary popular repertoire.

SECTION	ENTRY FEE	PRIZE DETAILS
543 Under 10	\$20	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd Medals - Henkell Family Fund @ Aust Community
553 10 to Under 12	\$22	1 st Prize \$50 & Medal – Field Air 2 nd & 3 rd Medals - Henkell Family Fund @ Aust Community
563 12 to Under 14	\$24	1 st Prize \$70 & Medal – Field Air 2 nd Prize \$35 & Medal – Field Air 3 rd Prize \$15 & Medal – Field Air
*573 14 to Under 16	\$26	1 st Prize - Shots by Jez 2 nd Prize \$45 & Medal – <i>Would you like to sponsor?</i> 3 rd Prize \$20 & Medal – <i>Would you like to sponsor?</i>
583 16 to Under 18	\$28	1 st Prize \$110 & Medal – <i>Would you like to sponsor?</i> 2 nd Prize \$55 & Medal – <i>Would you like to sponsor?</i> 3 rd Prize \$ 25 & Medal – <i>Would you like to sponsor?</i>
593 18 and Over	\$30	1 st Prize \$130 & Medal – Coward-Lemke School of Music 2 nd Prize \$65 & Medal – <i>Would you like to sponsor?</i> 3 rd Prize \$ 30 & Medal – <i>Would you like to sponsor?</i>

*The 1st Prize Winner of 573 will receive a professional headshot photography session, generously sponsored by Shots by Jez. This prize has been created to give our entrants the opportunity to take the next step in their careers by strengthening and elevating their professional portfolio. Prize valued at \$250

Contemporary Stage and Screen Combo

Singers must choose **TWO contrasting** songs (*only ONE song required for Under 10 years and 10 to Under 12 years*) from contemporary 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). Generously sponsored by Sally Bourne, Vicky Jacobs, Susan-Ann Walker, Queenie van de Zandt and Melissa Langton and created to give our entrants the opportunity to take the next step in their careers by creating education opportunities and industry connections.

Time limit; 8 minutes

SECTION	ENTRY FEE	PRIZE DETAILS
544 Under 10 (one song)	\$20	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd Medals - Henkell Family Fund @ Aust Community
554 10 to Under 12 (one song)	\$22	1 st Prize \$50 & Medal – Oaktree Dental 2 nd & 3 rd Medals - Henkell Family Fund @ Aust Community
*564 12 to Under 14	\$36	1 st Prize \$100 & Medal – BLOC 2 nd Prize \$50 & Medal - BLOC 3 rd Prize \$25 & Medal - <i>Would you like to sponsor?</i>
574 14 to Under 16	\$39	1 st Prize \$135 & Medal - BLOC 2 nd Prize \$65 & Medal - <i>Would you like to sponsor?</i> 3 rd Prize \$30 & Medal - <i>Would you like to sponsor?</i>
584 16 to Under 18	\$42	1 st Prize \$165 & Medal - BLOC 2 nd Prize \$80 & Medal - <i>Would you like to sponsor?</i> 3 rd Prize \$40 & Medal - <i>Would you like to sponsor?</i>
594 18 and Over	\$45	1 st Prize \$195 & Medal – The Buninyong Hotel 2 nd Prize \$100 & Medal – The Buninyong Hotel 3 rd Prize \$50 & Medal - The Buninyong Hotel

**A Vocal Health Masterclass with Meaghan Sullivan will be scheduled after section 564 as part of our Masterclass Series. Generously sponsored by Optiform and created to give our entrants the opportunity to take the next step in their careers by creating education opportunities and industry connections.*

Pre 1960's Classic Stage and Screen Solo

Singers must choose a 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 Eisteddfod.

