



2026 ANNUAL REPORT

**Australian Youth Classical Music Competition Limited
ACN 159 947 378**



National Finalists



Regional Finalists

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Our Mission

The mission of the Board of the Australian Youth Classical Music Competition Limited is to present an annual project, consisting of the Regional and the National Competitions.

Regional Competition

The objective of the Regional Competition is to encourage and recognize local solo instrumental musicians. To enter the Regional Section, participants must be aged 18 years of age or younger as at the start of the year and reside within the G21 footprint, be a full-time student at a secondary school within the region or study with a music teacher in the region.

There were **25** Regional applications this year. The finalists are selected through a process of an audition before a panel of expert musicians to choose up to twelve finalists to perform at the Regional Finals Concert before an audience where first prize, three runner-up prizes and the Audience Prize are awarded. The Regional Finals Concert was held on Saturday June 13th with an audience of about 100 people before the adjudicators Dr Pip Robinson and Cindy Watkin.

The financial rewards available for the Regional competition -
 \$2,000 Geelong Chamber Music Society Helen Jordan First Prize
 \$1,000 Runner-Up Prizes x 3
 \$500 Audience Prize

National Competition

The purpose of the National Competition is to encourage young people to aspire to excellence in classical music and to further the musical education of the recipients. To enter the National Section, participants must be solo classical musicians aged between 17 and 25 years by the closing date of applications and an Australian citizen or a permanent resident of Australia.

This year, **42** National applications were received. The finalists are selected through a process of submitting a video performance with set performance requirements. A Selection Panel of high-profile expert musicians – Dr Elizabeth Sellars, Dr Kenji Fujimura and Associate Professor David Griffiths choose a maximum of eight finalists to compete at the July National Finals.

The National Finals Concert includes superb performances with finalists choosing repertoire from the Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Modern periods. The National Finals Concert was successfully presented on Saturday 11th July with an audience of approximately 80. The Adjudication Panel consisted of Richard Narroway (Strings), Eliza Shepard (Woodwind), and Laurence Matheson (Piano).

The financial rewards available this year for the National competition -
 \$20,000 Overseas Travel Scholarship (sponsored by the Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust)
 \$5,000 Second Prize (sponsored by The Athenaeum Club Foundation's Young Artists Trust)
 \$3,000 Third Prize
 Remaining five finalists receive the \$1,000 Finalist Award
 \$500 Audience Prize – favourite performance as voted by the audience

The National First Prize winner (or other finalist depending on availability) is also offered the opportunity to perform with the Geelong Symphony Orchestra in 2026.

The Second Prize winner is offered the opportunity to perform at an Athenaeum Club member function with an appropriate performance fee paid.

Our Goals

The goals of The Australian Youth Classical Music Competition Limited are –

- Encourage young people to aspire to excellence in music and to further the musical education of the recipients of the prizes
- Provide opportunities for young musicians of potentially international calibre to perform before an audience
- Enrich the community by providing opportunities to hear young talented musicians perform in high class concert venues
- Increase the skill of the performing arts communities in Victoria
- Increase the public profiles of the musicians, and sponsoring organizations contributing to the program

Areas of the Community Served by the Competition

Aspiring Musicians

The ultimate objective of the Competition is to provide financial assistance and support to further the musical careers and studies of the prize winners and the opportunity given to perform on the stage with their peers in front of an audience.

The Local Community

The Australian Youth Classical Music Competition Limited presents two events over the year – the Regional Finals Concert and the National Finals Concert.

The Geelong community have opportunities to enjoy the fine music on offer and support young emerging talent drawn from across Australia. The classical music concerts are free, conveniently located and the afternoon concerts have proved popular with the audience attending. The experience is further enhanced by the excellent venue at the Keith Humble Centre, Geelong College and the magnificent Steinway concert piano available to the soloists and accompanists.

The Regional Finals Concert is an opportunity to show support and encouragement to young local musicians from family, friends, peers and the wider community. The performances are polished and professional, with a variety of instruments and repertoire.

The National Finals Concert brings eight of Australia's most accomplished young musicians to perform in Geelong providing a full day of superb and varied instrumental music. The standard of performance is extremely high – it is an enjoyable concert experience for the audience apart from being a competition.

Our History



The Scholarship came about as the result of The Geelong Advertiser Pty Ltd marking the achievement of 150 years of publishing in November 1990. A special feature was produced containing 150 pages, each page recalling the major events in a particular year from 1840 through to 1990. Sales of the special feature produced a sizable profit. The Geelong Advertiser sought to widen its support of community programs in the field of performing arts, especially for the benefit of musicians by providing assistance to further their skills, talents and careers. The Geelong Advertiser Music Scholarship Trust was formed through an initial grant of \$60,000 made by The Geelong

Advertiser. Initially, the Scholarship competition was structured to offer a National prize only, however in 2005, the Trust implemented a Regional Section.

