

Sydney Eisteddfod Choral Championships

The Concourse Concert Hall

Thursday 26 June 2025, 7.00PM



Welcome

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the first Principal Event of this year's festival – the 2025 Sydney Eisteddfod Choral Championships.

As Sydney Eisteddfod's new General Manager, I feel privileged to step into this role at a time when the value of artistic expression, collaboration and community is more important than ever. In our 92nd year, Sydney Eisteddfod continues to bring people together from all walks of life to honour our shared traditions, while championing the future of the performing arts in Australia.

Tonight's event brings together choirs from beyond the Greater Sydney region, all sharing in the joy of music-making and the spirit of performance. This evening also offers us the opportunity to acknowledge those who help make it all possible.

We are deeply grateful to The Federated Music Clubs of Australia, The John Lamble Foundation and The Sydney Symposium Choral Foundation for their generous support of this event and their ongoing commitment to nurturing musical talent.

As we launch into a season of extraordinary performances across a wide range of art forms, I look forward to working with our dedicated team, our valued partners, and the vibrant community of artists and audiences who make Sydney Eisteddfod such a vital part of our cultural landscape.

Whether you're joining us as a performer, educator, family member or supporter, thank you for being part of this special occasion.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather Campbell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being prominent.

Heather Campbell *General Manager*

Acknowledgement of Country

Sydney Eisteddfod acknowledges the Cammeraygal, the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we gather today. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We celebrate the long, rich history of storytelling in song, dance and voice, on these lands where sovereignty was never ceded.

Program

The John Lamble Foundation Australasian Championship for Youth Choirs

Roseville College K-2 Hummingbirds Choir (Roseville)

Reddam House Senior Choir (Bondi)

Cheltenham Girls' High School Vocal Ensemble (Cheltenham)

St Rose Primary Catholic School Choir (Collaroy)

Meriden Senior Singers (Strathfield)

Interval

Sydney Eisteddfod Australasian Open Choral Championship

For the Blake, Blanchard & Pillington Award

Bel Cantare Choir (Kensington)

Endeavour Harmony Chorus (Engadine)

Frensham Madrigals (Mittagong)

Promise of Avondale (Cooranbong)

Newcastle Chamber Choir (Newcastle)

Guest Performance

Young Artists from the Rising Stars Sydney Conservatorium Open Academy

Tong Wu

Violin (12 years)

Luna Ji

Violin (12 years)

Christina Bhang

Viola (13 years)

Audrey Chan

Cello (12 years)

Felix Mendelssohn

String Quartet No. 6 in F-minor, Op. 80

i. *Allegro vivace assai*

ii. *Allegro assai*

Presentation

The John Lamble Foundation Australasian Championship for Youth Choirs

Winner \$2,000 and Shield

Supported by *The John Lamble
Foundation*

2nd Place \$750 and Shield

Supported by *The John Lamble
Foundation*

Finalists \$300 each

Supported by *The Sydney Symposium
Choral Foundation*

Sydney Eisteddfod Australasian Open Choral Championship

Winner \$3,000 and Shield

Supported by *The Federated Music Clubs
of Australia*

2nd Place \$1,000 and Shield

Supported by *The Sydney Symposium
Choral Foundation*

Finalists \$500 each

Supported by *The Federated Music
Clubs of Australia* and *The John
Lamble Foundation*

Compere and Adjudicators

Heather Campbell *Compere*

Heather Campbell is the General Manager of Sydney Eisteddfod, bringing over 15 years of experience in arts administration, event management, and youth arts education. She has held senior roles with Gondwana Choirs, Century Venues, and Sydney Eisteddfod, where she previously served as Operations Manager. A long-standing Teaching Artist with the Australian Theatre for Young People, she is passionate about nurturing young talent and creating inclusive, high-quality performance opportunities. Heather is known for her collaborative leadership, strategic planning, and commitment to excellence. She holds a Bachelor of

Creative Arts from Macquarie University and received a Pride of Workmanship Award in 2019.



Karen Carey OAM *Adjudicator*

Karen Carey OAM is a distinguished music educator renowned for her extensive contributions to secondary education and music in Australia. Her career spans several decades, during which she has held pivotal roles in various educational institutions. Karen began her teaching journey in 1970 at Cessnock High School, followed by positions at Toronto High School, Baulkham Hills High School, Girraween High School, and Marsden High School. In 1989, she became the Director of Music at MLC School Burwood, a role she held until 2012. During this time, Karen was the subject of the award-winning documentary *Mrs. Carey's Concert*, about the preparation for the MLC biennial *Operation Concert*. She later served as Artistic Director at Santa Sabina College from 2014 to 2018 and continues her association with the college as Artistic Director Emerita.



In recognition of her service to secondary education, Karen was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the 2020 Australia Day Honours. Beyond her teaching roles, Karen has been actively involved in the music community. She has also engaged in collaborations with notable performers and composers, enriching the musical experiences of her students and audiences alike.

Karen Carey's enduring dedication to music education has left a lasting impact on the Australian music landscape, inspiring countless students and educators through her commitment and passion.

