



Australian Youth Classical Music Competition

REGIONAL 2026

35th Annual Competition

Australian Youth Classical Music Competition Limited
ACN 159 947 378

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE AND CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

WELCOME

Young instrumental soloists are invited to participate in the Regional section of the 35th Australian Youth Classical Music Competition, to be held in 2026. The Regional section is open to solo classical instrumental performers enrolled in Year 7 to Year 12 in 2026 and who are 18 or younger, are enrolled in secondary school (Year 7 to Year 12) in 2026 and who ordinarily reside in Geelong or adjacent municipalities as defined, or are attending a secondary school within one of those areas. The full Conditions of Entry are set out below.

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.

PRIZES

Regional First Prize:	\$2,000 donated by the Geelong Chamber Music Society
Runners-up Prizes:	\$1,000 x 3
Audience Prize:	\$500

KEY DATES

Applications Open:	Sunday, 1 February 2026
Applications close:	Sunday, 24 May 2026 at 5:00pm
Regional Auditions:	Saturday, 30 May 2026, from 9:30am at the Keith Humble Centre – The Geelong College
Repertoire due by:	Monday, 8 June 2026 no later than 1:00pm
Regional Final:	Saturday, 13 June 2026 at 2pm at the Keith Humble Centre – 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. "AYCMC" means Australian Youth Classical Music Competition Limited ACN 159 947 378.
- b. "Competition" means the Regional section of the Australian Youth Classical Music Competition conducted by AYCMC.
- c. "Competition Coordinator" means a person or persons so designated by AYCMC to manage and coordinate the running of the Competition and carry out the powers and duties of AYCMC in relation to the conduct of the Competition.
- d. "Conditions of Entry" means these Conditions of Entry in their entirety, all which are taken to be incorporated into the form of Application.
- e. "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, 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 7.c.. The Competition is not open to vocalists.
- f. "Regional Adjudication Panel" or "Adjudicators" means the persons appointed by AYCMC to adjudicate at the Final Concert of the Regional section of the Competition.
- g. "Regional Selection Panel" means the panel of experienced musicians appointed by AYCMC to select the Regional Finalists to proceed to the Regional Final concert.
- h. "Regional Finalist" or "Finalist" means an Applicant selected by the Regional Selection Panel to proceed to and perform in the Regional Final Concert following the conclusion of the Regional Auditions.

2. Eligibility

The Competition is open to any instrumental soloist who, as at 1 February 2026:

- a. is aged up to and including 18 years; and
- b. is at secondary school year level 7 or higher; and
- c. is ordinarily resident or attending secondary school in any of the following municipalities:
 - City of Greater Geelong
 - Surfcoast Shire
 - Golden Plains Shire;
 - Borough of Queenscliffe;
 - Colac Otway Shire.

3. Application Requirements

- a. Applicants must complete the online Regional Application form and submit with it a high-resolution portrait photograph (head and shoulders) 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. If the Applicant is under the age of 18, a parent or guardian must provide consent to the Application by signing the Application form and must either signify consent or otherwise to the Applicant being photographed; and
- c. pay the non-refundable Application Fee of \$25 with the Application via one of the online options provided.

4. Selection Process

- a. Applicants will be allotted an audition time in order of Applications received and will be notified of their allocated time by not later than Wednesday, 27 May 2026.
Note: Applicants wishing to change their allocated audition time or request a specific time should contact the Competition Coordinator as soon as possible.
- b. Applicants will audition before a Regional Selection Panel and an audience on Saturday, 30 May 2026 at the Keith Humble Centre – The Geelong College between approximately 9:30am and 3:30pm.
- c. Applicants will perform a program of their own choice with a maximum playing time of 6 minutes.
- d. Applicants are responsible for organising their own accompanist, if one is required (Refer to Condition of Entry 7 below).
- e. Applicants may provide a copy of their performance music for the Regional Selection Panel, to be returned after the audition. See also Conditions of Entry 6 below concerning Copyright Obligations.
- f. The Regional Selection Panel will select up to a maximum of 12 Applicants as Regional Finalists to proceed to the Regional Final Concert.
- g. Those Applicants selected as Regional Finalists will be notified by phone or email on Sunday, 31 May 2026.

