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NEWS

ASC@HOME: A NEW ONLINE COMPETITION ASKS SINGERS TO STAY HOME

Australian soprano Nicole Car will judge the Classical and Opera round of the competition from her Paris apartment. *by Angus McPherson on April 16, 2020*

10 SHARES

While social distancing measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic meant that the Music & Opera Singers Trust (MOST) had to cancel the 2020 IFAC Handa Australian Singing Competition, the organisation has now announced a new competition which will see singers compete online from the comfort and safety of their homes.



Nicole Car as Mimi in the Metropolitan Opera's *La Bohème*. Photo © Marty Sohl/Metropolitan Opera

The competition "will be held entirely online and supports stay-at-home measures in force around the world by requiring all entries to be recorded in a home environment by a solo singer," MOST said in its announcement.

The competition – which includes Classical and Opera, Jazz, Contemporary and Music Theatre categories – is open to singers over the age of 18, who will compete for a cash prize of \$1000AUD in each category. There is no entry fee, the competitors will simply record their solo performances at home and upload their videos to YouTube. To adhere to social distancing measures, no accompanist may appear in the same room as the competitor – however, singers may perform with a backing track, accompany themselves, or perform with an accompanist via video conferencing.

The public will judge the first round, before the top 20 compete in a Final Round in each category, judged by an internationally-renowned industry professional. The judge for the Classical and Opera round has been revealed as Australian soprano Nicole Car, who will judge the Final Round from her Paris apartment. The remaining celebrity judges will be announced shortly.

Entries open on April 20, with audience voting to commence on May 25. The finalists will be announced on June 9, with the winners announced on July 1. In addition to the prize money, winners may have the chance to perform at a public concert in Sydney, Australia, in September 2020, circumstances permitting.

"It's been a hard couple of months for musicians in Australia and around the world. With concerts, competitions and rehearsals cancelled for most of the year and with many feeling isolated and struggling financially and creatively, we are all turning to the arts for comfort. Music has never been more important," MOST said. "We're all in this together and music can help us through."

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