In 2011, the Trustees resolved to change the name of the Geelong Advertiser Music Competition to the **Australian Youth Classical Music Competition.**

Previous Competition Winners

Geelong Advertiser Music Competition

National

1991 - **Phillip Johnston** (Piano)
 1992 - **Clemens Leske** (Piano)
 1993 - **Carolyn Monger** (Flute)
 1994 - **Gregory Lee** (Violin)
 1995 - **Rebecca Chambers** (Piano)
 1996 - **Liwei Qin** (Cello)
 1997 - **Paul Hankinson** (Piano)
 1998 - **Sophie Rowell** (Violin)
 1999 - **Elizabeth Hennessy** (Flute)
 2000 - **Timothy Munro** (Flute)
 2001 - **David Tong** (Piano)
 2002 - **Alexandra Osborne** (Violin)
 2003 - **Pei Sian NG** (Cello)
 2004 - **Hoang Pham** (Piano)
 2005 - **Ke Lin** (Piano)
 2006 - **Kylie Liang** (Violin)
 2007 - **Louise McKay** (Cello)
 2008 - **Stephan Ma** (Piano)
 2009 - **Jennen Ngiau-Keng** (Violin)
 2010 - **Richard Narroway** (Cello)
 2011 - **Tony Lee** (Piano)

Regional

2025 - **Emma Hunt** (Violin)
 2006 – **Laura McCartney** (Violin)
 2007 – **Matthew Demetriou** (Piano)
 2008 – **Jessica Voight** (Saxophone)
 2009 – **Liam Osborne** (Violin)
 2010 – **Cameron Smith** (Clarinet)
 2011 – **Adrian King** (Trombone)

Australian Youth Classical Music Competition

National

2012 - **Karol Kowalik** (Cello)
 2013 - **Kevin Suherman** (Piano)
 2014 - **Aaron Liu** (Piano)
 2015 - **Zoe Freisberg** (Violin)
 2016 – **Rosie Gallagher** (Flute)
 2017 – **Riley Skevington** (Violin)
 2018 – **Rio Xiang** (Piano)
 2019 – **Carol (Yue) Wang** (Bassoon)
 2020 – **Cancelled (COVID-19 Pandemic)**
 2021 – **Emily Su** (Violin)
 2022 – **Lily Bryant** (Flute)
 2023 – **Dandan Jingyi Wang** (Violin)
 2024 – **Donica Tran** (Violin)
 2025 - **Dindin Jingyi Wang** (Violin)
 2026 – **Noah Oshiro** (Cello)

Regional

2012 – **Jamie Parker** (Violin)
 2013 – **Evan Xia** (Saxophone)
 2014 – **Alexander Jeantou** (Tuba)
 2015 – **Kelvin Liu** (Piano)
 2016 – **Amy You** (Violin)
 2017 – **An Trinh** (Piano)
 2018 – **Georgia White** (Clarinet)
 2019 – **Adela Karol** (Piano)
 2020 – **Cancelled (COVID-19 Pandemic)**
 2021 – **Harrison Steele-Holmes** (Trombone)
 2022 – **Emily Treloar** (Clarinet)
 2023 – **Jingyang Huang** (Piano)
 2024 – **Matthew Kweh** (Piano)
 2025 - **Harriet Carter-Williams** (Cello)
 2026 – **Jennifer Yu** (Piano)

2026 Regional Competition

Regional Auditions – Saturday May 30th, Keith Humble Centre, The Geelong College

Audition Panel – Susan Buchan (Keyboard), Suzanne Moodie (Woodwind) and Shane Lestideau (Strings)

Regional Finals Concert – Saturday June 13th, Keith Humble Centre, The Geelong College, 2pm

Regional Finals adjudicators – Dr Pip Robinson & Cindy Watkin

Regional Finalists



Daniel Chen (Violin), Olivia Cheng (Violin), Luke Feng (Piano), Alice Hu (Piano), Daniyel Jiang (Piano), Thomas Moffatt (Trumpet), Joyce Qin (Violin), Ella Rossiter (Flute), Micah So (Piano), Anna Wood (Clarinet), Christopher Xie (Piano) and Jennifer Yu (Piano)

Competition Coordinator – David Fox

Concert Presenter – Jingyang Huang

Stage Manager – Joel Lane

Video - Emily Rice

Official Photographers – Heather Prince Photo and Phil Thomson Photography

Regional Finals Adjudicators

Dr Pip Robinson

Dr Pip Robinson is a flautist with over 40 years-experience as a performer and educator. In that time, she has taught both instrumental and classroom music across primary, secondary and tertiary levels and for over 20 years she led music departments, both locally and internationally. As a classically trained performer, Pip has played across a range of styles and genres and has a special interest in Brazilian choro music. Pip is an examiner for both the IB and VCE in music performance and composition. Her practical and research interests include musical culture and music teacher identity development.

Cindy Watkin

Cindy Watkin is a professional violist and long-standing member of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra (MSO). She is an active participant in orchestral performances, cross-disciplinary arts, and music education programs within the Australian classical music scene. She is heavily involved in nurturing young musical talent, acting as a tutor and teacher for programs such as Tasmania's Residential Summer String Camp and the MSO Education and Community Outreach team.



2026 Regional Competition Results

Regional First Prize Winner

\$2,000 Geelong Chamber Music Society Helen Jordan First Prize

Jennifer Yu - Piano



Jennifer is 13 years old and she has been learning both cello and piano for over seven years. She was one of the winners of the 2024 Ringwood Eisteddfod and was also invited by the Polish Music Festival to perform at the Sydney Opera House. More recently, she was one of the Runner-ups of the AYCMC 2025. She loves music because it allows her to express exactly what she feels through melody and not just words. Music brings her happiness by giving her an escape from everyday life. Through music, she can imagine anything – as if she has a pair of wings that can take her to infinite places.

