



Great Romantics Competition Revised COVID Guidelines 2020

About the Competition

Melbourne Recital Centre's *Great Romantics Competition* is a national competition that provides a platform for young musicians passionate about the Romantic repertoire by composers such as Brahms, Liszt and Schumann to perform at a professional level.

General Conditions

The *Great Romantics Competition* is aimed at early-career musicians who are currently attending university or have recently graduated. The competition provides a platform for finalists to compete for the prestigious *Elisabeth Murdoch Prize*.

Competition repertoire submitted must consist of any work/s composed between 1810-1900 and not exceed 20 minutes in total duration.

Changes to the Competition due to COVID Restrictions

Considering the Victorian Government's COVID roadmap towards reopening, and to ensure Melbourne Recital Centre adheres to all ongoing health and safety measures, **the Great Romantics Competition can no longer be held as a live performance event in 2020.** Instead, finalists will have the opportunity to pre-record their pieces in Elisabeth Murdoch Hall before the competition day, or in another location chosen by each finalist should Melbourne Recital Centre still be closed due to Government restrictions during the month of November. The videos will be premiered as an online concert on Sunday 6 December 2020, with the winner announced at the conclusion.

1. Eligibility

The *Great Romantics Competition* is open to:

- soloists, duos or small ensembles (5 competitors or less)
- any instrument/s or solo voice
- ensembles with members between 18 – 25 years of age (at 1 January 2020)
- permanent residents or citizens of Australia (or New Zealand citizens who are residents in Australia)

The competition is not open to established professional musicians, regardless of meeting the other eligibility conditions. The short-listing panel may deem an applicant professional at their discretion.

2. Key Dates

Key dates for the *Great Romantics Competition* are:

- Wednesday 28 October 2020 at midnight (AEST) - applications closing date. Late applications will not be accepted.
- Friday 6 November 2020 - Announcement of finalists
- Thursday 26 November and Friday 27 November 2020 – Pre-recording dates in Elisabeth Murdoch Hall for all finalists
- Sunday 6 December 2020 – Online Concert Premiere

The competition winner will be announced, and their prize awarded at the conclusion of the online concert premiere.

Please note: In the event that Melbourne Recital Centre is closed due to restrictions related to COVID-19 in November, finalists will be asked to re-record their pieces themselves according to a Re-Record Brief and submit them by Wednesday 25 November 2020.

3. Prizes

Elisabeth Murdoch Prize

- Elisabeth Murdoch Prize: \$4,000
- A Melbourne Recital Centre package of double passes to four concerts selected in liaison with Melbourne Recital Centre
- Peninsula Summer Music Festival Recital in January 2021; fee and travel provided. If the artist is not able to be available on the January date, the MRC reserves the right to offer the engagement to the Kantor Prize winner, or other competitor, at their discretion. This PSMF Recital is subject to general viability and government advice on COVID-19.

Encouragement Awards

- Anne Kantor Encouragement Award: \$2,000
- Milan Kantor Encouragement Award: \$2,000

Additional prizes may be offered. The Jury reserves the right not to award any prize.

4. Applications

Applications are completed online including:

- Applicant details including name and contact details
- Submission items including audio/visual file, score, applicant image, biography, proof of age.

Registration

- Applicants must complete the online registration available on the Melbourne Recital Centre [website](#).
- Only one application is permitted per competitor (i.e. competitors may not submit under multiple ensembles).
- No competitor/s will be allowed to compete under any name other than that specified on the registration.
- Previous winners of the Elisabeth Murdoch Prize are ineligible for entry.
- Complete registrations must be received by Melbourne Recital Centre no later than **midnight Wednesday 28 October 2020**.
- Posted, hand delivered, or faxed entries will not be accepted.

