AYCMC

Australian Youth Classical Music Competition

Patrons **Jayson Gillham · Emily Sun · David Griffith**

NATIONAL 2027

36th Annual Competition

Australian Youth Classical Music Competition Limited
ACN 159 947 378

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE AND CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

WELCOME

Instrumental soloists are invited to participate in the National section of the 36th Australian Youth Classical Music Competition. The National section is open to solo classical instrumental performers who are between 17 and 25 years of age on 1 January 2027. 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 in Australia and overseas.

PRIZES

1st Prize:	**$20,000** Overseas Study Scholarship sponsored by the Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust. This Scholarship is to be used for overseas music study. The form *Overseas Study Scholarship Agreement* is required to be signed by the winner is appended to these Conditions of Entry.
2nd Prize:	**$5,000** sponsored by The Athenaeum Club Foundation and 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.*
3rd 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 2028 Season at Costa Hall, Geelong. This engagement would be subject to negotiation between the Finalist and the Geelong Symphony Orchestra.

KEY DATES

Applications open:	**Friday, 1 January 2027**
Applications close:	**Thursday, 25 March 2027 at 9:00pm**
Finalists notified:	Monday, 26 April 2027
Final repertoire and Bank details:	Saturday, 26 June 2027 not later than 5:00pm, before if available
National Final:	**Saturday, 3 July 2027**, 10:30am at the Keith Humble Centre – The Geelong College (see our 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 National 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. 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.
f. "National Adjudication Panel" or "Adjudicators" means the persons appointed by AYCMC to adjudicate the National Final of the Competition.
g. "National Selection Panel" means the persons appointed by AYCMC to select the Finalists to proceed to and perform in the National Final of the Competition.
h. "National Finalist" or "Finalist" means an applicant selected by the National Selection Panel who accepts an offer pursuant to Condition 5.e. or Condition 5.f. below to proceed and perform in the National Final Concert.

2. Eligibility

The Competition is open to any instrumental soloist who:

a. is aged between 17 and 25 years of age on Friday, 1 January 2027, 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; or
   (iii) as at 1 January 2027, has ordinarily lived in Australia for not less than 12 months immediately preceding that date.

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 the online option 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 as much as is practical in the circumstances.
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. A recording of a previous competition performance by the Applicant is acceptable, provided it complies with the requirements set out in sub-paragraphs b. to e. (both inclusive) of this Condition 4.
h. 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. Applicants selected by the National Selection Panel will be notified by phone on **Monday, 26 April 2027** 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, as suggested 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 – The Geelong College on **Saturday, 3 July 2027**.
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 or stopped by the Stage Manager.
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 and Bank Details are required to be submitted to the Competition Coordinator by **9:00pm** on or before **Saturday, 26 June 2027**. If more than one piece is to be performed, the exact order of performance is to be indicated; if Finalists choose to announce their own program, no repertoire details are required.
f. Finalists are required to provide a clean copy of their performance music for the Adjudicators, to be returned after performance. This copy should include the accompanist part where applicable. See also Condition of Entry 7 below concerning copyright obligations. (*See also Entry 7 below*)

g. Concert attire appropriate to comfortable performance should be worn.
h. On-stage rehearsal time of 10 minutes will be available to each Finalist on the morning / afternoon of the National Final, scheduling to be arranged through the Competition Coordinator; four alternate rehearsal spaces will be provided.

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. 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.

8. Accompanists

a. If an accompanist is required, this must be organised and paid for by the Applicant.
b. The name of the accompanist must be submitted with the performance repertoire by 9:00pm on **Saturday, 26 June 2027** 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 2026 will be announced on **Saturday, 3 July 2027** 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.

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, 2 June 2027 and/or Saturday, 3 July 2027**, billeted accommodation for the Finalist (and Accompanist) may be available by prior arrangement with the Competition Coordinator. Family members are not catered for.
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 AYCMC via the Competition Coordinator who may determine whether any Applicant may participate or continue to participate in the Competition at any time.
b. AYCMC 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 AYCMC is final and binding.
f. 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.
g. Previous winners of the National First Prize of the Competition are not eligible to apply to participate in the Competition.
h. AYCMC 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 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 **Thursday, 25 March 2027** at 9:00pm.
Completed Application form, biography, headshot photograph and YouTube Recording link 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 biography, headshot photograph and YouTube link.
• Pay the non-refundable $50 Application Fee via the online option.

To discuss any aspect of the Conditions of Entry or the Application process, or for any clarification required or other enquiries, please contact:
David Fox Competition Coordinator – Australian Youth Classical Music Competition
Email: admin@aycmc.org.au

Web: aycmc.org.au

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