Regional Runner-Up Winners - \$1,000 Regional Runner-Up Prizes

Thomas Moffatt – Trumpet



Thomas is a Year 11 at Christian college Geelong. He has been learning and playing the trumpet for ten years and is currently working towards his 8th Grade AMEB exam. He enjoys playing a wide range of music, from classical repertoire to big band music as the lead trumpet player in his school's Stage Band. He has also enjoyed playing and performing with different brass instruments in various environments. A recent achievement of his was being involved in Footlight Production's stage show of Legally Blonde the Musical. Thomas played in the pit orchestra on trumpet and flugelhorn.

Daniyel Jiang – Piano (& \$500 Audience Prize)



Daniyel is aged 12 and currently a student at Geelong Grammar School and the recipient of a Music Scholarship. Daniyel began learning piano at the age of nine and has demonstrated remarkable musical talent and artistic potential from an early stage. This year, Daniyel gained admission to both the Victorian College of the Arts secondary School and Geelong Grammar School, and was the only piano student admitted by both schools this year. At the age of 11, Daniyel memorised and performed all 32 Beethoven Piano Sonatas within one month, demonstrating exceptional memory, musical understanding and learning ability.

Luke Feng – Piano



Luke is currently in Year 9 at The Geelong College. Music plays a significant role in his life, since the age of six, he has been learning the piano, which he finds brings both joy and relaxation after a busy school day. In addition to piano, Luke is actively involved in his school's music program. He participates in a range of ensembles, including quartets, the Humble Chamber Strings and the Symphony Orchestra, where he plays viola.

Regional Prize Winners



First Prize Winner – Jennifer Yu



Runner-Up – Thomas Moffatt



Runner-Up – Daniyel Jiang

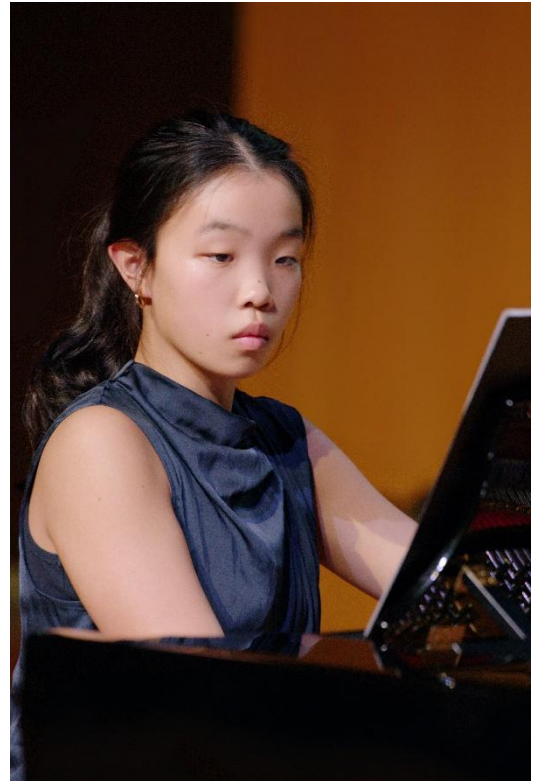


Runner-Up – Luke Feng

Regional Finalists



Finalist – Daniel Chen



Finalist – Alice Hu



Finalist – Anna Wood



Finalist – Ella Rossiter

Regional Finalists



Finalist – Olivia Cheng



Finalist – Micha So



Finalist - Christopher Xie



Finalist – Joyce Qin

Regional Finals Presentations



2026 National Competition Results

National Finals Concert –

Saturday 11th July, Keith Humble Centre, The Geelong College, 10.30am – 5pm

National Finalists –

Bernice Chua (Piano)

Joshua Han (Piano)

Noah Oshiro (Cello)

Liam Freisberg (Violin)

Ein Na (Violin)

Freya Parr (Clarinet)

Josephine Daniel (Clarinet)

Justin Wang (Clarinet)

Competition Coordinator – David Fox

Stage Manager – Joel Lane

Concert Presenter – Daniel Fullerton

Official Photographer – Heather Prince Photo and Phil Thomson Photography

Video – Emily Rice



National Selection Panel

Dr Kenji Fujimura (Keyboard)



Kenji is a multi-international award-winning pianist and composer. As a highly respected educator, Kenji's tertiary teaching career spans over three decades, including significant roles as Deputy/Acting Head of School and Associate Professor of Piano at Monash University. He currently serves as Executive Director of the International Academy of Musical Arts, Patron of the Association of Eisteddfod Societies of Australia, Examiner for the Australian Music Examinations Board, and Associate Lecturer at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, while also maintaining a selective private music studio in Melbourne and online. He is also invited frequently to conduct masterclasses and serve as judge for competitions globally.

Professor David Griffiths (Woodwind)



David Griffiths is Professor of Music (Performance - Clarinet) at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, the University of Melbourne. David Griffiths has carved out a reputation not only for his superb performances as a clarinet soloist but as a consummate musician equally accomplished as a chamber musician, recitalist and leading educator. He is a member of two prestigious Australian chamber music ensembles; the Australia Ensemble@UNSW and Ensemble Liaison. A passionate teacher, David regularly presents performances and masterclasses across the world from Asia to Europe, United States (incl. Carnegie Hall), South America, the Middle East, New Zealand and Australia.

