



## **2026 Rules and Syllabus Vocal Division**

**Friday 26 June to Sunday 28 June**

at The Warehouse Theatre

**Wednesday 1 July to Saturday 4 July**

at the Elder Conservatorium of Music

**Adjudicators: Nicholas Lester, Mark Oates,  
and Kim Spargo**

**Convenors: Fiona McArdle and Jemimah Lanyon**  
([vocal@adelaideeisteddfod.com.au](mailto:vocal@adelaideeisteddfod.com.au))

With thanks to our Division Sponsors:



**Elder Conservatorium Classical Voice Department  
& The Warehouse Theatre**

All competitors and teachers should read the **2026 Rules and Conditions of Competition**.

### Additional Rules for the Vocal Division:

1. **Participant information, including song selection and electronic copies of sheet music, must be provided via Stardom by Friday 12 June 2026** (2 weeks before the commencement of the Vocal Division). Participants will be withdrawn from any sections where this has not been provided. Participants will not receive a refund. Changes to song selection is not permitted after this date except under special circumstances.
2. Backing tracks are only permitted where specified in the section description. **Backing tracks must be uploaded to Stardom by Friday 12 June 2026** (2 weeks before the commencement of the Vocal Division). If a competitor has not uploaded a backing track by this time, it is assumed they will be using a live accompanist. Changes to provided backing tracks are not permitted after this date except under very special circumstances.
3. Use of microphones is only permitted where specified in the section description.
4. All items are to be performed from memory. Exception: music may be held for pieces from oratorio as is standard performance practice.
5. When a competitor is singing in a language other than English, they must give a BRIEF one sentence translation to the audience. A word for word translation is not required.
6. Props and costumes are not to be used, unless specified.
7. If competitors wish to ensure eligibility of their choice of items, they should email the Vocal Division Convenor **before 1 June 2026**.
8. Competitors in Section V712 may be asked to provide proof of SACE Stage 2 Music Solo Performance subject enrolment. The committee reserves the right to withhold a prize until such proof has been sighted.
9. As per rule 5d for the Adelaide Eisteddfod, competitors are only able to enter two types of “and under” sections. The Vocal Division has further clarified this rule and for “X years & under” sections, competitors are only able to enter the section appropriate to their age, plus one age bracket above. This applies across Solo and Duet sections.

### WHICH SECTIONS CAN I ENTER?

As per rule 5d for the Adelaide Eisteddfod, competitors are only able to enter two types of “and under” sections. The Vocal Division has further clarified their age rules for the 2026 competition. For “X years & under” sections, competitors are only able to enter the section appropriate to their age, plus one age bracket above. All singers may still enter open sections. Please see the table below for clarification.

Age on 30 June 2026	Section Age Categories You Can Enter								
	10 yrs & under	12 yrs & under	15 yrs & under	17 yrs & under	20 yrs & under	18 yrs & over	21 yrs & over	40 yrs & over	Open
5-10 yrs	✓	✓							✓
11-12 yrs		✓	✓						✓
13-15 yrs			✓	✓					✓
16-17 yrs				✓	✓				✓
18-20 yrs					✓	✓			✓
21-39 yrs						✓	✓		✓
40+ yrs						✓	✓	✓	✓

## ACCOMPANISTS

For most sections competitors are required to provide their own accompanist. The only exception to this is for sections where backing tracks are listed as accepted or where it is stated that an accompanist will be provided. Should you require assistance in finding an accompanist, a list of names of suitable accompanists is available from the Vocal Division Convenor.

If you have entered a section where an accompanist is provided, you will be emailed with contact details for this accompanist by **Friday 24 April 2026**. Should you wish to rehearse prior to the competition, you will need to organise this with the accompanist separately and at your own cost. There are no rehearsal or warm-up spaces available at the competition venues.

**Please be mindful that accompanists can be very busy at this time.** You should make sure to contact and confirm an accompanist as early as possible (even before registrations have closed). It is considered polite to confirm your repertoire and competition times with an accompanist at least 4 weeks prior to the competition. This gives the accompanist sufficient time to learn your music and allows time for a rehearsal.

