



2026 IFAC HANDA AUSTRALIAN SINGING COMPETITION FINALS CONCERT

Thursday
7pm, 8 October

The Concourse
Chatswood

PATRON-IN-CHIEF
DR. HARUHISA HANDA AO



IFAC HANDA
AUSTRALIAN SINGING
COMPETITION



The International
Foundation for
Arts and Culture

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aussing.org

WELCOME



As a devoted music enthusiast with a deep and enduring connection to Australia, the Australian Singing Competition holds a very special place in my heart. Music possesses the extraordinary power to inspire, to touch hearts and minds, and to unite us all. Tonight, we celebrate a new generation of exceptional young performers, whose remarkable talent and dedication deserve to be shared with audiences around the world. My warmest wishes go to each competitor. May this evening be filled with grace, inspiration, artistry, and the joy of outstanding musicianship.

Dr. Haruhisa Handa AO
Founder and Chairman,
International
Foundation for Arts
and Culture (IFAC) and
Patron of the IFAC
Handa Australian
Singing Competition



With tonight's exceptional Finalists, opera's future shines brightly. We extend deepest thanks to the International Foundation for Arts and Culture (IFAC) and Dr. Haruhisa Handa AO, whose steadfast support as Principal Sponsor makes this celebration possible. Our sincere gratitude to our adjudicators, sponsors and supporters for enabling excellence and nurturing emerging talent. And to our audience: your presence and enthusiasm bring this evening to life. Together, we sustain opera's legacy and inspire new generations of artists and audiences.

Roland Gridiger OAM
Chief Executive Officer,
Music & Opera Singers
Trust Ltd. (MOST)

Prof. Dr. Nicholas Milton AM

Artistic Director & Chief Conductor, Göttingen Symphony Orchestra; Professor of Orchestral Conducting, Gustav Mahler University for Music, Klagenfurt; Artistic Director & Chief Conductor, Willoughby Symphony Orchestra. Former: Chief Conductor, Stadttheater Klagenfurt; General Music Director, Saarbrücken State Opera; Chief Conductor, Canberra Symphony Orchestra. Opera Australia credits: La Bohème, Madama Butterfly, Tosca, Turandot. His Wagner Ring cycle was nominated for the 2025 Austrian Music Prize for Best Musical Direction.

Adjudicators

Donna Balson
(National Adjudicator)
Jennifer Black
Dr. Francis Greep
Barry Ryan OAM
Glenn Winslade

Opera Australia

Chief Executive Officer
Alex Budd

Leader, Deputy
Concertmaster
Katherine Lukey

Opera Australia Orchestra
www.opera.org.au/about

Personnel

Audio Recording
Jonathan Palmer

Broadcast
2MBS (Sydney)
3MBS (Melbourne)
4MBS (Brisbane)
5MBS (Adelaide)
ArtSound (Canberra)