Accompanists

545, 555, 565 – Poppy Robertson

575, 585 – Jack Stacey

595 – Daniel Tusjak

SECTION	ENTRY FEE	PRIZE DETAILS
545 Under 10	\$30	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd Medals - Henkell Family Fund @ Aust Community
555 10 to Under 12	\$33	1 st Prize \$50 & Medal - The Buninyong Hotel 2 nd & 3 rd Medals - Henkell Family Fund @ Aust Community
565 12 to Under 14	\$36	1 st Prize \$70 & Medal – Coward-Lemke School of Music 2 nd Prize \$35 & Medal - <i>Would you like to sponsor?</i> 3 rd Prize \$15 & Medal – In memory of Louie and John Stapp
575 14 to Under 16	\$39	1 st Prize \$90 & Medal - <i>Would you like to sponsor?</i> 2 nd Prize \$45 & Medal - <i>Would you like to sponsor?</i> 3 rd Prize \$20 & Medal – Oaktree Dental
*585 16 to Under 18	\$42	1 st Prize \$110 & Medal - <i>Would you like to sponsor?</i> 2 nd Prize \$55 & Medal - <i>Would you like to sponsor?</i> 3 rd Prize \$ 25 & Medal - <i>Would you like to sponsor?</i>
*595 18 and Over	\$45	1 st Prize \$130 & Medal - <i>Would you like to sponsor?</i> 2 nd Prize \$65 & Medal - <i>Would you like to sponsor?</i> 3 rd Prize \$ 30 & Medal - <i>Would you like to sponsor?</i>

*Entrants in these sections are eligible to be invited to take part in *The Big Sing* as part of the 2026 Ballarat Opera Festival. Generously sponsored by Victorian Opera and created to give our entrants the opportunity to take the next step in their careers by creating performance opportunities and industry connections.

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).

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

Accompanists

546, 556, 566 – Poppy Robertson

576, 586 – Jack Stacey

596 – Konrad Olszewski

SECTION	ENTRY FEE	PRIZE DETAILS
546 Under 10	\$30	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd Medals - Henkell Family Fund @ Aust Community
556 10 to Under 12	\$33	1 st Prize \$50 & Medal – The Buninyong Hotel 2 nd & 3 rd Medals - Henkell Family Fund @ Aust Community
566 12 to Under 14	\$36	1 st Prize \$70 & Medal – In memory of Louie and John Stapp 2 nd Prize \$35 & Medal - In memory of Louie and John Stapp 3 rd Prize \$15 & Medal - In memory of Louie and John Stapp
576 14 to Under 16	\$39	1 st Prize \$90 & Medal - Henkell Family Fund @ Aust Community 2 nd Prize \$45 & Medal - Henkell Family Fund @ Aust Community 3 rd Prize \$20 & Medal - Henkell Family Fund @ Aust Community
*586 16 to Under 18	\$42	1 st Prize \$110 & Medal - Henkell Family Fund @ Aust Community 2 nd Prize \$55 & Medal - Henkell Family Fund @ Aust Community 3 rd Prize \$ 25 & Medal - Henkell Family Fund @ Aust Community
*596 18 and Over	\$45	1 st Prize \$130 & Medal - Henkell Family Fund @ Aust Community 2 nd Prize \$65 & Medal - Henkell Family Fund @ Aust Community 3 rd Prize \$ 30 & Medal - Henkell Family Fund @ Aust Community

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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. Entrants in this section are singing for experience only, and placings are not awarded.

SECTION	ENTRY FEE	PRIZE DETAILS
547 Under 10	\$20	Critique only
557 10 to Under 12	\$24	Critique only
567 12 to Under 14	\$24	Critique only
577 14 to Under 16	\$26	Critique only
587 16 to Under 18	\$28	Critique only
597 18 and Over	\$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.

This exciting section welcomes collaborations with vocal or instrumental soloists, as well as duos and trios. It will be scheduled during the Pianoforte dates (15–20 June).

Soloists are welcome to perform multiple times in support of different accompanists, and repertoire already presented during the current season may be performed again — making it a wonderful opportunity to refine, revisit and reimagine works in a collaborative setting.