## BACKING TRACKS

Backing tracks are only permitted where explicitly stated in the section rules. Some sections allow PIANO ONLY backing tracks and some sections allow MULTI-INSTRUMENTAL backing tracks. Please carefully check the rules for your section. If you use the wrong type of backing track, you may be disqualified from receiving a prize. Backing tracks must be uploaded to stardom 2 weeks before commencement of the vocal division. Changes to submitted backing tracks after this time will not be permitted except in very special circumstances (ie. last minute illness of accompanist).

## DRAFT SCHEDULE

After feedback from entrants, schools and teachers, this year we are releasing a draft schedule so that potential entrants can plan their availability before entering the competition. Please note that **this schedule is very much subject to change** and is especially dependent on section entry numbers. The Adelaide Eisteddfod Society Inc and the Vocal Division will not provide any refunds should scheduling changes cause issues for competitors.

<b>Music Theatre and Contemporary Sections</b> Location: TBC	
<b>Friday 26 June</b> 10am – 6pm	ALL MUSIC THEATRE SECTIONS
<b>Saturday 27 June</b> 2pm – 7pm	10 years & under Jazz/Contemp 17 years & under Jazz/Contemp SACE Performance Solo
<b>Sunday 28 June</b> 2pm – 7pm	12 years & under Jazz/Contemp 15 years & under Jazz/Contemp

<b>Classical Voice Sections</b> Location: Hartley Concert Room	
<b>Wednesday 1 July</b> 12:30am – 7:30pm	10 years & under 12 years & under 15 years & under
<b>Thursday 2 July</b> 1:30pm – 8:30pm	17 years & under 20 years & under Arnold Matters HEATS
<b>Friday 3 July</b> 11am – 7pm	21 years & over 40 years & over Open
<b>Saturday 4 July</b> 10am – 7pm	18 years & over Arnold Matters FINALS

## Arnold Matters Vocal Scholarship

**V736 23 to 35 years: Any Voice Solo**

Entry: \$60.00

The aim of the scholarship is to provide the opportunity to an individual who shows potential; to assist their development through further education, mentoring and experience.

Each competitor will be required to present one (1) operatic aria of their own choice as well as one (1) German Lied, one (1) Art Song in English, and one (1) solo from oratorio (not cantatas).

This section is open to Australian Citizens and Australian Permanent Residents.

Previous First Prize Winners are ineligible.

A prerequisite is entry into and performance in section V733 Australian Song Solo.

**HEATS:** (Time Limit: 12'00)

Competitors will perform one (1) operatic aria of their own choice, PLUS

One German Lied (composer may be of any nationality, but original language of the Art Song must be German - no translations).

A maximum of six (6) finalists will be chosen from the Heats to sing in the Final.

**FINAL:** (Time Limit: 18'00)

Competitors will perform the aria performed in the Heats, PLUS

One solo from Oratorio, PLUS

One Art Song in English (composer may be of any nationality, but original language of the Art Song must be English – no translations).

Finalists will be required to submit a CV and written program demonstrating the use of the \$5,000 scholarship over a two-year period. Finalists will also attend an interview where they will be questioned about their future development plans.

The Scholarship of \$6,000 will be awarded at the Finals based on written program of study and the interview.

1st and 2nd Place in the Finals will be awarded based on performance only.

If, in the opinion of the Interview Panel, a satisfactory program of study has not been submitted by any candidate, the Scholarship of \$6,000 will not be awarded.

*Proudly Sponsored by the Arnold Matters Vocal Trust.*

Scholarship \$6,000      1st \$1,000      2nd \$500      Finalists \$100

## MBS Young Virtuoso Award

**V739 30 years and under as at December 31st 2026 Any Voice Solo**      Entry: \$0.00

Singers from the Vocal Division who have been a resident in South Australia for at least twelve months prior to 31 December 2026, may be selected for a chance to compete in the 5MBS Final of the "Young Virtuoso Competition". Either a classical instrumentalist or classical vocalist may then be selected to compete against interstate competitors from participating states.

