

# The Performer

## Newsletter of the Australian National Eisteddfod Society

PO Box 94 Civic Square ACT 2608

Phone/Fax 6249 7421 Website [www.nationaleisteddfod.org.au](http://www.nationaleisteddfod.org.au) July 2009

### Welcome!

The Australian National Eisteddfod's 2009 season has begun. A periodic newsletter will be sent to all members, sponsors, competitors, teachers who have submitted entrants, and interested friends. To avoid postage costs, it will be sent by email.

### Calendar

The Competition calendar for 2009 is:

Competition	Entries close	Competition dates
Bands and Orchestras	31 March	28-31 May
Choirs	30 June	14-15 August
Piano	3 July	1 – 5 Sept
Speech and Drama	14 July	14 – 17 September
Singing	TBA	21 – 26 September
Instrumental	TBA	16 – 18 October

### Bands and Orchestras

The Bands & Orchestras sections, held over May 28-31, was an extremely successful event. Encompassing 105 groups and over 3000 participants, the event ran very smoothly. The Adjudicator, James Brice (Head of Instrumental Music at Knox Grammar School in Sydney) was extremely well received by participants, and has really raised the bar for future adjudicators. Venues included Llewellyn Hall (Concert Bands, Orchestras and High School Bands), Canberra Girls Grammar School Hall (Jazz Band), CIT Music Industry Centre (Rock Bands) and Brindabella Christian College (Primary School Bands).

Canberra City Band won the Open A Grade Concert Bands, with Ginninderra Wind Orchestra and Hunter/Central Coast Regional Wind Ensemble both Highly Commended.

Traxion Big Band won the Open A Grade Jazz Bands and Canberra Grammar School Symphony Orchestra Open Orchestras.

All sections other than those for Open ages were run on a non-competitive basis (that is, each group received a gold, silver or bronze attainment trophy); this

approach continues to be popular with entrants. Full results are available from the Eisteddfod's Website

### Eisteddfod Office

The Eisteddfod Office is staffed part-time by Mary-Helen Davidson. Leave messages on the answering machine if she is not in the office. Phone 62497421

The office email address is [eisteddfod@grapevine.net.au](mailto:eisteddfod@grapevine.net.au). The email address on the letterhead will be phased out in due course.

The postal address is PO Box 94, Civic Square, ACT 2608

### Raffle

The Society will be holding a fund-raising raffle throughout 2009.

Prizes include:

- \$5000 32" Loewe Television
- Akimate iPod Hi-Fi system
- Tivoli Songbook
- Davis-Wheeler Music voucher
- Concert tickets and magazine subscriptions
- Restaurant vouchers

Tickets will be only \$2 each, and will be available at all events, as well as from Duratone Hi-Fi in Botany Street, Phillip and Canberra Youth Music at the Ainslie Arts Centre. Books are available from the Eisteddfod office for those who would like to sell tickets. Prizes will be drawn at the ARIA final on Saturday 26 September

### Choirs

Closing date for Choirs entries has been extended to July 24. This year's adjudicators are Anne Williams (all sections) and George Torbay (for Open and Championship sections). Both are well known; Anne most recently for her work with the Eltham East Public School Choir, and George as part of Channel Seven's Battle of the Choirs last year.

A highlight will again be the Australian Choir Championship sections, generously supported by Mrs Dianne Anderson. For more details see the website.

## Piano

Entries for the piano competition have closed, although late entries (with payment of a late fee) will be accepted for until 22 July. This year's competition, including the Open Piano Recital, will be held at the Italian Cultural Centre in Franklin Street, Manuka, from 1 to 5 September. The adjudicator will be Lachlan Redd, an eminent young performer who was awarded the University Medal at the Australian National University in 1997, just one achievement with many more to follow.

## Singing

The Singing Competition will be held 21-26 September. It will feature singers from as young as 8 years and under to more senior singers in a wide variety of genres

including popular, classical, music theatre, folk, and opera.

The Austral Asian Christian Church, Ringrose Crescent Isaacs is the venue for the general sections (21-25 September).

The singing division culminates with the **National Operatic Aria** competition which is one of Australia's most prestigious singing competitions.

The Aria final will be held on **Saturday 26 September 7.30pm in the Llewellyn Hall, Acton.**

## Friends of the Australian National Eisteddfod

To encourage more widespread community involvement, the committee has decided to establish a Friends of the Australian National Eisteddfod. More details will be supplied as the arrangements become finalised.

## Did you know...?

Here is a table which shows the extraordinary achievement of the Australian National Eisteddfod in 2008. Although very short staffed and having to run to a tight budget, the Eisteddfod committee and convenors and helpers gave performance opportunities to a total of 4975 people.

	Number of groups	Number of individuals altogether	Number of competitive Sections in competition	Number of performances altogether
Bands and Orchestras	73	2750	25	90
Choirs	44	1600	11	68
Piano	5	130	38	318
Speech and Drama	94	268	54	357
Singing	0	157	57	539
Instrumental/Contemporary Music	13	70	31	118
<b>Total</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>4975</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>1490</b>

The Bands and Orchestras Competition in 2009 involved 105 groups, a truly mammoth task of organising.

It isn't difficult to see that this is a worthwhile thing to do. It involves constant change and adaptation to new circumstances. All help is welcome; financial and in kind. Those who are involved in running a competition always feel at the end that watching the development of young performers is worth the hard work.

Editor: Doris Rowland, Australian National Eisteddfod