Photography
WinkiPop

Cinematography
Nino Tamburri

Graphic Design
Anastasia Liolio

Thank you

We would like to recognise the generous support we have received from: Zachary Ahrens, Will Angus, Donna Balson, Paolo Barlera, Jan Black, Jeffrey Black, Jennifer Black, Cav. Alfredo Bovier OAM, Joanna Butler, Fiona Campbell OAM, Danna Cannon, Andrea Catzel, Drago Cherina, Andrew Collins, Dr Rowena Cowley, Marc-Antoine d'Aragon, Steve Davidson, Deirdre Davis, Lynne Dawson, Nicole Dorigo, Jane Ede, Dr. Zeny Edwards OAM, Simon Fieldhouse, David & Sabina Full, Warwick Fyfe, Elena Galea, Bradley Gilchrist, Joanne Goodman, Stephen Grant, Dr. Francis Greep, Ilana Gridiger, Lisa Harper-Brown, Jane Hennessy, Dr. Anke Hoepfner-Ryan, Dr. Caitlin Hulcup, Emma In der Maur, Rhonda Jones, Andrea Katz, Yvonne Kenny AM, Leanne Kenneally-Warnock, David Langley, Angus Ledgerwood, Kate Lidbetter, Emma Matthews AM, Stuart Maunder AM, Sheila McKechnie, Dr. Paul McMahon, Camille Merčep, Prof. Dr. Nicholas Milton AM, Midori Miyazaki, David Mortimer AO, Vera & Marcello Nadile, Dan Novak, Jonathan Palmer, Shaun Patterson, Corin Powell, Patricia Price, Radzyminski Family, Virginia Read, Anna Reid, Una Reynolds, Diana Ritch, Linnhe Robertson, Judith Romanini, James Roser, Barry Ryan OAM, Maree Ryan AM, Robert Scott, Ms Kellie Sloane MP, Olivia Smith-Grugan, Nicky & Tim Stevens, Symphony Services International, Solomiya Sywak, Adrian Ussher, Lili Ussher, Frank Varapodio, Glenn Winslade, Kym Yeomans JP, Zonta Club of Sydney



AUDIENCE CHOICE PRIZE

O|PERA AUSTRALIA



Those that submit their vote will be in the running to win a \$250 dinner voucher for two at Alfredo's Authentic Italian Restaurant.

Vote at aussing.org/vote

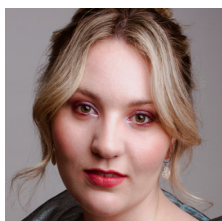
OUR ARTISTS



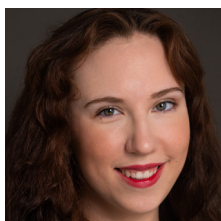
**Prof. Dr.
Nicholas Milton
AM**
Conductor



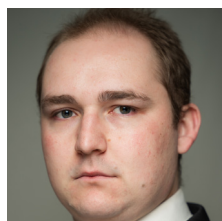
**Camille
Merčep**
Compère



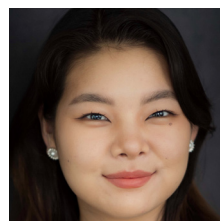
**Hannah
Burton**
Soprano,
NSW



**Emily
Davis**
Soprano,
WA



**Leyland
Jones**
Bass,
VIC



**Sky
Kim**
Soprano,
NSW



**Aylish
Ryan**
Mezzo Soprano,
QLD

PROGRAM

Aylish Ryan
L'île inconnue
Les nuits d'été
/ Berlioz

Sky Kim
Quel guardo il cavaliere... So anch'io la virtù magica
Don Pasquale
/ Donizetti

Hannah Burton
Crudele!...Non mi dir
Don Giovanni
/ Mozart

Leyland Jones
A te l'estremo addio... Il lacerato spirito
Simon Boccanegra
/ Verdi

Emily Davis
Temerari... Come scoglio
Così fan Tutte
/ Mozart

Hannah Burton
O Dieu... Ah! Je ris de me voir
Faust
/ Gounod

Aylish Ryan
Depuis hier... Que fais-tu, blanche tourterelle?
Roméo et Juliette
/ Gounod

Sky Kim
O zittre nicht, mein lieber Sohn!
Die Zauberflöte
/ Mozart

Emily Davis
Kaddish
Deux mélodies hébraïques
/ Ravel

Leyland Jones
Thus saith the Lord of Hosts... But who may abide the day of His coming?
Messiah
/ Handel

INTERVAL 20 MINUTES

Opera Australia Orchestra
Overture
The Merry Wives of Windsor
/ Nicolai

Opera Australia Orchestra
The Dambusters March
/ Coates

PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



We send our gratitude to Symphony Services Australia who have kindly supplied the orchestral scores for many of tonight's performance.

PRIZES

MARIANNE MATHY SCHOLARSHIP ('THE MATHY')

The Marianne Mathy Scholarship AUD \$30,000 to assist with a program of study and/or singing activity. The singer also receives:

Audition Prize from Lyric Opera of Chicago's Ryan Opera Center

An opportunity to audition for Lyric Opera of Chicago's professional-artist development program, The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center, in Chicago.