Application Items

The following five items are required:

- Audio-visual footage of the musical submission (see below for detail)
- A copy of the score of piece/s in PDF format
- 100-150 word biography for each application to include training, awards, qualifications and concert appearances (ensembles are required to include a 100-150 word biography about the ensemble and 100-150 word biography for each member of the ensemble)
- Image of the performer or ensemble in JPEG format (professional photograph not required)
- Proof of age in PDF format (scanned copy of passport, driver's licence or university student card)

Recordings

- The audio-visual recording must not exceed 20 minutes in total duration
- Acceptable format is YouTube or Vimeo link
- No editing of the footage is permitted. The camera may be paused between movements or different works.
- The recording may not be older than 1 year

Travel Assistance Fund

- A travel assistance fund is available for eligible finalists, made possible through a generous donation by Mrs Margaret S Ross AM & Dr Ian C Ross
- Entrants may apply for assistance with travel and accommodation costs if they live more than 250kms from Melbourne CBD. Please complete the questions on the online registration if you wish to be considered for travel assistance funds.
- Due to COVID restrictions, interstate finalists may be asked to re-record their piece/s in their current location

Proof of age

- Please provide proof of age with your application. This may include a scanned copy of passport, driver's licence or university student card.
- The Jury reserves the right to ask any competitor, at any time, to provide original evidence of proof of age and any prize money may be withheld until such proof has been provided.

5. Repertoire

- Applicants must select any work or works composed between 1810 -1900
- Performance time must not exceed 20 minutes in total duration. The jury reserves the right to disqualify contestants who run over time.
- The competition program submitted in the application form is binding. Subsequent alterations to repertoire by the competitor are not permitted. The Short-listing Judge may request finalists re-record only a selection of the repertoire submitted for the online concert.
- If possible, vocalists should perform original text editions
- Transcriptions for modern instruments will be accepted

6. Finalist Selection

- Finalists will be announced no later than Friday 6 November 2020.
- All applicants will be notified of their result by email
- Finalists will receive emailed notification of their selection and further information regarding the pre-recording schedule
- The jury's decision is final and incontestable. No explanations will be provided.

7. Recognition of Guidelines

- By his or her submission of the online registration, the applicant acknowledges acceptance of the competition guidelines as well as the decision of the jury as binding on behalf of all competitors. There is no right of appeal.
- Applications that do not meet the requirements of the competition guidelines can be rejected

8. Online Concert Premiere

The Jury

- The Jury will consist of a panel of music industry figures
- Any competitor who makes an attempt, or on whose behalf an attempt is made, to communicate with any member of the Jury prior to the completion of the competition may be disqualified
- The decisions of the Jury are final and may not be challenged on any grounds

Accompanists

- Finalists must provide their own accompanist at their own cost if required for the pre-record days at Melbourne Recital Centre held on Thursday 26 November and Friday 27 November 2020.
- Accompanists for solo entrants do not need to meet the eligibility criteria as specified in (1.) above.

Pre-Record Schedule

- Applicants must accept the obligation to perform and be recorded on their scheduled time on either Thursday 26 November or Friday 27 November 2020 if selected
- Order of recording and rehearsal schedule will be emailed to each finalist prior to the pre-record days and is at the sole discretion of Melbourne Recital Centre
- Each finalist must register personally at Stage Door on their pre-record day at the time specified in correspondence from Melbourne Recital Centre
- Finalists who are unable to attend the pre-record dates are able to elect to use their original application video for the online concert competition premiere.

Practice, Warm-Up & Rehearsals

- A warm-up room and practice time on stage will be available at Melbourne Recital Centre on the day of the pre-record at times to be advised
- If finalists arrive late to their scheduled practice time this may result in no practice time being available

Personal Presentation

- The Jury expects behaviour of finalists to be appropriate to the occasion
- Stage presentation will be considered by the Jury

Withdrawals

- Finalists who are unexpectedly unable to attend their pre-record session should notify Melbourne Recital Centre to that effect at least 48 hours before the commencement

Copyright and Printed Material

- Finalists must use original material copies or authorised photocopies for performances (authorised photocopies must be accompanied by a letter from the Publisher or Copyright Holder). Photocopies provided for the Jury are permitted and will be destroyed by Melbourne Recital Centre after use. This rule is in accordance with the directions of the Australian Mechanical Copyright Owners Society and Copyright Agencies Limited, and no variations will be permitted.
- Melbourne Recital Centre holds all other necessary One Music licences for the online concert premiere.

Insurance

- Finalists are responsible for insuring their instruments against damage arising out of participation in the competition

Broadcasting

- Melbourne Recital Centre or its agent reserves the right, without payment of any fee, to record, film, broadcast, telecast, webcast or photograph any item of the competition.
- The completed online application automatically grants Melbourne Recital Centre permission for any audio, film or photographs to be used for promotional or marketing purposes

The Great Romantics Competition is supported by Annamila Pty Ltd, Mrs Margaret S. Ross AM & Dr Ian C Ross.