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

Time limit; 5 mins

SECTION	ENTRY FEE	PRIZE DETAILS
790 10 and Under	\$20	1 st Prize \$30 & Medal – The Pancake Kitchen 2 nd & 3 rd Medals - Henkell Family Fund @ Aust Community
791 15 and Under	\$26	1 st Prize \$40 & Medal – The Pancake Kitchen 2 nd & 3 rd Medals - Henkell Family Fund @ Aust Community
792 Open Age	\$30	1 st Prize \$150 & Medal – Tim Ryan 2 nd Prize \$80 & Medal – Tim Ryan 3 rd Prize \$45 & Medal – Tim Ryan

An accompanist masterclass with Daniel Tusjak will be offered following this section. This masterclass is generously sponsored by Tim Ryan created to give our entrants the opportunity to take the next step in their careers by creating education opportunities, industry connections and potential career opportunities in coming years.

[Take a moment to read the Accompanist of the Future – Success Story on our website](#)

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

Accompanists

502 – Daniel Tusjak

503 – Konrad Olszewski

All prizes in this section are generously sponsored in honour of Robyn Antoine and her dedication to preserving and celebrating this repertoire.

SECTION	ENTRY FEE	PRIZE DETAILS
*502 16 to Under 18	\$28	1 st Prize \$110 & Medal – In honour of Robyn Antoine 2 nd Prize \$55 & Medal – In honour of Robyn Antoine 3 rd Prize \$ 25 & Medal – In honour of Robyn Antoine
*503 18 and Over	\$30	1 st Prize \$130 & Medal – In honour of Robyn Antoine 2 nd Prize \$65 & Medal – In honour of Robyn Antoine 3 rd Prize \$ 30 & Medal – In honour of Robyn Antoine

*Entrants in these sections are eligible to be invited to take part in *The Big Sing* as part of the 2026 Ballarat Opera Festival. Generously sponsored by Victorian Opera and created to give our entrants the opportunity to take the next step in their careers by creating performance opportunities and industry connections.

Sacred or Oratorio

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

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

Accompanists

504 – Daniel Tusjak

505 – Konrad Olszewski

SECTION	ENTRY FEE	PRIZE DETAILS
*504 16 to Under 18	\$28	1 st Prize \$110 & Medal - Henkell Family Fund @ Aust Community 2 nd Prize \$55 & Medal - Henkell Family Fund @ Aust Community 3 rd Prize \$ 25 & Medal - Henkell Family Fund @ Aust Community
*505 18 and Over	\$30	1 st Prize \$130 & Medal - Henkell Family Fund @ Aust Community 2 nd Prize \$65 & Medal - Henkell Family Fund @ Aust Community 3 rd Prize \$ 30 & Medal - Henkell Family Fund @ Aust Community

*Entrants in these sections are eligible to be invited to take part in *The Big Sing* as part of the 2026 Ballarat Opera Festival. Generously sponsored by Victorian Opera and created to give our entrants the opportunity to take the next step in their careers by creating performance opportunities and industry connections.

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.

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

Accompanists
506 – Daniel Tusjak
507 – Konrad Olszewski

SECTION	ENTRY FEE	PRIZE DETAILS
*506 16 to Under 18	\$28	1 st Prize \$110 & Medal - Henkell Family Fund @ Aust Community 2 nd Prize \$55 & Medal - Henkell Family Fund @ Aust Community 3 rd Prize \$ 25 & Medal - Henkell Family Fund @ Aust Community
*507 18 and Over	\$30	1 st Prize \$130 & Medal - Henkell Family Fund @ Aust Community 2 nd Prize \$65 & Medal - Henkell Family Fund @ Aust Community 3 rd Prize \$ 30 & Medal - Henkell Family Fund @ Aust Community

*Entrants in these sections are eligible to be invited to take part in *The Big Sing* as part of the 2026 Ballarat Opera Festival. Generously sponsored by Victorian Opera and created to give our entrants the opportunity to take the next step in their careers by creating performance opportunities and industry connections.

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.