Sam Allchurch *Adjudicator*

Sam Allchurch has been Artistic Director of Sydney Chamber Choir since 2019. Sam's repertoire spans the works of Bach and Handel, to the music of contemporary Australian composers such as Paul Stanhope and Brooke Shelley. Sam is also Director of Music of Christ Church St Laurence, where he conducts the choir which dates back to 1845. Sam is Associate Artistic Director at Gondwana Choirs, where he has prepared choirs for the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and Opera Australia and played a key role in presenting the Gondwana World Choral Festival. Sam holds a Bachelor of Music from the University of Melbourne, where he was a choral scholar at Trinity College. After being awarded a Gates Scholarship, Sam earned a Master of Music (Choral Studies) at the University of Cambridge where he studied with Stephen Layton. In 2023, he participated in a week-long masterclass with the Berlin Radio Choir led by Simon Halsey, supported by the Sydney Symposium Choral Foundation Scholarship.



Guest Performers

The Open Academy at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music

The Open Academy's Rising Stars program is a dynamic performance-based music education program. It provides gifted school-age students with specialist tuition in a supportive environment that helps develop their musical and artistic skills.

At Rising Stars, talent is identified at an early age, laying a constructive foundation for a lifetime of musical achievement. Supported by the Sydney Conservatorium of Music faculty, the program is based on proven values of quality instrumental teaching, structured academic development, regular performance and the benefits of a strong and supportive musical peer group. Rising Stars has 2 streams, classical and jazz.



Rising Stars Classical

Rising Stars Classical is for advanced instrumentalists and composers. The program offers individual tuition on your chosen instrument, a multi-level series of music theory classes and regular performance opportunities in one of 4 concerts presented each Saturday, accompanied by a professional pianist.

Find out more by
scanning the QR code below



Rising Stars Jazz

Rising Stars Jazz is built on the same three pillars as the classical program of instrumental tuition, music skill development and performance. It aims to develop jazz improvisation skills through working in small ensembles. Students take an ensemble class each week led by a jazz industry professional.

The Rising Stars program runs for 28 weeks of the year on a Saturday at the Sydney Conservatorium. Entry to Rising Stars is by audition each October plus a July round for Rising Stars Jazz. Like the Sydney Eisteddfod, the Rising Stars program aims to nurture young musicians to perform with confidence and skill and to develop a life-long love of music.

Join us for the Sydney Eisteddfod Ballet Gala Sydney Opera House, Sunday 20 July

Experience elegance and grace at the Sydney Eisteddfod Ballet Gala, held at the iconic Sydney Opera House. Witness the extraordinary talent of 16 young dancers from across Australia as they compete for prestigious scholarships, showcasing their dedication and skill on stage. Be enchanted by captivating performances, including a guest performance by Ajkun Ballet Theatre.

Adding to the allure, the Gala features a new work by the Australian Ballet Collective. Join us for an unforgettable evening celebrating the beauty of ballet, where talent meets passion on one of the world's most renowned stages.

Don't miss this exquisite display of artistry and talent.



Book Now



Previous Winners

The John Lamble Foundation Australasian Championship for Youth Choirs

2024 Cheltenham Girls' Vocal Ensemble (Cheltenham)
2023 Meriden Madrigals (Strathfield)
2022 Frensham Madrigals (Mittagong)
2019 Fort Street High School Chamber Choir (Petersham)
2018 Pymble Chorale (Pymble)
2017 Meriden Senior Singers (Strathfield)
2016 Fort Street High School Chamber Choir (Petersham)
2015 Fort Street High School Chamber Choir (Petersham)
2013 Waitara Voices - Waitara Public School (Wahroonga)
2012 Frensham Madrigals (Mittagong)
2011 PLC Sydney Chamber Choir (Croydon)
2010 Pymble Chorale (Pymble)
2009 Pymble Chorale (Pymble)
2008 Marryatville High School (Marryatville)
2007 Zipoli Choir – St Aloysius College (Milsons Point)

Sydney Eisteddfod Australasian Open Choral Championship

2024 Meriden Madrigals (Strathfield)
2023 Newcastle Chamber Choir (Newcastle)
2022 Newcastle Chamber Choir (Newcastle)
2019 Newcastle Chamber Choir (Waratah)
2018 Soulfood A Cappella (Naremburn)
2017 Endeavour Harmony Chorus (Jannali)
2016 Endeavour Harmony Chorus (Caringbah)
2015 Choir of Southern Lights (Dapto)
2013 Soulfood A Cappella (Cammeray)
2012 The University of Newcastle Chamber Choir (Newcastle)
2011 Soulfood A Capella (Wollstonecraft)
2010 The University of Newcastle Chamber Choir (Newcastle)
2009 Soulfood A Capella (Putney)
2008 Sydneian Bach Chamber Choir (Darlinghurst)
2007 The University of Newcastle Chamber Choir (Newcastle)

Support Our Young Artists

If you would like to support an event in one of the many categories and art forms at Sydney Eisteddfod, please contact Heather at heather@sydneyeisteddfod.com.au or call 02 9261 8366.

Sydney Eisteddfod extends their warmest congratulations to all the finalists in tonight's program, with our thanks for being part of the 2025 Sydney Eisteddfod. We hope your voices continue to soar and bring joy to both your members and audiences until we see you again next year.

Make a difference today.
Scan here





Un - leash your - self with ev - e - ry chord

f

Instrumental to Life

KAWAI

Sydney Eisteddfod gratefully acknowledges the generous support of The Federated Music Clubs of Australia, The John Lamble Foundation and The Sydney Symposium Choral Foundation, who have made tonight's awards possible.

*Tonight's concert is being recorded
by Australian Digital Concert Hall
and photography is by BWP Studios*



KAWAI



Level 1
45 Chippen Street
Chippendale NSW 2008

Telephone 02 9261 8366
Email info@sydneyeisteddfod.com.au
Web sydneyeisteddfod.com.au



@sydeisteddfod



@sydeisteddfod