

A woman with blonde, wavy hair is singing passionately on a stage. She is wearing a white, sleeveless, floor-length dress with intricate beading and a matching necklace. Her mouth is open, and her hands are raised in a dramatic gesture. The background is dark with some stage lighting.

ASC SEMI- FINALS CONCERT

Sunday, 4:30pm
16 August 2026

Independent Theatre
North Sydney

The Independent Theatre
269 Miller Street, North Sydney
Sunday 16 August, 4:30pm

The IFAC Handa Australian Singing Competition provides cash prizes, awards and career development opportunities for young opera and classical singers. It is the home of the Marianne Mathy Scholarship, also known as 'The Mathy'.

Thank You

We would like to acknowledge the generous support and assistance of – 2MBS Fine Music Sydney, Zachary Ahrens, Jennifer Arnold, Donna Balson, Jennifer Black, Andrea Catzel, Carolyn Chard AM, Simon Chung, Anna Connolly, Dr. Rowena Cowley, Steve Davidson, Nicole Dorigo, Dr. Zeny Edwards OAM, Simon Fieldhouse, David & Sabina Full, Warwick Fyfe, Bradley Gilchrist, Goethe-Institut, Joanne Goodman, Stephen Grant, Dr. Francis Greep, Gridiger Lawyers, Lisa Harper-Brown, Alan Hicks, Dr. Anke Hoepfner-Ryan, Prof. Dr. Caitlin Hulcup, Huntington Estate, Istituto Italiano di Cultura, David Langley, Angus Ledgerwood, Dr. Carolyn Lowry OAM, Peter Lowry AM, Emma Matthews AM, Stuart Maunder AM, Sheila McKechnie, Dr. Paul McMahon, Camille Merčep, Dr. Nicholas Milton AM, Marcello & Vera Nadile, Mona Omar, Jonathan Palmer, the Radzynski Family, Anna Reid, Una Reynolds, James Roser, Maree Ryan AM, Margaret Schindler, Robert Scott, Seaborn, Broughton & Walford Foundation, Songmakers Australia, Solomiya Sywak, Ussher Direction, Winkipop Media, Glenn Winslade, Kym Yeomans.

Adjudicators
Donna Balson
(National
Adjudicator)

Dr. Francis
Greep

Dr. Anke
Hoepfner-Ryan

Dr. Caitlin
Hulcup

Glenn Winslade

Compère
Camille Merčep

Guest Artists
Orpheus Quintet

Personnel
Audio Recording
Jonathan Palmer

Photography
Winkipop Media

Cinematography
Nino Tamburri

Graphic Design
Anastasia Liolio

Event Producer
Music & Opera
Singers Trust Ltd.
(MOST)

PROGRAM

Hannah Burton
'How Fair This
Spot'
Twelve
Romances,
Op. 21
/ Rachmaninoff

Samuel Claxton
'La vie
antérieure'
/ Duparc

Emily Davis
'O wär' ich
schon mit dir
vereint'
Fidelio
/ Beethoven

Chloe James
'Una voce poco
fa'
Il barbiere di
Siviglia
/ Rossini

Ciaran McChord
'O wie ängstlich'
Die Entführung
aus dem Serail
/ Mozart

Sky Kim
'Quel guardo il
cavaliere'
Don Pasquale
/ Donizetti

Leyland Jones
'Il lacerato
spirito'
Simon
Boccanegra
/ Verdi

Kate Pengelly
'Senza mamma'
Suor Angelica
/ Puccini

Bridget Power
'Snow Maiden's
aria'
The Snow
Maiden: A
Spring Fairy Tale
/ Rimsky-
Korsakov

Aylish Ryan
'Que fais-
tu, blanche
tourterelle'
Romeo et
Juliette
/ Gounod

INTERVAL

Hannah Burton
'Era desso il
figlio mio'
Lucrezia Borgia
/ Donizetti

Samuel Claxton
'Look! Through
the port comes
the moonshine
astray!'
Billy Budd
/ Britten

Emily Davis
'So, we'll go no
more a-roving'
/ White

Chloe James
'Var det en
dröm?'
Five Songs,
Op. 37
/ Sibelius

Ciaran McChord
'Minnelied'
Fünf Gesänge,
Op. 71
/ Brahms

Sky Kim
'Clair de lune'
Quatre
chansons de
jeunesse
/ Debussy

Leyland Jones
'Silent Noon'
The House of
Life
/ Vaughan
Williams

Kate Pengelly
'Cäcilie'
Vier Lieder
/ Strauss

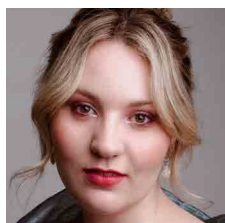
Bridget Power
'Printemps triste'
Quatre poèmes
de Bouchor
Op. 8
/ Chausson

