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2020 RMP ARIA CONTESTANT ENTRY FORM

Please complete this form and email a scanned signed copy of it to musicdirector@rmp.org.au as soon as possible by **NO LATER THAN 10pm on SUNDAY 18 October 2020** if you wish to enter the 14th RMP ARIA competition to take place on Sunday 25 October 2020 at 3pm.

Name of entrant:

(PLEASE PRINT AS YOU WISH IT TO APPEAR)

Voice type (as you wish to be classified):

eh. coloratura soprano, contralto, lyric tenor, tenor, baritone, bass baritone etc.:

Date Of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____ **Age in Years:** ____ **Are You an Australian Citizen?** YES / NO

Place of Birth: City of birth: _____ Country of Birth: _____

CURRENT RESIDENTIAL CONTACT DETAILS:

Mobile: _____ **Telephone:** _____

Primary Email address: _____

Second Email address: _____

Current occupation: _____

Residential / Postal Address: **Street:** _____

NB: THIS MUST BE CURRENT

Suburb: _____ **State:** _____ **Postcode:** _____

DECLARATION:

I have read, understand and agree with the conditions of entry **Signed:**



2020 RMP ARIA

1. Eligibility

The RMP Aria Competition is open to all classical singers, amateur or professional. Eligible entrants must be:

- i) under 35 years at 25 October, 2020
- ii) an Australian citizen or current Australian resident.

Any previous or current member of the RMP choir, or a previously engaged soloist with the RMP is still permitted to enter the competition, provided they meet the two criteria above.

2. Repertoire for finalists

Contestants **must** perform repertoire **strictly from oratorio**, and no operatic repertoire or artsong / lieder etc will be permitted, irrespective of period. **Any recitative, aria, or excerpt will be permitted from oratorio, sacred cantata, mass, mass fragment, liturgical work or a musical composition (originally or generally not intended to be staged) whose text is generally religious, serious or philosophical in nature.**

Any queries regarding permitted repertoire should be directed to the RMP Artistic Director, Mr Andrew Wailes **via email: musicdirector@rmp.org.au or SMS: 0433 661 971**

Entrants should consult their teachers / coaches and give careful consideration to selecting repertoire which showcases their ability to perform in an appropriate stylistic manner, and which best displays their vocal quality, flexibility, musical style, range of expression, delivery of text, and vocal technique.

All entrants MUST perform at least one recitative and at least one aria, up to eleven minutes in total duration of music.

Entrants may choose to sing less than eleven minutes, or may choose to perform more than two items, to the total duration of eleven minutes. (A 30 second grace period will be allowed for interpretation variations on the night). Applause between items will not be included in time limitation.

Items do not need to be performed from memory, nor in the original language, but **music to be performed must be supplied to the official accompanist and judges** that is in the same language and key as that being performed. **THIS SHOULD BE EMAILED AS A PDF OR JPEG FILE IN ADVANCE.**

3. Selection process and Accompaniment

Depending on the number and quality of applicants, finalists will be selected based on written application, supporting materials and recorded / filmed support material provided.

Up to eight finalists and a reserve finalist, but no fewer than six finalists will be selected to perform before the judges at Deakin Edge, Federation Square with the official accompanist Stefan Cassomenos on Sunday 25 October 2020 at 3pm. This will be subject to government regulations and approvals at the time.

Rehearsal times will be allocated in Deakin Edge between 9am and 1pm that afternoon, and prior to the day of the final at a time mutually convenient. Singers will need to contact Stefan in advance regarding prior rehearsal.

This competition is still open to interstate singers, however, due to the travel restrictions, it may not be possible for all selected finalists to travel to Melbourne. If the judges feel that their submitted materials are good enough, they may still be considered and invited to participate.



