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2026 RMP ARIA CONTESTANT ENTRY FORM

Please complete this form and email it to the Royal Melbourne Philharmonic as soon as possible by **NO LATER THAN 5pm on FRIDAY 31st JULY 2026** if you wish to enter the 20th RMP ARIA competition to take place on Saturday 29th August, 2026 at 7pm at The Edge, Federation Square.

Name of entrant:

(PLEASE PRINT AS YOU WISH IT TO APPEAR)

Voice type (as you wish to be classified):

eg. 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: _____

CONTACT DETAILS:

Mobile: _____ **Telephone:** _____

Primary Email address: _____

Second Email address: _____

Current occupation: _____

Current Residential Address: **Street:** _____

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

DECLARATION:

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



2026 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 29 August, 2026
- ii) an Australasian citizen or current 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 13 minutes in total duration of music.

Entrants may choose to sing less than 13 minutes, or may choose to perform more than two items, to the total duration of 13 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 **4 printed copies of 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 BROUGHT AT THE TIME OF YOUR FINAL SOUNDCHECK / REHEARSAL ON THE DAY.**

3. Selection process and Accompaniment

Depending on the number and quality of applicants, finalists will be selected without performing in live heats, based on written application, supporting materials and recorded support material provided.

If the quality and number of applicants requires a live performance prior to the final, applicants will be contacted directly to discuss possible live performance times / dates. Six, or a total of up to eight finalists and a reserve finalist, but no fewer than six finalists, will be selected to perform before a public audience at The Edge, Federation Square with the official accompanist on Saturday 29 August 2026 at 7pm.

Rehearsal times will be allocated in The Edge at Fed Square between 9am and 11.45 am in the morning, or between 5pm and 5.45pm that afternoon, and prior to the day of the final at a time mutually convenient. Singers selected for the final will need to contact the official accompanist in advance regarding prior rehearsal. 2.



4. Adjudication

Adjudication will take place over two stages: Application for semi final / final appearance, and the Final in the form of a public concert at The Edge Fed Square on Saturday 29 AUGUST 2026 at 7pm.

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 Ms Sally-Anne Russell and Mr Andrew Bainbridge, 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 lodge it by NO LATER THAN 5pm FRIDAY 31st JULY 2026.

All entries should be emailed to: musicdirector@rmp.org.au

All emailed entries will be acknowledged on receipt. If you do not get an acknowledgement email, please contact us again to ensure your email has reached us.

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. All finalists will receive one complimentary ticket to the final. Extra tickets can be purchased at a special VIP discount rate which will be supplied to finalists once chosen.

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

When submitting documents, applicants should send clearly scanned PDFs, PNG or JPEG files.

All entrants must complete an entry form, and submit it, along with a program -ready biography, a recording (either MP3, MP4 video or Audio files) of themselves singing (any repertoire is permitted, but classical / oratorio/ artsong preferred), a high resolution copy of a recent colour headshot, as well as a brief CV of no more than four A4 pages listing vocal background, musical training, performance experience & previous engagements / further 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 of all items to be performed.

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 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.

7. Terms and Prizes

Prizes will be announced on the evening of the final by the Chair of the Adjudication panel.

First prize will be a cash award of \$2500, as well as a paid professional future engagement and recording with the Royal Melbourne Philharmonic choir and/or orchestra.

Second prize will be a cash prize of \$1250, with an optional offer of a paid professional future engagement with the RMP.

Third prize will be a cash prize of \$750, 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 \$500. This will be judged by the audience.

There will also be a Conductor's Encouragement Award of \$500, awarded by the RMP Artistic Director.

Other prizes and/or awards, or potential performance engagements will be awarded at the discretion of the judges. These may include language coaching scholarships, entertainment and dining prizes and minor prizes or further engagements.

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.



2026 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 email it by **NO LATER THAN 5pm FRIDAY 31st JULY 2026.**

Copies of the entry forms are all available for download from the RMP website: www.rmp.org.au, and can also be emailed upon request.

