

## INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE AND CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

### WELCOME

Instrumental soloists are invited to participate in the National section of the 34th Australian Youth Classical Music Competition, to be held in 2025.

The National section is open to solo classical instrumental performers who are between 17 and 25 years of age on 1 January 2025.

The Competition focuses equally on technical ability, performance skills and musicianship and aims to encourage young performers by providing performance opportunities and financial assistance to further their studies in Australia and overseas.

### PRIZES

- National First Prize: \$20,000 Overseas Study Scholarship sponsored by the Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust.  
This Scholarship is to be used by the winner for overseas music study. The form of Overseas Study Scholarship Agreement which is required to be signed by the winner of the Scholarship is appended to these Conditions of Entry.
- National Second Prize: \$5,000 sponsored by the Athenaeum Club Young Artists Trust.  
The winner of this prize will be invited (but not obliged) to perform at the Athenaeum Club, Melbourne, at a mutually convenient member function with an appropriate performance fee paid.
- National Third Prize: \$3,000
- All Other Finalists: \$1,000 each
- Audience Prize: \$500

Any finalist may be invited to perform with the Geelong Symphony Orchestra in the Orchestra's 2026 Season at Costa Hall, Geelong. Any such arrangement would be subject to negotiation between the finalist concerned and the Geelong Symphony Orchestra.

### KEY DATES

- Competition Applications Open: Saturday, 1 March 2025
- Competition Applications close: Sunday, 25 May 2025 at 9:00pm
- Notification of Finalist Selection: Sunday, 22 June 2025
- Competition repertoire due by: Saturday, 12 July 2025, not later than 9:00pm
- National Final:** **Saturday, 19 July 2025,**  
at the Keith Humble Centre for Music and the Performing Arts – The Geelong College  
(see our or College website for directions)

### CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

Please carefully read the Conditions of Entry set out below before submitting your Application. The Competition is governed by these Conditions of Entry, which apply to all Applicants.

#### 1. Definitions

In these Conditions of Entry:

- a. "Competition" means the National section of the Australian Youth Classical Music Competition.
- b. "Competition Coordinator" means a person or persons so designated by the Trustee to manage and coordinate the running of the Competition and carry out the powers and duties of the Trustee in relation to the conduct of the Competition.
- c. "Conditions of Entry" means these Conditions of Entry in their entirety, all which are taken to be incorporated into the form of Application.
- d. "Instrumental soloist" means a single performer, other than a vocalist, who may perform unaccompanied or with a single accompanist. Ensemble or orchestral accompaniment is not permitted. A pianist may be accompanied by a second piano. In the case of a Finalist, this will be subject to a suitable second piano being available at the venue and by prior arrangement with and at the discretion of the Competition Coordinator, and subject to the requirements set out in Condition of Entry 8.d.. The Competition is not open to vocalists.
- e. "National Adjudication Panel" or "Adjudicators" means the persons appointed by the Trustee to adjudicate the National Final of the Competition.
- f. "National Selection Panel" means the persons appointed by the Trustee to select the Finalists to proceed to and perform at the National Final of the Competition.
- g. "Trustee" means ACN 159 947 378, the Trustee for the Geelong Advertiser Music Scholarship Trust.

## 2. Eligibility

The Competition is open to any instrumental soloist who:

- a. is aged between 17 and 25 years of age on 1 January 2025, that is to say. who has attained the age of 17 and has not attained the age of 26 on or before that date; and
- b. who:
  - (i) is an Australian citizen; or
  - (ii) is a permanent resident of Australia who is domiciled in Australia; or
  - (iii) as at 1 March 2025, has ordinarily lived in Australia for not less than 12 months immediately preceding that date.

