



Sydney Eisteddfod Opera Scholarship (21 - 35 Years)

1. Previous winners not eligible.
2. Event is open to any singer who is a citizen or permanent resident of Australia or New Zealand. Residency and proof of age documents will be cited upon progression to the Semi-Final. This can include a Birth Certificate, an Australian or New Zealand passport, or a permanent resident stamp. A driver's license or proof of age card is not acceptable.
3. Adjudicator reports will be written for the heats only. No marks will be given on these reports.
4. Arias are to be no longer than ten minutes each including recitative (if any). Cuts may be made if necessary. Long instrumental tuttis or interludes should be curtailed.
5. All arias must be sung in the original key and language set by the composer and performed from memory with acoustic piano accompaniment.
6. Singers chosen for the Semi-Final will be notified during the week commencing 25 May. Five Finalists and two Reserve Finalists will be selected by the panel of adjudicators and announced at the Semi-Final.
7. No official pianist is provided for any round.
8. The awarding of the first and second place scholarships are at the discretion of the adjudicators and are given on the understanding that the winners will use the funds towards their artistic development as a performer for the operatic stage, including vocal tuition/coaching, languages and stagecraft - domestically and/or internationally.
9. Scholarship recipients agree to submit a detailed study plan to Sydney Eisteddfod, including supporting documentation from teachers and/or institutions. The payment of scholarship instalments is upon application to Sydney Eisteddfod with satisfactory reports of progress from the recipient's teacher or teaching institution. The scholarship must be claimed within two years from the date of winning and completed within two years thereafter.
10. All finalists must be reasonably available for media interviews and performance engagements. Sydney Eisteddfod will endeavour to continue to provide performance opportunities to alumni as a way of staying connected and nurturing the creative practices of all.

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Repertoire Requirements

Entrants must prepare four contrasting arias from at least three different operas. The arias must exhibit the entrant's technical and dramatic range, and be in at least three languages. All arias must be sung in the original language.

All items must be memorised and performed with acoustic piano accompaniment in all rounds. Repertoire can be chosen from standardised operatic literature as currently performed in major opera houses around the world, including Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Verismo, Modern, Opera Comique and Operetta.

Rounds

Heats: A video recording of two arias of own choice.

Semi-Final: Up to twelve entrants will be selected to give a live performance of two arias not performed in the Heats round. Changes to repertoire cannot be made any later than 14 days prior to the Semi-Final.

Final: Five Finalists (and two Reserve Finalists) will be selected to present a live performance of two arias, both with piano accompaniment. The first aria to be performed will be of the finalist's choosing. The second aria will be chosen by the panel from the finalist's remaining 3 arias performed in the Heats and Semi-Final rounds. Finalists must be available for a rehearsal with their chosen accompanist on the day of the Final.

Entrants are responsible for engaging their own pianist for all rounds.

Entry Details

All entrants are to submit a video recording for the heats via the Sydney Eisteddfod Entrant Portal. This must be a recorded performance made within the last 6 months, filmed in a single take and without edit. Please ensure you have all required supporting documentation ready for upload at the time of submitting your application. The video submission and supporting documentation must be uploaded to the Sydney Eisteddfod Entrant Portal by 4:00 PM on 20 April, 2026.

Entrant's video submission must be a YouTube or Vimeo link. Please clearly indicate the entrant's first and last name, work's title, and composer, in the title and/or description box (eg. Emily Jones_II mio Tesoro_Mozart). Ensure video permission settings allow anyone with the link to view.

Supporting documentation requirements:

- * Biography (maximum 150 words)
- * Colour publicity photo in JPEG format, high resolution (minimum 2MB)
- * Proposed Semi-Final Repertoire

Please use the following format when listing repertoire:

"Title of aria" from Opera Name by Composer Name

E.g.,

Aria 1: "Sempre libera" from La Traviata by Giuseppe Verdi

Aria 2: "Die Hölle Rache" from Die Zauberflöte by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Email: info@sydneyeisteddfod.com.au if you have any questions relating to this submission method.