All entries should be emailed to:
RMP ARIA COMPETITION
ATT: ANDREW WAILES: musicdirector@rmp.org.au

2. Recording of entrant (MP3, MP4, video or audio files permitted) (For headshot see No. 4 below) This can be of any repertoire and does not necessarily have to be oratorio, however, repertoire of a classical or sacred nature are preferred.

3. A program ready biography of 300 - 375 words, including major concert works already performed. This should be submitted as a simple word doc and will be used in the program if you are selected to perform.

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

5. 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:

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

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

QUESTIONS / FURTHER INFORMATION / BOOKING TICKETS:

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

For further information, please refer to RMP website: www.rmp.org.au

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 and did not perform*

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 and did not perform*

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*) baritone (Reserve)
Rachel Pines coloratura soprano
Melissa Gregory mezzo soprano
Tomas Dalton tenor
James Doig, tenor*
Fleuranne Brockway, mezzo soprano*
*withdrew and did not perform

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
Hamish Gould counter tenor (Reserve)
Celeste Haworth* mezzo soprano
*withdrew and did not perform

2019

Louis Hurley (*Winner*) tenor
James Emerson (*Runner- Up*) baritone
Joshua Oxley (*3rd Prize and People's Choice Award*) tenor
Charlotte Kelso (*Conductor's Encouragement Award*) mezzo soprano
Hamish Gould, countertenor
Hew Wagner, tenor
Brianna Louwen, soprano
Michelle Ryan, soprano (Withdrew due to illness)
Michael Dimovsky, tenor Reserve Finalist (Withdrew due to illness)

2020

Andrew O'Connor (*Winner*) bass-baritone
Joshua Oxley (*Runner Up*) tenor
Karina Bailey (*Third Prize*) soprano
Amelia Jones (*Conductor's Encouragement Award*) soprano
James Emerson (*Judges' Commendation**) baritone
Raphael Wong, baritone
Louise Keast, soprano
James Young, baritone
Hamish Gould, counter-tenor (Reserve)
Jack Stephens, bass (Reserve)

*No People's Choice Award was awarded due to Covid restrictions preventing live performance.

2021

*No Competition was possible due to Covid restrictions, and the extended lockdown in Victoria preventing live performance or filming.

2022

Karina Bailey (Winner, and People's Choice Award) *soprano*

Alexandra Matthew (Runner up) *mezzo soprano*

Jack Stephens (Third Place) *bass*

Benjamin Glover (Conductor's Encouragement Prize) *tenor*

James Emerson (*baritone*)

Shania Eliassen (*soprano*)

Zachary McCulloch (*tenor*)

Kiran Rajasingham* (*baritone*)

**withdrew due to illness and did not perform*

2023

Chloe Lankshear (Winner, and People's Choice Award) *soprano*

Alla Yarosh (Runner- Up) *mezzo soprano*

Jack Jordan (3rd Prize) *tenor*

Talia Garrett-Benson (Conductor's Encouragement Award) *mezzo soprano*

Hannah Kostros (*mezzo soprano*)

Benjamin Glover (*tenor*)

Tom Buckmaster (*tenor*)

Alex Owens *baritone* (Reserve Finalist)

2024

Lana Kains (Winner, and People's Choice Award) *soprano*

Jack Jordan (Runner- Up) *tenor*

Amanda Hargreaves (3rd Prize) *soprano*

Timothy Nunn (Conductor's Encouragement Award) *baritone*

Lucy Schneider (*soprano*)

Eliza Bennetts O'Connor (*soprano*)

Steve Coutts *tenor* (Reserve Finalist)

Saskia Mascitti *mezzo soprano* (Reserve Finalist)

2025

Amanda Hargreaves (Winner) *soprano*

Lily Flynn (Runner- Up and, and People's Choice Award)) *soprano*

James Young (3rd Prize) *baritone*

Eliza Bennetts-O'Connor (Conductor's Encouragement Award) *soprano*

Belinda Dalton (*soprano*)

Steven Coutts (*soprano*)

Billie Tumarkin* (*soprano*)

Alexander Owens *baritone* (Reserve Finalist)

**withdrew due to illness and did not perform*