*An Applicant may be required by the Trustee to produce proof of eligibility at any stage of the Competition.*

## 3. Application Requirements

Applicants must:

- a. complete the online National Application form and submit with it a high-resolution portrait photograph (head and shoulders, passport size) and a biography not exceeding 150 words, both the photograph and biography files to include the Applicant's name in the filename (e.g. john.smith.jpeg... john.smith biog.docx... john.smith biog.pdf);
- b. pay the non-refundable Application Fee of \$50 with the Application via one of the online options provided; and
- c. submit a YouTube link to the audition video recording supplied in compliance with the requirements of Condition 4 below (see YouTube help document).

## 4. Audition Video Requirements

- a. While it is not necessary to have performance videos professionally recorded, it is important in the interests of the Applicant that recordings be of the highest possible standard.
- b. The performance recording should not exceed 30 minutes in total and will consist of works of the Applicant's choice, subject to the proviso that it must include contrasting works representing at least 2 of the following periods:
  - Baroque
  - Classical
  - Romantic
  - Modern.

*Applicants would be well-advised to ensure sufficient variety and content to adequately showcase their technical ability, performance skills and musicianship.*

- c. The recording must show the face and hands of the Applicant at all times.
- d. All recordings must have been made within the 12 months immediately prior to being submitted with the Application.
- e. The recording must not be edited or enhanced post-production.
- f. Whilst is a requirement that each individual work performed on the recording should be one unedited "take", it is not a requirement for all works submitted on the recording to have been made on the same day.
- g. Recordings are to be uploaded to YouTube with Visibility set to "Unlisted" (multiple links are acceptable).

## 5. Selection Process

- a. Video links submitted by Applicants will be forwarded by the Competition Coordinator to the National Selection Panel who will select a maximum of 8 Finalists to proceed to the National Final.
- b. The Applicants selected by the National Selection Panel will be notified by phone on Sunday, 22 June 2025 and offered a place in the National Final, which they must either accept or decline.
- c. The National Selection Panel will also select 3 additional Applicants, in order, as reserves to be offered a place in the National Final if a selected Finalist is unable to compete in the National Final or declines the invitation to do so.
- d. Unsuccessful Applicants will be notified promptly by email.

## 6. Performance Regulations and Requirements for National Finalists

- a. Finalists are required to perform at the National Final of the Competition before the National Adjudication Panel and an audience at the Keith Humble Centre for Music and the Performing Arts – The Geelong College on Saturday, 19 July 2025.
- b. Finalists will each perform a program of their own choice not exceeding 30 minutes in total. Finalists playing over the time limit may be penalised at the discretion of the Adjudicators.
- c. It is permitted, but not a requirement, for a Finalist to perform some or all of the same works as submitted in the audition video. Finalists are reminded of the importance of choosing repertoire of sufficient variety and contrast to enable the performer to adequately demonstrate technical mastery, performance skills and musicianship and that will engage the Adjudicators and the audience in the performance.
- d. Finalists are encouraged to briefly introduce their performance piece/s to the audience but are not obliged to do so. The duration of this introduction will be computed within the allocated 30-minute performance time limit.
- e. Performance repertoire are required to be submitted to the Competition Coordinator by 9:00pm on Saturday, 12 July 2025. If more than one piece is to be performed, the exact order of performance is to be indicated.
- f. Finalists are required to provide a copy of their performance music for the Adjudicators. This may be done electronically via the Competition Coordinator prior to the day of the National Final or by hard copy on the day.
- g. Concert attire appropriate to comfortable performance should be worn. Finalists are required to remain in performance attire until the conclusion of the Award Presentation Ceremony which will take place following the Adjudicators' deliberations.
- h. On-stage rehearsal time of 15 minutes will be available to each Finalist on the morning of the National Final, scheduling to be arranged through the Competition Coordinator.

## **7. Copyright Obligations**

- a. It is the responsibility of the Applicant to ensure that all necessary and appropriate copyright approvals have been obtained and that copyright is not infringed.
- b. The Trustee is not to be taken as providing any advice to Applicants in relation to matters of copyright and will not accept responsibility for any breach of copyright by an Applicant.