Dr Elizabeth Sellars (Strings)



Violinist Elizabeth Sellars is a graduate of the Guildhall School of Music in London where she studied with David Takeno (violin) and the Takacs String Quartet (chamber music). Elizabeth has performed in festivals worldwide and has broadcast on radio in Australia, UK, Mongolia, Germany and USA. After 16 years as Coordinator of Strings at Monash University, Elizabeth now teaches privately and at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music

National Adjudication Panel

Eliza Shephard (Woodwind)



Winner of the ABC Young Performers Award 2022, Eliza Shephard is a vibrant flutist based in Melbourne, and is quickly paving her way as a performing artist, collaborator, and curator. Eliza completed her studies with Virginia Taylor at ANU (BMusHons) and Griffith University (MMus) and has performed in Canada, New Zealand, and USA, and trained at the Australian National Academy of Music. Eliza is in high demand as a soloist and chamber musician and is passionate about amplifying the voices of female musicians and composers. Her project 'March of the Women' is a month-long recording project introduced in 2020 where Eliza showcases works by female composers, with a total of 124 works recorded to date. She has presented masterclasses around Australia and is a teaching associate at Monash University. Eliza regularly engages with regional communities to share her flute knowledge and experiences of growing up as a young and enthusiastic musician from regional NSW.

Laurence Matheson (Keyboard)

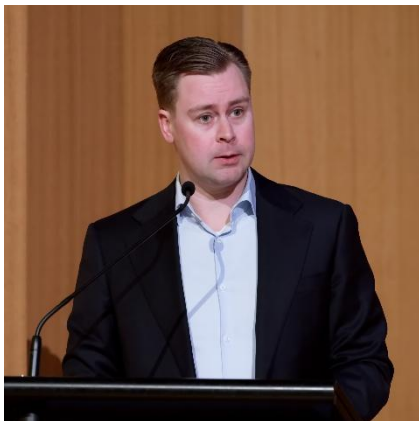


Laurence's first serious exposure to music came when he was involved in the Young ANAM program from 2005 to 2008. Studying with Rita Reichmann, he won the Young Academy Achievement award in 2008 and the junior section of the Yamaha Piano Competition in 2007, before winning the Dorothy Glover Piano Award in 2010. In 2013, he began full-time studies at the Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM) with Timothy Young as one of the youngest ever students, during which he participated twice in the final of the ANAM Chamber Music Competition and won the prestigious ANAM Directors' Prize. He was selected to become a Fellow of the Australian National Academy of Music in 2016, and performed with the ANAM Orchestra multiple times as both soloist and director.

Dr Richard Narrowway (Strings)



Australian cellist Richard Narrowway is Lecturer in Cello at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, University of Melbourne. Praised by Gramophone Magazine for his captivating sensitivity and exhilarating authority, Richard enjoys an international career as a sought-after performer, recording artist, and teacher. He has given performances across Australia, North America, Europe, and Asia, in prestigious venues such as the Kennedy Center, Chicago Symphony Center, Koerner Hall, and the Sydney Opera House. As a result of his stylistic versatility, innovative programming, and wide-ranging musical pursuits, Richard has earned an international reputation as one of his generation's most notable artists. Richard won the Australia Youth Classical Music Competition in 2010.



Presenter – Daniel Fullerton



National Adjudicator – Eliza Shephard



Waiting for the announcements

2026 National Competition Results

National \$20,000 Overseas Travel Scholarship Winner – Noah Oshiro (Cello) Sponsored by the Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust



Noah Oshiro was born in Sydney, Australia where he completed a Bachelor of Music at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music in 2024, studying with Julian Smiles, Danny Yeadon, and chamber music with Alice Waten. In late 2025, he relocated to Salzburg to continue his studies at the Mozarteum University under Giovanni Gnocchi. Previously, he was a Fellow with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra (2022) and Opera Australia Orchestra (2023-25). An avid chamber musician, Noah was part of the Schumann String Quartet residency at Echo Arts Munich with the Elvina String Quartet and has performed at the Sydney Festival, Sydney International Jazz Festival, Orange Chamber Music Festival and the UTZON Room Series at the Sydney Opera House with the Brodsky Quartet. As a soloist, he has won the National Fine Music Young Virtuoso Award (2024) and the Sydney Eisteddfod Drs Instrumental Scholarship (2025), was a finalist in the AYCMC and

has premiered his own unaccompanied cello works at the Orange Chamber Music Festival. From 2026, Noah will be joining the Gewandhaus Orchestra in Leipzig as a part of the Mendelssohn Academy.

National \$5,000 Second Prize – Joshua Han (Piano) & Audience Prize Sponsored by The Athenaeum Club Foundation and the Young Artists Trust



Winner of the 2024 Australian National Piano Award, Joshua Han has been praised for “complete mastery of his instrument and complete empathy with the music” (Sydney Arts Guide). He has performed across four continents, including concertos with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra, Sendai Philharmonic Orchestra and Suwon Philharmonic Orchestra, with conductors including Benjamin Northey, Ken Takaseki and Daejin Kim. In April 2026, Joshua stepped in at short notice for Alexander Gavrylyuk to perform Strauss’ Burleske with The Orchestra Project and Fabian Russell. His 2025-2026 season includes concertos with the Sydney Conservatorium of Music Symphony Orchestra and Sydney Harbour Ensemble, and recitals at ACO on The Pier and Albury Chamber music Festival. Joshua’s international successes include First Prizes at the International Piano Competition J.S. Bach: Aarhus International Piano Competition; and Ettlingen

International Piano Competition. As the Australian National Piano Award winner, Joshua also received Audience Prize and awards for interpreting Bach, Chopin and Beethoven. Born in 2002, Joshua began piano studies aged four and received his Licentiate Diploma (LMusA) aged ten. He is undertaking a Master of Music studies at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music under Paul Rickard-Ford, supported by the Theme and Variations Foundation, Cope-Williams arts Foundation and Ian Potter Cultural Trust.