There will not be a specific section in which singers must perform. The adjudicator's decision will be based on all classical sections competitors have entered in the 2026 Vocal Division, and competitors will need to demonstrate performance and vocal skills across a diverse range of singing styles.

*Sponsored by 5MBS and Recitals Australia*

## **DUETS**

**V791 10 years and under Any Voice DUET Time Limit: 05:00 Entry: \$34.00**

Own choice of a piece written for two voices. Piece should provide sufficient opportunity to display harmony and blend of voices (not just unison singing).

Adjudication will take into consideration whether the selection is appropriate to the age of the competitors, in both technical level and content of lyrics.

Multi-instrumental backing tracks are allowed in this section. Microphones are allowed in this section.

*Sponsored by Suzy Sun*

1st Medallions      2nd Medallions      3rd Medallions

**V722 8 – 18 years Any Voice DUET Time Limit: 06:00 Entry: \$36.00**

Own choice of a piece written for two voices. Piece should provide sufficient opportunity to display harmony and blend of voices (not just unison singing).

Adjudication will take into consideration whether the selection is appropriate to the age of the competitors, in both technical level and content of lyrics.

Multi-instrumental backing tracks are allowed in this section. Microphones are allowed in this section.

*Sponsored by Fiona McArdle*

1st Medallions      2nd Medallions      3rd Medallions

**V725 OPEN Any Voice DUET Time Limit: 06:00 Entry: \$36.00**

Own choice of a piece written for two voices. Piece should provide sufficient opportunity to display harmony and blend of voices (not just unison singing).

Multi-instrumental backing tracks are allowed in this section. Microphones are allowed in this section.

*Sponsored by Fiona McArdle*

1st Medallions      2nd Medallions      3rd Medallions

**V726 16 years and over Any Voice DUET Time Limit: 06:00 Entry: \$36.00**

***White Sky Award***

Own choice of a piece written for two voices. Piece should provide sufficient opportunity to display harmony and blend of voices (not just unison singing).

Winners will be selected on overall performance presentation, not solely on vocal ability.

Multi-instrumental backing tracks are allowed in this section. Microphones are allowed in this section.

1st Medallions      2nd Medallions      3rd Medallions

**Entries must be received by 11:59pm Friday 10 April 2026**

**V711 10 years and under Classical Solo** Time Limit: 04:00 Entry: \$32.00

Own choice of a Classical Song, Traditional / Folk Song, or Sacred Song. Can be in any language.

Adjudication will take into consideration whether the selection is appropriate to the age of the competitors, in both technical level and content of lyrics.

PIANO ONLY backing tracks are allowed in this section. Microphones are not allowed in this section.

*Sponsored by Sally Ann Tonkin*

1st Trophy      2nd Trophy      3rd Trophy

**V750 10 years and under Contemporary Solo** Time Limit: 04:00 Entry: \$32.00

Own choice of a song from the CCM (Contemporary Commercial Music) / Pop / Jazz / Blues / Gospel repertoire. NOT Music Theatre. Can be in any language.

Adjudication will take into consideration whether the selection is appropriate to the age of the competitors, in both technical level and content of lyrics.

Multi-instrumental backing tracks are allowed in this section. Microphones are allowed in this section.

1st Trophy      2nd Trophy      3rd Trophy

**V751 10 years and under Character Solo** Time Limit: 04:00 Entry: \$32.00

Own choice of a Disney, Movie, or Music Theatre song. Costumes encouraged. No props.

Adjudication will take into consideration whether the selection is appropriate to the age of the competitors, in both technical level and content of lyrics.

PIANO ONLY backing tracks are allowed in this section. Microphones are not allowed in this section.

*Sponsored by Helen Mills*

1st Trophy      2nd Trophy      3rd Trophy

**Entries must be received by 11:59pm Friday 10 April 2026**

**V701 12 years and under Classical English Solo** Time Limit: 05:00 Entry: \$34.00

Own choice of a Classical Song, Traditional / Folk Song, or Sacred Song in **English**.

Adjudication will take into consideration whether the selection is appropriate to the age of the competitors, in both technical level and content of lyrics.