## **8. Accompanists**

- a. If an accompanist is required, this must be organised and paid for by the Applicant.
- b. In the case of a Finalist, the name of the accompanist must be submitted with the performance repertoire, i.e. by 9:00pm on Saturday, 12 July 2025 and if it is intended that the accompaniment will be provided on an instrument other than piano, the instrument must also be specified to assist with logistical arrangements.
- c. The Competition Coordinator can provide contact details for a number of potentially available accompanists on request.
- d. A pianist wishing to be accompanied by a second piano in his or her performance in the National Final must inform the Competition Coordinator of this at the time he or she is notified of selection as a Finalist. The Competition Coordinator will advise as to whether or not such request can be accommodated. If the request cannot be accommodated then the pianist concerned must forthwith either accept a place in the National Final on the understanding that a second piano will not be available or alternatively decline the invitation to progress to the National Final.

## **9. Announcement of Prize Winners and Award Presentation Ceremony**

The prize winners for the National section of the Australian Youth Classical Music Competition 2025 will be announced on Saturday, 19 July 2025 by the Chair of the National Adjudication Panel following the Adjudicators' deliberations. The Award Presentation Ceremony will follow to conclude the proceedings. Finalists are required to be present for the announcement of Prize Winners and to remain until the conclusion of the Award Presentation Ceremony.

## **10. Accommodation and Travel**

- a. Finalists will be responsible for their own travel and accommodation arrangements and expenses.
- b. For Finalists requiring accommodation in Geelong for Friday, 18 July 2025 and/or Saturday, 19 July 2025, billeted accommodation may be available by prior arrangement with the Competition Coordinator.
- c. Assisted travel from and to Geelong Railway Station and Avalon Airport may be available by prior arrangement with the Competition Coordinator.

## **11. General Rules and Regulations governing the Competition**

- a. Applicants participate in the Competition at the sole discretion of the Trustee via the Competition Coordinator who may determine whether any Applicant may participate or continue to participate in the Competition at any time.
- b. The Trustee reserves the right not to award one or more of the National prizes if, in the opinion of the National Adjudication Panel, the standard of performance does not warrant the award being made.
- c. With respect to the selection of the Finalists, the decision of the National Selection Panel is final and binding.
- d. With respect to the selection of Prize Winners, the decision of the National Adjudication Panel is final and binding.
- e. With respect to all other matters concerning the Competition, the decision of the Trustee is final and binding.
- f. Performances in the Competition may be recorded (video, audio, photography) and such recordings become the property of the Trustee and may be broadcast, published and/or reproduced without permission of the performer for promotional purposes only unless the Applicant is under 18 years of age at the date of such performance and permission has not been granted by a parent/guardian.
- g. Previous winners of the National First Prize of the Competition are not eligible to apply to participate in the Competition.
- h. The Trustee in its sole discretion may modify or amend the Conditions of Entry as it may consider necessary from time to time.
- i. An Applicant who is selected as a Finalist will submit bank details to the Trustee upon request to enable the transfer of prize money which the Finalist may be entitled to receive.

**By entering the Competition, Applicants agree to be bound by the Conditions of Entry as set out above.**

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applications close on Sunday, 25 May 2025 at 9:00pm.

Completed Application form, biography, photograph and YouTube Recording link (or DVD) must all be supplied by the Closing Date, and the Application Fee paid.

Late applications will not be accepted except in special circumstances and by prior arrangement with the Competition Coordinator.

## HOW TO APPLY

Application is via the website at: [aycmc.org.au](http://aycmc.org.au)

- Complete and submit the online Application form and be sure to include brief biography, photograph and YouTube link.
- Pay the non-refundable \$50 Application Fee via one of the online options.