SECTION	ENTRY FEE	PRIZE DETAILS
508 Beginner (Prelim-Grade 2)	\$20	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd Medals - Henkell Family Fund @ Aust Community
509 Intermediate (Grade 3 & 4)	\$24	1 st Prize \$70 & Medal – Coward-Lemke School of Music 2 nd Prize \$35 & Medal – Elsie Morison Memorial Trust 3 rd Prize \$15 & Medal – The Shine Centre
510 Advanced (Grade 5 & 6)	\$28	1 st Prize \$110 & Medal - Would you like to sponsor? 2 nd Prize \$55 & Medal – Elsie Morison Memorial Trust 3 rd Prize \$ 25 & Medal – The Shine Centre

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.

SECTION	ENTRY FEE	PRIZE DETAILS
511 Under 16	\$28	1 st Prize \$90 & Medal – The Pancake Kitchen 2 nd Prize \$45 & Medal – The Pancake Kitchen 3 rd Prize \$20 & Medal – The Pancake Kitchen
512 16 and Over	\$30	1 st Prize \$130 & Medal – The Pancake Kitchen 2 nd Prize \$65 & Medal – The Pancake Kitchen 3 rd Prize \$ 30 & Medal – The Pancake Kitchen

Original Song

Entrants 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.

SECTION	ENTRY FEE	PRIZE DETAILS
520 Under 16	\$28	1 st Prize \$90 & Medal - Optiform 2 nd Prize \$45 & Medal - Optiform 3 rd Prize \$20 & Medal - Optiform
514 16 and Over	\$30	1 st Prize Studio Recording Session 2 nd Prize \$65 & Medal – The Piano Bar Ballarat 3 rd Prize \$ 30 & Medal – The Piano Bar Ballarat

The 1st Prize winner of 514 will receive a professional studio recording session generously sponsored by Spike Leo Recording. This prize has been created to give our entrants the opportunity to advance their skills and provide career pathway opportunities. Prize valued at \$3,800.

***Spike Leo Recording Studio** is a boutique Melbourne recording space known for its high-end sound, artist-focused approach, and modern production techniques. Led by producer Spike Leo, the studio specialises in crafting radio-ready recordings across pop, electronic, hip-hop and contemporary genres. With over a decade of industry experience, Spike has worked with a wide range of artists, from first-time performers to established acts, helping them develop their sound and release professional-quality music. The scholarship offers a rare opportunity for a young artist to step into a professional studio environment and bring their original song to life at the highest standard.*

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.

SECTION	ENTRY FEE	PRIZE DETAILS
515 Under 16	\$42	1 st Prize \$135 & Medal – Optiform & Shots By Jez 2 nd Prize \$65 & Medal - Optiform 3 rd Prize \$30 & Medal - Optiform
516 16 and Over	\$45	1 st Prize \$195 & Medal – Tim Ryan 2 nd Prize \$100 & Medal – Tim Ryan 3 rd Prize \$50 & Medal – Tim Ryan

The 1st Prize Winner of 515 will *also* receive a professional headshot photography session, generously sponsored by Shots by Jez. This prize has been created to give our entrants the opportunity to take the next step in their careers by strengthening and elevating their professional portfolio. Prize valued at \$250

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, entrants 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.

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

Accompanists

517 and 518 – Konrad Olszewski

SECTION	ENTRY FEE	PRIZE DETAILS
517 Junior Champ Under 16	\$42	1 st Prize \$100 & Medal - Henkell Family Fund @ Aust Community 2 nd Prize \$75 & Medal - Henkell Family Fund @ Aust Community 3 rd Prize \$25 & Medal - Henkell Family Fund @ Aust Community
*518 Senior Champ 16 and Over	\$45	1 st Prize \$500 & Medal - Henkell Family Fund @ Aust Community 2 nd Prize \$100 & Medal - Henkell Family Fund @ Aust Community 3 rd Prize \$50 & Medal - Henkell Family Fund @ Aust Community

*The 1st Prize Winner of 518 will *also* receive a professional headshot photography session, generously sponsored by Shots by Jez. This prize has been created to give our entrants the opportunity to take the next step in their careers by strengthening and elevating their professional portfolio. Prize valued at \$250

VIDEO SUBMISSION SECTIONS

These sections are new for 2026 and are not included in the aggregate but offer a wide range of performance opportunities for singers of all ages and standards. These sections are open to performers who live more than 100km away from Ballarat, or to those who have mobility issues.