National \$3,000 Third Prize – Freya Parr (Clarinet)



Freya Parr is a clarinettist from Melbourne, currently in the final year of her Honours Degree in Music Performance at the University of Melbourne, studying with David Thomas. Prior to this, she completed a double degree in Music and Arts at Monash University, where she learned from dr Nicole Canham. Freya also studied with Jon Craven and Robert Schubert. Freya has played with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and Orchestra Victoria, and recently toured with the Australian Youth Orchestra through Germany, Austria and The Netherlands. Freya is also a passionate chamber musician, and enjoys playing with reed quintet Reeds Bending and clarinet, violin and piano trio Ellipsis. In 2024, Freya was the winner of the Monash University Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music Concerto Competition. In 2025 and 2026, she performed clarinet concertos by Mozart and Weber with the Monash Academy Orchestra and Melbourne Youth Orchestra.

National Prize Winners



First Prize Winner – Noah Oshiro



Second Prize – Joshua Han



Third Prize – Freya Parr

National Finalists



Finalist – Liam Freisberg



Finalist – Bernice Chua



Finalist – Ein Na

National Finalists



Finalist – Josephine Daniel



Finalist – Justin Wang

National Finals Presentations



First Prize winner – Noah Oshiro & Warwick Ross (Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust)



Second Prize Winner – Joshua Han & Paul McDonald (Athenaeum Club Foundation & Young Artist Trust)



Third Prize Winner – Freya Parr & Keith Fagg (Chair)



Audience Prize – Joshua Han



ABOUT US

The Australian Youth Classical Music Competition is voluntarily administered by a small group of Board members, all from the Geelong region with years of experience in managing not-for profit organisations and musical expertise.



Keith Fagg OAM B. Ec. (Hons) - Chair

Keith has been Chair of AYCMC since 2014. In addition to long involvement in his family building supplies business, Keith is an Accredited Mediator. He has been involved with numerous community & charitable organisations and served as Geelong's first directly elected Mayor in 2012-13.



David Fox – Project Coordinator

David has been involved in music all his life, studying piano to Grade 8 and working full time as a musician. He was the Audio Visual Technician at Sacred Heart College for many years before moving into the role of school development and publications. He is passionate about promoting young musical talent.



Ryan van Agtmaal CPA - Treasurer

Ryan is a certified practising accountant with over 9 years of experience and is currently working at Moore Australia. He moved to Geelong in 2021 and when not spending time with his young family he is likely playing golf. Although not experienced in the classical music world he is eager to learn about something new and meet new people whilst applying his accounting expertise in the treasurer role. He is excited to see more incredibly talented, up and coming musicians in 2025.



Marian McDonald BA (Libshp) - Secretary

Marian was the former music competition Project Coordinator as an employee of the Geelong Performing Arts Centre from 2009 to 2018, and joined the GAMST Board in 2019. Experienced in event management and administration, she has been the Secretary of the Geelong Symphony Orchestra since 2016.



Wendy Galloway OAM BA DSCM

Wendy is a Sydney Conservatorium of Music graduate and has played violin and viola professionally in Australia, America and Europe. She was a teacher and educator in several Geelong schools and in private practice plus an examiner for the AMEB for many years. She was instrumental in setting up youth music groups and orchestras including the Geelong Chamber Orchestra and the Geelong Symphony Orchestra.



Michael Hannan BA (Hons) PhD

Michael studied music at The University of Sydney and was a Fulbright Fellow at UCLA. Before moving to Geelong in 2020, Michael was Professor of Music at Southern Cross University. He has published many articles and books on music, and written over 150 compositions.



Gary Jewson. DipT. GradDipTheol. BEd. MEd(LeaderMgmt)

Gary has served on the AYCMC board since 2021. His professional career has been in state education in Melbourne and in private education in Geelong. He serves on two other NFP boards and brings management and strategic experience to his role with the AYCMC.



Marjorie Nicholas, OAM, LL.B. (Melb.)

In addition to her extensive experience as a lawyer and as a non-executive Board Director, Marjorie is a classically trained pianist, clarinettist and cellist. She is an active supporter, both in music and in education more broadly, of student development and mentoring programs and performance opportunities.



Daniel Fullerton BA LLB (Hons)

Daniel is a Principal Lawyer at Harwood Andrews, practicing in the areas of Commercial Litigation and Prosecutions. Daniel has been a board member and secretary of the AYCMC since 2024 and is also a member of the Committee for Geelong Strategy and Policy Committee and the Law Institute of Victoria Prosecutions Section.