4. Adjudication

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and changing regulations, the exact arrangements for this event may need to be altered at short notice. Rather than cancel the event altogether, the RMP wants to hold an event within the regulations at the time, but as a result of uncertainty and changing conditions, this year's event will now be filmed and not be able to take place in front of a live audience. The performances will be broadcast at a later date, along with the judges decision and a remote performance by members of the RMP. If singers are prevented from performing live in Deakin Edge, the judges may either cancel the competition, or award prizes based on the materials submitted if they feel that there has been a satisfactory standard displayed in the submitted auditions. As a result, singers are strongly advised to dress formally in their online submitted performances as this material may be required to reach a decision in the worst case if government regulations prevent filming to go ahead in Deakin Edge as planned.

Adjudication will take place over two stages: Application for semi final / final appearance, and the Final in the form of a filmed performance at Deakin Edge on SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER 2020 at 3pm.

Contestants will be judged on:

- Performance
- Technique
- Stylistic performance and interpretation
- Stage Presentation
- Potential as an oratorio soloist

If required, eligible entrants may be asked to sing for and be interviewed by the Chair of the Adjudicators, Mr Andrew Wailes (RMP Artistic Director and Chief conductor) who will be assisted by at least one other adjudication panel member in the final selection process. NB: This is not usually required.

Mr Andrew Wailes will chair the adjudication panel for the Final. He will be joined by the two other specialist judges and the official accompanist (Mr Stefan Cassomenos).

In the case of a deadlock, the Chair of the Adjudication panel will have the casting vote. The decision of the Adjudicators is final.

5. Documents and supporting material

Entrants must complete and sign the official entry form and email it by NO LATER THAN 10pm SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER 2020. All entries should be emailed to: musicdirector@rmp.org.au

Phone enquiries should be directed to Andrew Wailes +61 (0)433 661 971, or by email: musicdirector@rmp.org.au.

NB. There is no entry fee for participants.

Care should be taken to provide all information requested accurately and completely.

All entrants must complete an entry form, and submit it, along with a recording (either MP3, MP4 video, .mov file etc) of themselves singing (any repertoire is permitted), a recent colour headshot, as well as a brief CV of no more than four A4 pages listing vocal background, experience & previous engagements/ training etc.

Any relevant supporting material (references from teachers or employers, press reviews etc) must be limited to an additional 3 A4 pages, or 4 A4 pages if used in place of a recording.



SUPPLY OF MUSIC BEING USED

Selected Finalists must provide the official accompanist and adjudicators with **4 copies** of a legible, bound score (please avoid plastic page pockets where possible) by the date of the final (this will be provided to finalists at the time of their selection) of all items to be performed at the Final.

6. Performance and Recording Rights

The Royal Melbourne Philharmonic has the right to video, film, record or photograph all stages of the Competition for archival or promotional purposes, for use on the RMP website or any other media without fee to the singer. All finalists will receive a CD recording of their performance.

Broadcast rights remain with the RMP.

All approaches to the media must be made through and with the approval of the RMP. Contestants will be required to be available for media calls prior to or following the Aria competition by arrangement with the RMP Artistic Director and / or Publicist.

7. Terms and Prizes

This year, prizes will not be announced on the day of the final. After hearing all the finalists, the judging panel will record their verdict and this will be announced by the Chair of the Adjudication panel at the time of the delayed broadcast.

First prize will be a cash award of \$1500, plus a professional photographic portrait sitting and headshot package (over \$500 value), as well as a paid professional future engagement and recording with the Royal Melbourne Philharmonic at a time mutually agreed to in the future.

Second prize will be a cash prize of \$1000, with an optional offer of a paid professional future engagement with the RMP.

Third prize will be a cash prize of \$500, with an optional offer of a paid professional future engagement with the RMP.

A special People's Choice Award will take the form of a cash prize of \$350. This will be judged by the online audience at the time of the broadcast via an online poll.

There will also be a conductor's Encouragement Award of \$250, awarded by the RMP Artistic Director.

All finalists will receive a professionally filmed record of their performance in Deakin Edge if this is permitted at the time.

In the event of unsatisfactory standard of performance, the second and third prizes, and any other minor awards may be not awarded on the unanimous recommendation of the Judges.