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'**

Classical Video Submission

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).

Singers may perform with a backing track or live accompanist and must submit a single, unedited take. Please record in landscape orientation, ensuring clear audio quality and a full-body view in the frame.

SECTION	ENTRY FEE	PRIZE DETAILS
511 12 and Under	\$22	1 st Prize \$50 & Medal – Freemasons Victoria Foundation 2 nd and 3 rd Prize Medals – Henkell Family Fund @ Aust Community
521 16 and Under	\$26	1 st Prize \$70 & Medal – Freemasons Victorian Foundation 2 nd Prize \$35 & Medal - Freemasons Victorian Foundation 3 rd Prize \$20 & Medal - Freemasons Victorian Foundation
531 Open	\$30	1 st Prize \$130 & Medal - Freemasons Victorian Foundation 2 nd Prize \$65 & Medal - Freemasons Victorian Foundation 3 rd Prize \$30 & Medal - Freemasons Victorian Foundation

Stage and Screen Video Submission

Singers must choose a song from the stage or screen (can include cabaret and standalone songs in the same style). Characterisation and costumes appropriate to the song are encouraged.

Singers may perform with a backing track or live accompanist and must submit a single, unedited take. Please record in landscape orientation, ensuring clear audio quality and a full-body view in the frame.

SECTION	ENTRY FEE	PRIZE DETAILS
512 12 and Under	\$22	1 st Prize \$50 & Medal – Freemasons Victoria Foundation 2 nd and 3 rd Prize Medals – Henkell Family Fund @ Aust Community
522 16 and Under	\$26	1 st Prize \$70 & Medal – Freemasons Victorian Foundation 2 nd Prize \$35 & Medal - Freemasons Victorian Foundation 3 rd Prize \$20 & Medal - Freemasons Victorian Foundation
532 Open	\$30	1 st Prize \$130 & Medal - Freemasons Victorian Foundation 2 nd Prize \$65 & Medal - Freemasons Victorian Foundation 3 rd Prize \$30 & Medal - Freemasons Victorian Foundation

Contemporary/Commercial Video Submission

Singers must choose a song from the contemporary/commercial repertoire, either upbeat or ballad style

Singers may perform with a backing track or live accompanist and must submit a single, unedited take. Please record in landscape orientation, ensuring clear audio quality and a full-body view in the frame.

SECTION	ENTRY FEE	PRIZE DETAILS
513 12 and Under	\$22	1 st Prize \$50 & Medal – Freemasons Victoria Foundation 2 nd and 3 rd Prize Medals – Henkell Family Fund @ Aust Community
523 16 and Under	\$26	1 st Prize \$70 & Medal – Freemasons Victorian Foundation 2 nd Prize \$35 & Medal - Freemasons Victorian Foundation 3 rd Prize \$20 & Medal - Freemasons Victorian Foundation
533 Open	\$30	1 st Prize \$130 & Medal - Freemasons Victorian Foundation 2 nd Prize \$65 & Medal - Freemasons Victorian Foundation 3 rd Prize \$30 & Medal - Freemasons Victorian Foundation

Video Submission Details

All video submissions must be uploaded via MyStage before 9am on Monday 22nd June.

Videos will be forwarded to the adjudicator for comments.

Written reports will be provided digitally on your MyStage account.

There will be a live adjudicator announcement via Teams at a time TBC early July.

Prizes will be sent via mail and/or via email after the announcements have been made.

Digital showcase of consenting award winners will be offered at a date TBC late July.

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

Adjudicators

Greg Hocking and TBC

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 entrants 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 entrants 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