OUR SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS



Major National Sponsor - Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust (National 1st Prize)



Athenaeum Club Foundation & Young Artist Trust (National 2nd Prize)



Geelong Chamber Music Society (Regional 1st Prize)

Scobie & Claire Mackinnon Trust

The Ruth Fagg Foundation

Geelong Connected Communities

The Geelong College

Geelong Symphony Orchestra Inc.

Heather Prince Photo

Phil Thomson Photography

Geelong Printworks

Café Brioche

Founding Patrons

John & Pat Brockman, Catherine Gray, Estate of Howard Hitchcock, Fletcher Jones,
Murray McAllister and the Nall Family

OUR PARTNERSHIPS

Patrons



Jayson Gillham (Piano)



Emily Sun (Violin)



David Griffiths (Clarinet)

The Australian Youth Classical Music Competition Limited are pleased to announce three new Patrons representing the musical disciplines of keyboards, strings and wind.

Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust Sponsor of \$20,000 Overseas Travel Scholarship

The Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust (AETT) is a non-profit organisation that supports the arts in Australia and has done so since 1954 by providing financial assistance to individual artists, groups and companies. The role of the AETT has continued to evolve since its establishment but its purpose has remained the same; to support the arts in Australia, for Australia and by Australians.

Once the governing body which established and administered some of the country's greatest artistic companies, the AETT continues to play a vital role in the arts in Australia, relying entirely on funding from private donation.

The AETT nurtured and saw to independence Australian companies including Opera Australia, The Australian Ballet Foundation, National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA), and Bell Shakespeare Company. Today, it is known for its International Music Scholarship Program that provides assistance to musicians, singers and conductors to further professional development abroad.

The AETT has supported the Australian Youth Classical Music Competition since 2015 by providing a substantial overseas travel scholarship as the first prize in the National Competition. Through General Manager, Warwick Ross, our Trust and the AETT have worked creatively together to enhance significant aspects of the Competition.

The Athenaeum Club Foundation and the Young Artists Trust Sponsor of \$5,000 National Second Prize

Cultural pursuits have always been central to the ethos of the Athenaeum Club since its inception in 1868. As part of this commitment to the Arts, the Club has a long history in supporting young creative talent. This support is managed through the Athenaeum Club Foundation and the Young Artists Trust. The Young artists Trust was established in 2003 to provide a vehicle through which contributions from Club members could be used to endow prizes and bursaries to outstanding young musicians, visual artists and emerging writers and poets.

Since its inception, the YAT has raised over \$2000,000 to support young talent in visual arts, music and literature, including the purchase of a concert harp and five string instruments which are loaned to outstanding young musicians who would otherwise be unable to access instruments of comparable quality.

The winner of the Second Prize will also be invited to perform at an Athenaeum Club member function with an appropriate performance fee paid.

LEGAL STRUCTURE

The Competition is conducted by Australian Youth Classical Music Competition Limited (ACN 159 947 378) (AYCMC) as the Trustee of the Geelong Advertiser Music Scholarship Trust.

Originally established under a Deed of Trust dated 1 July 1991, the Competition's principal purpose is to encourage the development of young, talented, instrumental musicians who are Australian citizens or residents and to benefit them through the provision of a financial scholarship to assist in furthering their musical education.

AYCMC is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) as a Charity, with donations being tax-deductible.

Event Coordination

The event has been coordinated by the Geelong Performing Arts Centre from 2008 until 2019.

Since 2021, Trustee David Fox has taken on the role of Project Coordinator of the Australian Youth Classical Music Competition.

Chair Report 2026

On behalf of my fellow Directors, I am very pleased to present this annual Chair Report of the Australian Youth Classical Music Competition for the 2026 year.

It is always important to first recognise the founders from the Geelong Advertiser who back in 1990 had the vision for a scholarship program which would encourage young, classical music performers with international potential to achieve excellence in their craft. The competition has continued to build since then.

However, as times have moved on, the direct involvement of the Geelong Advertiser has diminished so in 2025 the Board considered it appropriate to formally change the name from the "Geelong Advertiser Music Scholarship Trust" to "Australian Youth Classical Music Competition Ltd." This change does not change in any way lessen the appreciation we feel for the original founders of the competition but does assist us in making the national nature of the competition clearer in our official name.

The Regional Competition Final was held on Saturday June 13th at the Keith Humble Centre at the Geelong College. The finalists – listed elsewhere in this report – provided a very enjoyable concert of a very high standard. The winner was pianist Jennifer Yu and we wish Jennifer well in her future studies. The Regional Competition is of particular importance as it encourages aspiring musicians in the Geelong region to achieve recognition, performance experience and encourage the further development of their musical careers.

Likewise, in the National Competition all performances by the eight finalists were superb. These finalists were short-listed from 42 applications received this year from almost all states of Australia. The National Competition final concert was held on Saturday July 11th. This continued the change adopted in 2025 where the whole competition is held on one day, with each finalist allocated 30 minutes to perform. The feedback from the participants, judges and audience members has been very positive about this new format and which will be continued in 2027.

The Adjudication Panel for the National Final were Laurence Matheson, Richard Narroway & Eliza Shephard, all recognised exceptional musicians and educators. They were tasked with a most challenging responsibility given the very high standard of performances by all the sponsors.

All eight finalists gave marvellous and memorable performances on the day.

The first prize winner, who is awarded the \$20,000 travel scholarship sponsored by the Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust, was cellist Noah Oshiro. All the finalists and prize winners are listed elsewhere in this report.