To discuss any aspect of the Conditions of Entry or the Application process, or for any clarification required or other enquiries, please contact:

Competition Coordinator – Australian Youth Classical Music Competition

Email: [admin@aycmc.org.au](mailto:admin@aycmc.org.au)

Web: [aycmc.org.au](http://aycmc.org.au)



[facebook.com/australianyouthclassicalmusiccompetition](https://www.facebook.com/australianyouthclassicalmusiccompetition)



<https://www.instagram.com/aycmc/>



## OVERSEAS STUDY SCHOLARSHIP AGREEMENT

Scholarship sponsored by The Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust

**DATE OF AGREEMENT:** date

**PARTIES:**

ACN 159 947 378 as THE TRUSTEE OF THE  
GEELONG ADVERTISER MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP TRUST

“the Trustee”

- and -

finalist

THE FIRST PRIZE WINNER OF THE NATIONAL SECTION  
OF THE 2025 AUSTRALIAN YOUTH CLASSICAL MUSIC COMPETITION

“the Scholarship Recipient”

**BACKGROUND:**

- A. The Trustee is responsible for the presentation, conduct and management of the Australian Youth Classical Music Competition (“the Competition”).
- B. A First Prize of \$20,000 in the form of a scholarship sponsored by the Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust (“the Scholarship”) is awarded to the winner of the National Section of the Competition. Under the conditions of the award, the Scholarship is to be used by the winner for a period of overseas travel for the purpose of furthering his or her music studies (“the Study Period”).
- C. The Scholarship Recipient as the winner of the First Prize in the National Section of the 2025 Competition wishes to accept the Scholarship on the terms and conditions set out in this Agreement.

**AGREEMENT:**

In consideration of the payment by the Trustee to the Scholarship Recipient of the sum of \$20,000 (“the Scholarship Funds”) it is agreed between the Trustee and the Scholarship Recipient as follows:

1. The Scholarship Recipient will use and apply the Scholarship Funds to undertake a Study Period which is required to be completed within two years from the date of this Agreement or such extended time as the Trustee may permit.
2. Within one month after completing the Study Period the Scholarship Recipient will provide the Trustee with:
  - (a) a full acquittal in writing of the Scholarship Funds expenditure, supported by evidence of payments relevant to travel and study which may include travel expenses, insurance (if applicable), expenses of music tuition and materials and accommodation and living expenses;
  - (b) a written report, in the Scholarship Recipient’s own words, briefly encapsulating the value the Scholarship Recipient has obtained from the Study Period, mentioning relevant events of influence experienced (for example, concerts and recitals attended, mentorships received, etc.) and outlining realistic future goals and objectives developed as a consequence of the Study Period; and
  - (c) any written reports from teachers, mentors or others pertaining to achievements whilst under their tutelage or containing recommendations for future study and career development they believe would be of value to the Scholarship Recipient.

3. If for any reason the Scholarship Recipient does not undertake, or fails to complete, the Study Period as required under the terms of this Agreement, the Scholarship Recipient will provide a full accounting to the Trustee and will return all moneys forming part of the Scholarship Funds that have not been expended for the purposes of the Scholarship to the Trustee at the conclusion of the timeframe referred to in clause 1 or upon the earlier cessation of the Study Period, whichever is the sooner.
4. The Scholarship Recipient acknowledges and accepts that all travel and activities undertaken during the Study Period are at the sole risk of the Scholarship Recipient and the Trustee is not liable for any injury, damage or loss suffered or incurred by the Scholarship Recipient or any other person or entity in the course of such travel and activities.
5. It is a term of this Agreement that all performance recordings (in whatever form) and photographs and any written or other material submitted by the Scholarship Recipient to the Trustee in connection with the Competition may be used by the Trustee for such purposes and in such manner as the Trustee sees fit including, but not limited to, publication for the purpose of promoting the Competition.
6. The Scholarship Recipient will appropriately acknowledge in relevant programs, publicity materials and public statements the financial assistance provided by the Scholarship in the following or similar terms:

“Overseas study was made possible with financial assistance from the Australian Youth Classical Music Competition through its Overseas Study Scholarship sponsored by the Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust.”

**SIGNATURE OF PARTIES:**

Signed on behalf of the Trustee:

\_\_\_\_\_

Director

\_\_\_\_\_

Director/Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_

Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Print Name

Signed by the Scholarship Recipient:

\_\_\_\_\_