Great Romantics Competition 2018
Guidelines and Application Form

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 perform and compete in the Elisabeth Murdoch Hall for the prestigious *Great Romantics Prize*, which includes a combination of cash plus performance and recording opportunities.

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

1. Eligibility
The *Great Romantics Competition* is open to:
- soloists, duos or small ensembles (5 competitors or less)
- any instrument/s or solo voice
- university music students and recent graduates
- between 18 – 25 years of age (at 1 January 2018)
- permanent residents or citizens of 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 15 August at midnight (AEST) - applications closing date. Late applications will not be accepted.
- Friday 24 August 2018 - Announcement of finalists
- Sunday 23 September 2018 – Performance Final

The Performance Final will be held in the Elisabeth Murdoch Hall, Melbourne Recital Centre at 3.00pm.
The competition winner will be announced and their prize awarded at the conclusion of the Performance Final.

3. Prizes
Elisabeth Murdoch Prize
- Elisabeth Murdoch Prize: $6,000
- One half-day recording session in the Melbourne Recital Centre's Salon, including a recording engineer, within 12 months following the competition, for personal and promotional use only
- A Melbourne Recital Centre Great Performers subscription package of double passes to four concerts selected in liaison with Melbourne Recital Centre
- A Salon recital in the 12 months following the competition
- Peninsula Summer Music Festival Recital on either 6 or 7 January 2018 at St John's Anglican Church Flinders, Vic; fee and travel provided

Kantor Encouragement Award
- Kantor Prize: $1,000

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, copyright letter (see below)

Registration

- Applicants must complete the on-line 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 of Wednesday 15 August 2018.**
- Posted, hand delivered or faxed entries will not be accepted.

Application Items

The following five (or six) 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 in Word document format (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)
- (if applicable) Letter from the Publisher or Copyright Holder for authorised photocopies of scores (PDF)

Recordings

- The audio-visual recording must not exceed 20 minutes in total duration.
- Acceptable format is You Tube or Vimeo link pasted into a Word document
- 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 on-line registration if you wish to be considered for travel assistance funds.

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 by the competitor are not permitted. The Short-listing Judge may request finalists to perform only a selection of the repertoire submitted at the Performance Final.
- The sequence of the performance is at the finalists' discretion.
- 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 24 August 2018.
- All applicants will be notified of their result by email.
- Finalists will receive emailed notification of their selection and further information regarding the Performance Final.
- 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. The Performance Final

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.
- If a Jury member teaches or has taught a contestant within two years of the commencement of the competition, the Jury member will abstain from the discussion and voting regarding that competitor.

Accompanists

- Finalists must provide their own accompanist at their own cost if required for the Performance Final held on Sunday 23 September 2018.
- Accompanists for solo entrants do not need to meet the eligibility criteria as specified in (1.) above.

Performance Final Schedule

- Applicants accept the obligation to perform at the Performance Final on Sunday 23 September 2018 if selected.
- The Performance Final runs from 3.00pm to 5.30pm.
- Order of performance and rehearsal schedule will be emailed to each finalist prior to the Performance Final and is at the sole discretion of Melbourne Recital Centre.
- Finalists must compete in the order in which their names appear in the program unless officially authorised or directed otherwise.
- Each finalist must register personally at Stage Door on the day of the Performance Final at the time specified in correspondence from Melbourne Recital Centre.
- Finalists must notify Melbourne Recital Centre staff when leaving the building during the day of the Performance Final.

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 Performance Final 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 and audience to be appropriate to the occasion.
- Stage presentation will be considered by the Jury.

Withdrawals

- Finalists who are unexpectedly unable to compete in the Performance Final should notify Melbourne Recital Centre to that effect at least 24 hours before the commencement of the Performance Final wherever possible.

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 APRA & PPCA licences for the Performance Final.

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 signed 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.