On behalf of the Board, many congratulations to all the superb young musicians who participated in the 2026 Regional and National Competitions. We thank you and wish each of you every best wish for your future musical careers.

A number of loyal and significant sponsors have been with the Competition for years and we do thank them sincerely.

In particular, the Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust, through General Manager Warwick Ross, became a major sponsor in 2015. We greatly value the active partnership we have established with the Trust and for Warwick's personal enthusiasm for the Competition. Through this contact, the standard of the National Competition has been greatly enhanced.

This year we are pleased to again have the Athenaeum Club Foundation Young Artists Trust as the sponsor of the \$5,000 second prize. The third prize to \$3,000 and the remaining five finalists each now received \$1,000 each.

The on-going substantial support of The Scobie & Claire Mackinnon Trust is also much appreciated and underpins many aspects of our activities.

We also appreciate other sponsors who have been with us, some for many years and particularly acknowledge support from Geelong Chamber Music Society, Ruth Fagg Foundation, Geelong Connected Communities, together with a number of generous individual donors.

There is a substantial cost to provide prizes of this order and we continue to pursue relevant sponsorship and grant opportunities. Donations to support what we do are also most welcome.

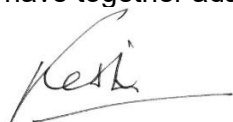
Once again, David Fox very capably filled the role of honorary Competition Co-ordinator, continuing to develop many aspects of the marketing, website, competitor and program co-ordination. David's passion for the competition continues and we are indeed indebted to David for his time and expertise.

Marian McDonald is the Board Secretary and does a superb job in supporting many aspects of the Competition and Board responsibilities.

To current Directors – David Fox, Daniel Fullerton, Wendy Galloway OAM, Michael Hannan, Gary Jewson, Marian McDonald, Marjorie Nicholas OAM and Ryan Van Agtmaal - I would like to express my great appreciation. All Directors contribute in a variety of ways and the Competition would not be so successful without their expertise and active involvement, all voluntary.

The Board looks forward to maintaining and improving the high standard of our Competitions and presenting many more concerts of fine music in 2027 and beyond.

This is my last report as Board Chair. I have filled this role since late 2014 and it is well beyond time to refresh the leadership. It has been a pleasure and privilege to Chair this Board, all capable and talented people who work together well. I greatly appreciate the support given by past and present Directors as we have together adapted & improved the Competition.



Keith Fagg OAM
Chair

OUR NEWS and INITIATIVES

Fundraising Lunch with Kym Dillon



Each year, the Australian Youth Classical Music Competition Limited hosts a fundraising luncheon with a guest speaker. Kym Alexandra Dillon is an Australian composer, pianist and presenter whose unique path as a musician has led her to cultivating a category-defying artistic career. Equally at home improvising in jazz ensembles, composing for symphony orchestras, performing complex contemporary works or engaging orchestral audiences with her talks on music, her professional activity spans across a multitude of disciplines and genres, all stemming from her deep love of music, and belief in its power to shape and enrich our lives. Kym kept the audience highly entertained with her stories and appropriate piano accompaniment.

ABC Young Performers Awards

Congratulations 2026 semi-finalists, all are either current or previous finalists in the AYCMC.



The 2026 ABC Young Performers Awards, celebrating ABC Classic's 50th anniversary, features a national search for Australia's top young classical soloists. The competition culminates in a televised Grand Final on November 3, 2026, where three finalists will perform a concerto with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra at the Sydney Opera House.



Dindin Jingyi Wang (Violin)



Lily Bryant (Flute)



Joshua Han (Piano)



Beatrice Colombis (Violin)

News from current or previous AYCMC finalists / winners



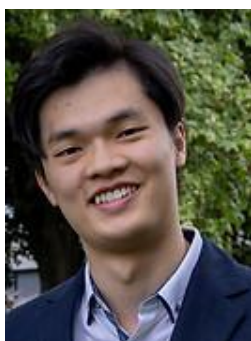
Congratulations **Jude Holland (2025 National finalist)** Jude has been selected to study at the prestigious School of Music Hanns Eisler Berlin. Jude's audition was held in Berlin in July. In his words, "A new chapter!" The Board of the AYCMC offer Jude congratulations and best wishes for this amazing adventure. Yet another finalist from this competition has gone onto bigger and better things.



Congratulations **Beatrice Colombis (2025 National finalist)** in achieving first place in the prestigious Michael Hill International Violin Competition.
Congratulations Beatrice – semi-finalist in the 2026 ABC Young Performers Awards.



Yue (Carol) Wang (2019 National winner) currently resides in Vienna where she freelances as a bassoonist. In 2026 her wind quintet "Vienta" was awarded 2nd prize in the Lyon International Chamber Music Competition. Carol has performed with many internationally renowned orchestras, including the Vienna Symphony, RSO, Tonkünstler, Opera Graz and Luxembourg Philharmonie.



Joshua Han (2022, 2025 & 2026 National finalist) fulfilled his 2025 prize at The Athenaeum Club in Melbourne (February 13), performing a recital of Beethoven and Chopin sonatas. The standing ovation at the end said it all. Simply astonishing playing from a talented pianist this competition has grown to respect so much.

Congratulations Joshua – semi-finalist in the 2026 ABC Young Performers Awards.

By popular demand he is returning to the Sydney Conservatorium to perform Rachmaninoff 3 again on September 4th.