2020 RMP ARIA ENTRANT CHECKLIST

Please ensure that the following have been submitted:

1. Completed Entry Form

Entrants must complete and sign the official entry form and lodge it along with any supporting materials by NO LATER THAN 10pm SUNDAY 18th OCTOBER 2020. **Email to: musicdirector@rmp.org.au**

2. Up to three Audio / Video Recordings of entrant (MP3 file or video permitted) (SEE No. 4 BELOW)
This can be of any repertoire and does not necessarily have to be oratorio, but oratorio preferred.

3. A CV and biography of no more than 4 A4 pages listing vocal background, any relevant performance experience and previous engagements/ musical training / specific oratorio performances etc.

4. A high resolution digital copy of a recent colour headshot and at least 10cm x 10cm at high resolution (min 300dpi). This can be sent as a JPEG, TIFF, or PNG file.

OPTIONAL:

5. Any relevant support material (AMEB or University results, professional references, reviews, adjudications, letters of support, links to websites, online reviews etc)

This material must be limited to an additional three A4 pages, or four A4 pages if used in place of a recording

QUESTIONS / FURTHER INFORMATION:

For enquiries about the competition please email Andrew Wailes: musicdirector@rmp.org.au
Andrew Wailes can also be contacted on +614 33 661 971

PLEASE NOTE:

It is intended that successful entrants chosen as finalists will be invited to rehearse with Stefan Cassommenos in Melbourne by private arrangement, as is allowed under government restrictions at the time.

Finalists will perform one at a time at Deakin Edge, in costume, where they will be filmed. The Adjudicators will be present, with physical distancing and COVID-19 safety protocols in place.

Each singer will have around 15-20 mins allotted to them for rehearsal in the venue in the morning, with the official accompanist. Singers will be given specific arrival times to enable this.

No results will be given at the time. Judges will confer and decisions will be announced at the time of the broadcast, once footage can be packaged up with pauses and gaps in filming removed to allow for safe arrival and departure of singers.

Former RMP Aria Finalists

2007

Adrian Tamburini (**Winner**) *bass baritone*
Laurence Miekle (**Runner Up**) *baritone*
Emily Uhlrich (**Third Place**) *lyric coloratura soprano*
Suzanne Shakespeare (**Judges Commendation**) *soprano*
Catriona Bell (*lyric coloratura soprano*)
Anna Louise Cole (*soprano*)
George Liakatos (*tenor*)
Selina Pettifer (*mezzo soprano*)

2008

Jessica Aszodi (**Winner**) *soprano*
Daniel Goodwin (**Runner Up**) *counter tenor*
Emily Uhlrich (**Third Place**) *lyric coloratura soprano*
Barbara Zavros (*soprano*)
Timothy Reynolds (*tenor*)
Christopher Busietta (*lyric tenor*)
Catriona Bell (*lyric coloratura soprano*)
Dana Zeimer (*coloratura soprano*)

2009

Robert Macfarlane (**Winner**) *tenor*
Nicholas Dinopolous (**Runner Up**) *bass baritone*
Rose Nolan (**Joint Third Place**) *mezzo soprano*
Anna Louise Cole (**Joint Third Place**) *soprano*
Paul Biencourt (**People's Choice Award**) *lyric tenor*
Melanie Adams* *soprano*
Madelaine Lucy Smith
Matthew Thomas* *bass baritone*

*withdrew due to illness

2010

Christopher Richardson (**Winner**) *bass baritone*
Greta Bradman (**Runner Up and People's Choice Award**) *soprano*
Stacey Alleaume (**Third Prize**) *coloratura soprano*
Gérard Schneider (**Special Commendation**) *tenor*
Rosel Labone (*soprano*)
Matthew Thomas (*bass baritone*)
Timothy Reynolds (*tenor*)
Sophie Yelland (*mezzo soprano*)

2011

Daniel Todd (**Winner**) *tenor*
Stacey Alleaume (**Runner Up**) *soprano*
Ying Hui Matthew Tng
(**Third Prize and People's Choice Award**) *baritone*
Hannah Dahlenburg (**Judges Commendation**) *soprano*
Nathan Lay (*baritone*)
Samanthan du Rennes (*soprano*)
Rosel Labone (*mezzo soprano*)
Anna Plotka (*mezzo soprano*)