5. Performance Regulations and Requirements for Regional Finalists

- a. Regional Finalists are required to perform at the Regional Final Concert of the Competition before the Regional Adjudication Panel and an audience at the Keith Humble Centre for Music and the Performing Arts – The Geelong College on Saturday, 13 June 2026.
- b. Regional Finalists will each perform a program of their own choice with a maximum playing time of 12 minutes. Finalists playing over the time limit may be stopped 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 performed in the audition.
- d. Performance repertoire is required to be submitted to the Competition Coordinator by 5:00pm on Monday, 8 June 2026. If more than one piece is to be performed, the exact order of performance is to be indicated.
- e. Finalists are required to provide a copy of their performance music for the Adjudicators (to be returned after performance. See also Condition of Entry 6 below concerning Copyright Obligations).
- f. Concert attire appropriate to comfortable performance should be worn.

6. 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. AYCMC 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.

7. Accompanists

- a. If an accompanist is required, this must be organised and paid for by the Applicant.
- b. It is requested that the name of the accompanist be advised to the Competition Coordinator prior to the audition or the Regional Final Concert, as the case may be, and if it is intended that the accompaniment will be provided on an instrument other than piano, that the accompanying instrument also be specified to assist with logistical arrangements.

A pianist wishing to be accompanied by a second piano must inform the Competition Coordinator of this prior to the closing of Competition Applications and the Competition Coordinator will advise the Applicant as to whether or not such request can be accommodated.

8. Announcement of Prize Winners and Award Presentation Ceremony

The prize winners for the Regional section of the Australian Youth Classical Music Competition 2026 will be announced on Saturday, 13 June 2026 at the conclusion of the Adjudicators' deliberations. The Award Presentation Ceremony will follow to conclude the proceedings. Finalists are required to be present in performance attire for the announcement of Prize Winners and to remain until the conclusion of the Award Presentation Ceremony.

9. General Rules and Regulations governing the Competition

- a. Applicants participate in the Competition at the sole discretion of AYCMC via the Competition Coordinator who may determine whether any Applicant may participate or continue to participate in the Competition at any time.
- b. Applications are limited to 30 in total and will be processed on a first come, first served basis, in order of receipt.
- c. AYCMC reserves the right not to award one or more of the Regional prizes if, in the opinion of the Adjudicators, the standard of performance does not warrant the award being made.
- d. With respect to the selection of the Regional Finalists, the decision of the Regional Adjudication Panel is final and binding.
- e. With respect to the selection of Prize Winners, the decision of the Regional Adjudication Panel is final and binding.
- f. With respect to all other matters concerning the Competition, the decision of AYCMC is final and binding.
- g. Performances in the Competition may be recorded (video, audio, photography) and such recordings become the property of AYCMC and for promotional purposes may be broadcast published and/or reproduced without permission of the performer 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.
- h. Previous winners of the Regional First Prize of the Competition are only eligible to apply to participate in the Competition if applying to perform on an instrument other than that for which they were awarded the Regional First Prize. They are not otherwise eligible to apply to participate.
- i. AYCMC in its sole discretion may modify or amend the Conditions of Entry as it may consider necessary from time to time.
- j. An Applicant who is selected as a Regional Finalist will submit bank details to AYCMC via the Competition Coordinator 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, 24 May 2026 at 5:00pm.

Completed Application form, biography and photograph must all be supplied by the Closing Date, and the Application Fee paid. Late applications will not be accepted except in special circumstances and only by prior arrangement with the Competition Coordinator.

HOW TO APPLY

Application is via the website at: aycmc.org.au

- Complete and submit the online Application form and be sure to include brief biography and headshot photograph.
- Pay the non-refundable \$25 Application Fee via one of the online options.

Website: aycmc.org.au

 facebook.com/australianyouthclassicalmusiccompetition

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