Ari Volovelsky (2024 National finalist) said after two years at ANAM, I'm starting a trial with MSO. I'm just in my first week off now. I'm scheming to fill Australia with saucy recitals and chamber music, and just find the upper limit of how well I can play the cello. I'm keen to represent Australia in my playing and open to learn from others at competitions and festivals around the world. I participated in the Schoenfeld International Strings Competition in Harbin, receiving a scholarship from the Schoenfeld Foundation.



Dindin Wang (2025 National winner) is in her fifth year at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia and has just won the first prize of the 2025 Hengqin International Mozart Violin Competition Group C category, which was held in China this September. Next May Dindin will graduate with her Bachelor's degree from the Curtis Institute of Music. **Congratulations Din Din – semi-finalist in the 2026 ABC Young Performers Awards.**



Donica Tran (2024 National winner) has been studying in Austria at the Anton Bruckner Privatuniversität where she was generously given a loan of a Giovanni Battista Guadagnini violin made in 1750. She was also invited to perform in the Boyne Music Festival in Ireland and plays regularly as a substitute in the Brucknerorchester. She will continue to study into next year and is thoroughly enjoying life on a different continent but also missing home dearly.



Michael Liu (2024 National finalist). I'm still studying overseas in Leipzig, Germany, and I'm currently in my second year of Bachelors! All is well here, enjoyed the amazing European summer where I spent it up in the mountains of Lugano, Switzerland, attending the Ticino Musica Festival and had masterclasses as well as performed with Ivan Podyomov, the Principal Oboist of the Koninklijk Concertgebouw. Recently, I made my way to Brisbane, Queensland where I participated in the Australasian Double Reed Society Competition, and was fortunate enough to be awarded 1st place in the Elite Section!



Congratulations **Matthew Kweh (2024 Regional winner)** Matthew has been awarded LMusA in piano and AMusA in violin.

A great achievement for Matthew, senior student at The Geelong College and already an accomplished musician. Matthew was placed Second in the 2025 Regional Final playing the violin and won the 2025 Musical Society of Geelong Competition



Jingyang Huang (2022 Regional winner) completed Year 12 at Geelong Grammar and was accepted into the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music where he currently studies under Konstantin Shamray. Earlier this year Jingyang attended a concert by his teacher and was given a "special" seat! - right beside Konstantin, as page turner.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & THANK YOUS

The Board of the Australian Youth Classical Music Competition Limited would like to thank our sponsors, supporters, adjudicators, stage crew and volunteers for their generous encouragement and support.

Grants and Funding

- Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust (sponsor of \$20,000 National 1st Prize)
- Athenium Club Foundation and the Young Artists Trust (sponsor of \$5,000 National 2nd Prize)
- The Scobie and Claire Mackinnon Trust
- Ruth Fagg Foundation
- Geelong Connected Communities

Corporate & Community partners

- Geelong Chamber Music Society (sponsor of \$2,000 Regional First Prize)
- The Geelong College
- Geelong Symphony Orchestra Inc.
- Geelong Print Works (Finals Concert programs)
- Raffle prize donors – Geelong BMW, Fagg's Mitre 10 and Nicol's Paddock Winery
- Café Brioché (Meeting space)

Original Patrons of the Trust

- John & Pat Brockman
- Catherine Gray
- Estate of Howard Hitchcock
- Fletcher Jones
- Murray McAllister
- Nall Family

Concert Crew

- Joel Lane (Stage Manager)
- Emily Rice (Video Recording)
- Heather Prince Photos
- Phil Thomson Photography
- Chris Price (Geelong College)

National Finalist Billets

Supporters / Donors

Regional Audition Panel

Susan Buchan (Keyboard), Suzanne Moodie (Woodwind) and Shane Lestideau (Strings)

Regional Finals Adjudicators

Dr Pip Robinson & Cindy Watkin

National Selection Panel

Dr Kenji Fujimura, Professor David Griffiths & Dr Elizabeth Sellars

National Adjudication Panel

Laurence Matheson, Dr Richard Narroway & Eliza Shephard

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Support a future event

The Australian Youth Classical Music Competition presents two concerts annually for the community to attend and enjoy superb afternoons of classical music.

Regional Finals Concert – Saturday June 19th 2027, 2pm

National Finals Concert – Saturday July 3rd 2027

Morning Session 10.30am – 12.30pm, Afternoon Session 2 – 5pm

Make a donation



The Trustee for the Geelong Advertiser Music Scholarship Trust is the Australian Youth Classical Music Competition Limited (ACN 159 947 378).

The Australian Youth Classical Music Competition Limited is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).

We always need help in running this competition for our young artists, so if you are interested in offering support, gifts made to the **Australian Youth Classical Music Competition Limited** are Tax deductible and can be made direct to our bank account.

Bank Account Details

Name of Account: Australian Youth Classical Music Competition Limited

Bank Name: Bendigo Bank

BSB: 633 000

Account Number: 223 492 489

Donations

Donations can also be made via the website <https://www.aycmc.org.au/support>

Leave a bequest

A lasting gift in the form of a bequest is a wonderful way to provide for the future of classical musicians in Australia. Charitable Bequests of donations or gifts will be invested for the long-term benefit of aspiring young classical musicians participating in the Australian Youth Classical Music Competition.

CONTACT US

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