2012

Lotte Betts Dean (**Winner**) *soprano*
Nathan Lay (**Runner Up and People's Choice Award**) *baritone*
Jeremy Kleeman (**Third Place**) *bass baritone*
Timothy Reynolds *tenor*
Barbara Zavros (*soprano*)
Kate Amos (*soprano*)
Alexandra Flood* (*lyric coloratura soprano*)

*withdrew due to illness

2013

Nathan Lay (**Winner and People's Choice Award**) *baritone*
Stephanie Gibson (**Runner Up**) *lyric coloratura soprano*
Michael Lampard (**Third Place**) *baritone*
Christine Heald (*mezzo soprano*)
Christopher Busietta (*lyric tenor*)
Cristina Russo (*soprano*)
Teresa Duddy (*soprano*)

2014

Daniel Carison (**Winner**) *bass baritone*
Maximilian Riebl (**Runner Up**) *counter tenor*
Jeremy Kleeman (**Third Place and People's Choice Award**) *bass baritone*
Michael Lampard (**Conductor's Encouragement Prize**) *baritone*
Esiter Morgan (*soprano*)
Alissa Andraski (*lyric coloratura soprano*)
Joelene Griffith (*lyric coloratura soprano*)
Elizabeth Lewis *mezzo soprano* (*Reserve Finalist*)

2015

Bronwyn Douglass, (**Winner**) *mezzo soprano*
Jeremy Kleeman, (**Joint Runner Up and People's Choice Award**) *bass baritone*
Sarah Ampil (**Joint Runner Up**) *lyric soprano*
Maximilian Riebl (**Third**) *counter tenor*
Timothy Newton (**Conductor's Encouragement Prize**) *bass*
Emma Wu *soprano*
Branko Lovrinov *tenor*
Jordina Howell *soprano* (*Reserve Finalist*)

2016

Max Riebl (**Winner, and People's Choice Award**) *counter tenor*
Sarah Ampil (**Runner up**) *lyric soprano*
Timothy Newton (**Joint Third Place**) *bass*
Fleuranne Brockway (**Joint Third Place**) *mezzo soprano*
Samuel Piper (**Conductor's Encouragement Prize**) *baritone*
Anastasia Bickel (*contralto*)
Tomas Dalton (*tenor*)

2017

Oliver Boyd (**Winner, and People's Choice Award**) *baritone*
Michael Petruccelli (**Runner up**) *lyric tenor*
Samuel Piper (**Third Place**) *baritone*
James Emerson (**Conductor's Encouragement Prize**) *bass baritone*
Tomas Dalton *tenor*
Rachel Pines *coloratura soprano*
Melissa Gregory *mezzo soprano*
Fleuranne Brockway *mezzo soprano**
James Doig *tenor**

2018

Cassandra Wright (**Winner, and People's Choice Award**) *soprano*
Christian Smith (**Runner up**) *baritone*
Shakira Tsindos (**Third Place**) *mezzo soprano*
Karina Bligh (**Conductor's Encouragement Prize**) *soprano*
Charlotte Kelso (*mezzo soprano*)
Briana Louwen (*soprano*)
Jane Magão (*soprano*)
Reserve Finalist: Hamish Gould (*counter tenor*)
Celeste Haworth* (*mezzo soprano*)

*withdrew and did not perform

2019

Louis Hurley (**Winner**) *tenor*
James Emerson (**Runner up**) *baritone*
Joshua Oxley (**Third Place and and People's Choice Award**) *tenor*
Charlotte Kelso (**Conductor's Encouragement Prize**) *mezzo soprano*
Briana Louwen (*soprano*)
Hew Wagner (*tenor*)
Hamish Gould (*counter tenor*)
Michelle Ryan* (*soprano*)
Michael Dimovsky, *tenor** (*Reserve Finalist*)

*withdrew and did not perform due to illness