Aylish Ryan
'Liebst du um
Schönheit'
Rückert-Lieder
/ Mahler

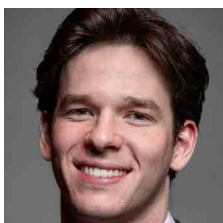
**GUEST ARTIST
PERFORMANCE**
Orpheus
Quintet

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Donna Balson
Prizes and
Awards
Selection of
Finalists

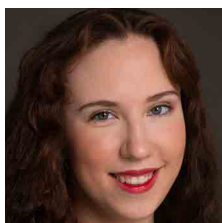
OUR ARTISTS



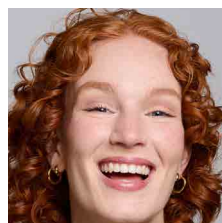
**Hannah
Burton**
Soprano
NSW



**Samuel
Claxton**
Bass Baritone
WA



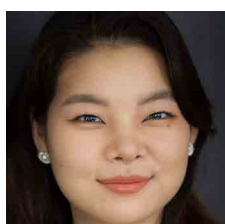
**Emily
Davis**
Soprano
WA



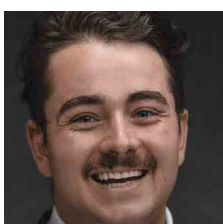
**Chloe
James**
Mezzo Soprano
VIC



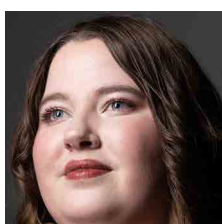
**Leyland
Jones**
Bass
VIC



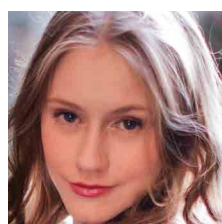
**Sky (Haneul)
Kim**
Soprano
NSW



**Ciaran
McChord**
Tenor
WA



**Kate
Pengelly**
Soprano
VIC



**Bridget
Power**
Soprano
NSW



**Aylish
Ryan**
Mezzo Soprano
QLD



**Camille
Merčep**
Compère



**Bradley
Gilchrist**
Collaborative
Artist



Orpheus Quintet
Guest Artists
(Jude Austen Kaupe (French Horn),
Gahyun Lee (Oboe), Dylan Roberts
(Bassoon), Kara Thorpe (Flute),
Justin Wang (Clarinet))

ASC FINALS CONCERT

See the five Finalists
accompanied by the Opera
Australia Orchestra, under the
baton of Dr Nicholas Milton AM,
at the IFAC Handa Australian
Singing Competition Finals

Visit aussing.org
for tickets.
Use promo code
'SFP40' for
a 40% discount.

2026 SEMI-FINALS OPPORTUNITIES AND PRIZES

Tinkler Encouragement Award

\$500 awarded to a singer not selected as a Finalist.
Sponsored by the Tinkler Trust.

The Young Songmaker Prize

A three-hour workshop with Songmakers Australia director, pianist Andrea Katz.
Sponsored by Songmakers Australia.

Jane Ede Prize

10 one-hour private lessons or mentoring sessions with celebrated soprano, Jane Ede.
Sponsored by Jane Ede.

Andrea Catzel Prize

10 private German diction singing lessons with acclaimed soprano, Andrea Catzel.
Sponsored by Andrea Catzel.

Radzyminski Family Prize

French tuition at an Alliance Francaise Centre in the singer's city.
Sponsored by Lucienne Radzyminski.

Istituto Italiano Di Cultura Award

25 hours of study in Italian at the Italian Cultural Institute in Sydney.
Sponsored by Istituto Italiano di Cultura, Sydney.

Goethe-Institut Prize

A scholarship to attend a 10-week language course at the Goethe-Institut in either Sydney or Melbourne.
Sponsored by the Goethe-Institut.

Huntington Estate Wine Prize

2 bottles of Huntington Estate Wines for each Semi-Finalist.
Sponsored by Huntington Estate Wines.

MOST Travel Grant

A cash grant to assist all the Semi-Finalists with travel cost associated with the competition.
Sponsored by the Music & Opera Singers Trust Ltd. (MOST).

Join us tomorrow for the ASC MasterClass in Surry Hills featuring the 5 ASC Finalists and Maestra Donna Balson. Scan the code for more info and to register your seat.



MOST DONATIONS

Help us support Australia's Creative Talent

You can join us in assisting talented opera and classical singers to achieve their goals, by making a donation to Music & Opera Singers Trust (MOST). A MOST donation enables you to give more to the arts, music, education, and the Australian community. You can support one of our existing Programs, join our Patrons Program, or create a Scholarship, Grant or Award that carries your name.

To learn more about these opportunities, please get in touch:

Call Roland Gridiger OAM,
roland@mostlyopera.org
T. 0414 282 530

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