Lili Ussher Prize

Portrait painting of the Winner in concert dress.

Simon Fieldhouse Sculpture Prize

3D sculpture of the Winner in concert dress.

Oral History Award

A taped interview by oral historian Diana Ritch will be recorded and retained within the Oral History Collection of the National Library of Australia.

Winkipop Media Prize

A folio of three different 8x12 inch photographic prints.

The Mathy Limited Edition Drago Marin Cherina Statuette

Presented by Music & Opera Singers Trust Ltd (MOST®).

OTHER PRIZES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Opera Australia Finalist Audition Prize

All Finalists are invited to advance straight to the final round of auditions for the renewed Opera Australia Young Artist Program starting in 2027. *Sponsored by Principal Patron Maureen Wheeler and Opera Australia.*

Royal Northern College of Music Award

Fees for one year's study at the Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM) in the Advanced Postgraduate Diploma Course in Manchester (UK) in 2027/28.

Sponsored by Royal Northern College of Music, UK.

The winner will also receive the AUD \$2,500 **Pasqualina Lipari Prize** to assist with travel expenses. *Sponsored by V&A Accountants and Business Advisors.*

Zeny Edwards Educational Grant

AUD \$20,000 grant towards tuition fees for a music degree at a University or Conservatorium. *Sponsored by Dr. Zeny Edwards OAM.*

Merenda Legacy Prize

Cash grant AUD \$7,000 to enable the recipient to study Italian in Italy. *Sponsored by Equity Trustees.*

Canadian Vocal Arts Institute (CVAI) Montreal Scholarship

A scholarship to attend the International Vocal Arts Institute (IVAI) Summer Program in Montreal. *Sponsored by CVAI.* The winner will also receive AUD \$4,000 to assist with travel expenses.

2MBS Fine Music Sydney Promotion Prize

\$1,000 (AUD) promotional credit with 2MBS Fine Music Sydney. *Sponsored by 2MBS Fine Music Sydney.*

ABC Classic Studio Recording Prize

Recipient will have the opportunity to record a studio project at the ABC, guided by the ABC Classic specialist music production team. *Sponsored by ABC Classic.*

The Haas German Mentorship Award

Mentoring and sessions with distinguished international performer and pedagogue, Prof. Dr. Caitlin Hulcup. *Sponsored by Prof. Dr. Caitlin Hulcup.* The winner will also receive the AUD \$2,500 **Haas Award** to assist with travel expenses. *Sponsored by the Haas Family Trust.*

The Linnhe Robertson Prize

10 one-hour private lessons with acclaimed voice teacher Linnhe Robertson in London, England. *Sponsored by Linnhe Robertson.* The winner will also receive the **Nell Pascall Award**, AUD \$3,000 to assist with travel expenses. *Sponsored by the Nell Pascall Estate.*

Perth Symphony Orchestra Prize

An engagement to perform with the Perth Symphony Orchestra. *Sponsored by Perth Symphony Orchestra.* The winner will also receive AUD \$5,000 to assist with travel expenses.

MOST® Audience Prize

Cash grant AUD \$500 from Music & Opera Singers Trust Ltd. (MOST®) awarded by audience vote. *Sponsored by Euroespresso.*

Opera Australia Prize

Opportunity for all Finalists to attend rehearsals in Melbourne or Sydney, observing an opera throughout.

THANK YOU TO OUR PRINCIPAL SPONSOR

In appreciation of the amazing contribution to music and the arts, and for generously supporting the artistic community and cultural life of Australia, we salute Dr. Haruhisa Handa AO, The International Foundation for Arts and Culture (IFAC), and Midori Miyazaki, the International Executive Director and Board Member of IFAC.



The International
Foundation for
Arts and Culture

The IFAC Handa Australian Singing Competition is administered by the Music & Opera Singers Trust Ltd.

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