PIANO ONLY backing tracks are allowed in this section. Microphones are not allowed in this section.

*Sponsored by Luigi & Carmel Pisaniello*

1st Trophy      2nd Trophy      3rd Trophy

**V702 12 years and under Classical LOTE Solo** Time Limit: 05:00 Entry: \$34.00

Own choice of a Classical Song, Traditional / Folk Song, or Sacred Song in a **Language Other Than English (LOTE)**.

Adjudication will take into consideration whether the selection is appropriate to the age of the competitors, in both technical level and content of lyrics.

PIANO ONLY backing tracks are allowed in this section. Microphones are not allowed in this section.

*Sponsored by Luigi & Carmel Pisaniello*

1st Trophy      2nd Trophy      3rd Trophy

**V752 12 years and under Character Solo** Time Limit: 05:00 Entry: \$34.00

Own choice of a Disney, Movie, or Music Theatre song. Costumes encouraged. No props.

Adjudication will take into consideration whether the selection is appropriate to the age of the competitors, in both technical level and content of lyrics.

PIANO ONLY backing tracks are allowed in this section. Microphones are not allowed in this section.

*Sponsored by Adelaide Youth Theatre*

1st Trophy      2nd Trophy      3rd Trophy

**V753 12 years and under Contemporary Solo** Time Limit: 05:00 Entry: \$34.00

Own choice of a song from the CCM (Contemporary Commercial Music) / Pop / Jazz / Blues / Gospel repertoire. NOT Music Theatre. Song can be in any language.

Adjudication will take into consideration whether the selection is appropriate to the age of the competitors, in both technical level and content of lyrics.

Multi-instrumental backing tracks are allowed in this section. Microphones are allowed in this section.

1st Trophy      2nd Trophy      3rd Trophy

**Entries must be received by 11:59pm Friday 10 April 2026**

**V703 15 years and under Classical English Solo** Time Limit: 05:00 Entry: \$34.00

Own choice of a Classical Song, Traditional / Folk Song, or Sacred Song in English.

PIANO ONLY backing tracks are allowed in this section. Microphones are not allowed in this section.

*Sponsored by Debbie, Rick & Airlie (Sarre)*

1st Trophy      2nd Trophy      3rd Trophy

**V704 15 years and under Classical LOTE Solo** Time Limit: 05:00 Entry: \$34.00

**Winifred Sarre Memorial Prize**

Own choice of a Classical Song, Traditional / Folk Song, or Sacred Song in a Language Other Than English.

PIANO ONLY backing tracks are allowed in this section. Microphones are not allowed in this section.

*Sponsored by Debbie, Rick & Airlie (Sarre)*

1st Trophy      2nd Trophy      3rd Trophy

**V713 15 years and under Music Theatre Solo** Time Limit: 08:00 Entry: \$40.00

Own choice of two (2) contrasting songs from Music Theatre. Adjudication will be of voice and interpretation. Costumes allowed. No props.

PIANO ONLY backing tracks are allowed in this section. Microphones are not allowed in this section.

*Sponsored by Mark Oates*

1st Trophy      2nd Trophy      3rd Trophy

**V715 15 years and under Sacred Solo** Time Limit: 05:00 Entry: \$34.00

Own choice of a Sacred Song or song from Oratorio (can be in any language).

PIANO ONLY backing tracks are allowed in this section. Microphones are not allowed in this section.

*Sponsored by Neil & Lyn Palmer*

1st Trophy      2nd Trophy      3rd Trophy

**V754 15 years and under Contemporary Solo** Time Limit: 05:00 Entry: \$34.00

Own choice of a song from the CCM (Contemporary Commercial Music) or Pop repertoire. NOT Music Theatre. Song can be in any language.

Singers in this section will be amplified with microphones. Multi-instrumental backing tracks are allowed in this section.

1st Trophy      2nd Trophy      3rd Trophy

**V755 15 years and under Jazz / Blues / Gospel Solo** Time Limit: 05:00 Entry: \$34.00

Own choice of a Jazz / Blues / Gospel song. Song can be in any language.

Singers in this section will be amplified with microphones. Multi-instrumental backing tracks are allowed in this section.

*Sponsored by Adelaide Voice Therapy*

1st Trophy      2nd Trophy      3rd Trophy

**Entries must be received by 11:59pm Friday 10 April 2026**

**V706 17 years and under Music Theatre Solo** Time Limit: 05:00 Entry: \$34.00

**Edith and Ern Davey Memorial Prize**

Own choice of a solo from Music Theatre. Adjudication will be of voice and interpretation. Costumes allowed. No props.

PIANO ONLY backing tracks are allowed in this section. Microphones are not allowed in this section.

*Sponsored by the Davey Family Trust*

1st \$100      2nd \$50      3rd \$30

**V708 17 years and under Art Song Solo** Time Limit: 05:00 Entry: \$34.00

**Clement Q. Williams Memorial Prize**

Own choice of any Art Song in English.

PIANO ONLY backing tracks are allowed in this section. Microphones are not allowed in this section.

*Sponsored by the Adelaide Savage Club Trust*

1st \$100      2nd \$50      3rd \$30

**V709 17 years and under Sacred Solo** Time Limit: 05:00 Entry: \$34.00

Own choice of a Sacred Song or song from Oratorio (can be in any language).

PIANO ONLY backing tracks are allowed in this section. Microphones are not allowed in this section.

*Sponsored by Neil & Lyn Palmer*

1st \$100      2nd \$50      3rd \$30

**V757 17 years and under Contemporary Solo** Time Limit: 05:00 Entry: \$34.00

Own choice of a song from the CCM (Contemporary Commercial Music) or Pop repertoire. NOT Music Theatre. Song can be in any language.

Singers in this section will be amplified with microphones. Multi-instrumental backing tracks are allowed in this section.

*Sponsored by Three D Radio (93.7FM)*

1st \$100      2nd \$50      3rd \$30

**V758 17 years and under Jazz / Blues / Gospel Solo** Time Limit: 05:00 Entry: \$35.00

Own choice of a Jazz / Blues / Gospel song. Song can be in any language.

Singers in this section will be amplified with microphones. Multi-instrumental backing tracks are allowed in this section.

*Sponsored by Adelaide Voice Therapy*

1st \$100      2nd \$50      3rd \$30

**V712 Open SACE Performance Solo** Time Limit: 08:00 Entry: \$40.00

Own choice of pieces prepared for SACE Stage 2 Performance Exams.

Singers in this category may be amplified with microphones. Multi-instrumental backing tracks are allowed in this section.

Singers in this section may record their performance for use in SACE assessments.

*Sponsored by Penny Bowen*

1st \$200      2nd \$125      3rd \$75

**Entries must be received by 11:59pm Friday 10 April 2026**

**V705 20 years and under Operatic Voice Solo** Time Limit: 05:00 Entry: \$34.00

**RCSSA Youth Opera Prize**

Own choice of an Aria from Opera or Operetta / Singspiel (includes G&S). Aria may be in any language. Aria must be in original key or a commonly staged transposition.

An accompanist will be provided for this section.

*Sponsored by Royal Commonwealth Society South Australia*

1st \$250      2nd \$100      3rd \$50

**V710 20 years and under Classical Italian Solo** Time Limit: 09:00 Entry: \$40.00

**Italian Prize**

Own choice of two (2) contrasting pieces in Italian language. Not Latin.

An accompanist will be provided for this section.

*Sponsored by Rosalind Martin*

1st \$200      2nd \$100      3rd \$50

**V716 20 years and under Art Song Solo** Time Limit: 09:00 Entry: \$40.00

**Neville Hicks Memorial Prize**

Own choice of two (2) pieces; (a) a German Lied AND (b) any Art Song in English.

An accompanist will be provided for this section.

*Sponsored by the Neville Hicks Memorial Trust*

1st \$300      2nd \$225      3rd \$150

**Entries must be received by 11:59pm Friday 10 April 2026**

**V719 18 years and over: Art Song Solo** Time Limit: 05:00 Entry: \$34.00

**Art Song Prize**

Own choice of one (1) Art Song. Can be in any language.

*Sponsored by The Carina Singers Gladys Bailey OAM Trust (AEDF Trust)*

1st \$200      2nd \$100      3rd \$50

**V723 Open: Art Song Solo** Time Limit: 05:00 Entry: \$34.00

**Living Composers Award**

Own choice of an Art Song by a living composer. Can be in any language.

*Sponsored by Jamie Moffatt*

1st \$200      2nd \$100      3rd \$50

**V729 18 years and over: Sacred Solo** Time Limit: 06:00 Entry: \$36.00

**Lewis Dawe Memorial Prize**

Own choice of an Aria/Air from Oratorio or choral Mass. Can in any language. No Cantatas.

*Sponsored by the Adelaide Harmony Choir*

1st \$200      2nd \$100      3rd \$50

**V731 18 years and over Gilbert & Sullivan Solo** Time Limit: 05:00 Entry: \$34.00

Own choice of a song from the Gilbert and Sullivan repertoire, in the original key and in English.

An accompanist will be provided for this section.

*Sponsored by the Stuart Maunder*

1st \$450      2nd \$250      3rd \$150

**V732 18 years and over Music Theatre Solo** Time Limit: 05:00 Entry: \$34.00

**Group Theatre Trust Award**

Own choice of a solo from a Golden Age Musical; typically considered to be musicals from 1940-1965.

*Sponsored by the Group Theatre Trust*

1st \$150      2nd \$100      3rd \$50

**V733 18 years and over Australian Art Song Solo** Time Limit: 05:00 Entry: \$34.00

**Mary Handley Prize**

Own choice of an Art Song by an Australian Composer. Can be in any language.

An accompanist is provided for this section.

*Sponsored by Mary Handley OAM*

1st \$150      2nd \$100      3rd \$50

**Entries must be received by 11:59pm Friday 10 April 2026**

- V718 21 years and over: Dramatic Voice Solo** Time Limit: 06:00 Entry: \$36.00  
Own choice of operatic excerpt, Aria or Lied by **Richard Wagner or Richard Strauss**. Song / aria may be in German or French.  
*Sponsored by The Richard Wagner Society of South Australia*  
1st \$200 2nd \$100 3rd \$50
- V724 21 years and over: Soprano, Mezzo, or Contralto Solo** Time Limit: 06:00 Entry: \$36.00  
**Vera Clarkson Memorial Prize**  
Own choice of an Operatic Aria in English. No translations.  
*Sponsored by the Vera Clarkson Memorial Trust*  
1st \$125 2nd \$75 3rd \$50
- V734 21 years and over: Classical Voice Solo** Time Limit: 09:00 Entry: \$42.00  
**Barbara Howard Vocal Prize**  
Own choice of two (2) pieces; (a) an aria from any opera AND (b) a contrasting song or aria. Both works should demonstrate ability to interpret character and/or humour.  
In this section singing AND acting will be adjudicated.  
Previous V734 1st Prize winners are ineligible.  
*Sponsored by the Barbara Howard Trust Fund*  
1st \$250 2nd \$150 3rd \$100
- V737 40 years and over: Operatic Voice Solo** Time Limit: 06:00 Entry: \$36.00  
Own choice of an Aria from Opera or Operetta / Singspiel (includes G&S). Can be in any language.  
*Sponsored by Meran Bow*  
1st \$200 2nd \$100 3rd \$50
- V738 40 years and over: Classical Voice Solo** Time Limit: 06:00 Entry: \$36.00  
Own choice of a Traditional / Folk Song, Classical Song, or Sacred Song. Can be in any language.  
Learning, amateur, and emerging singers are encouraged to enter this section.  
*Sponsored by Classical Singer Sundays*  
1st \$200 2nd \$100 3rd \$50
- V740 40 years and over: Music Theatre Solo** Time Limit: 06:00 Entry: \$36.00  
Own choice of a solo from a Golden Age Musical; typically considered to be musicals from 1940-1965.  
*Sponsored by Adelaide Voice Therapy*  
1st \$200 2nd \$100 3rd \$50