

The Performer

Newsletter of the Australian National Eisteddfod Society

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September 2009

Welcome!

The email list does not yet include all the people I said it would include in the last letter. At the moment it is being sent only to members; others can access it on the website.

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	12 July	21 – 26 September
Instrumental		

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. A new letterhead shows this address, while others will still work for the time being.
The postal address is PO Box 94, Civic Square, ACT 2608

Raffle

Raffle tickets are still available. The draw will take place at the Aria final on Saturday 26 September.

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 are only \$2 each, and will be available at Speech and Drama from the 14 to 17 September, and at Singing, from 21 to 26 September, 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.

Speech and Drama

The Speech and Drama competition begins on Monday 14 September, at the Waldock Hall, (City Baptist Church) Kingston with recitals by very young children, and continues through to Thursday night at the Tuggeranong Arts Centre. Check the website for details. Some of the highlights are:

Monday night at the Waldock Hall: 7 pm

Australian verse recitals
Religious readings

Wednesday night at the Italian Cultural Centre, Franklin St, Forrest: 7 pm

Mime and Improvisation Challenge
Dramatic Scenes

Thursday night at the Tuggeranong Arts Centre: 7 pm

Open character solos
BARD COMPETITION (including Shakespearian monologues and sonnet recitals)

The week promises to be highly rewarding to participants and audiences.

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. See website for details.

The Austral Asian Christian Church, Ringrose Crescent, Isaacs is the venue for the general sections (21-25 September). There are 620 performances scheduled.

The culmination will be the **National Operatic Aria** competition which is one of Australia's most prestigious singing competitions. A large number of entries has been received, many from other parts of the country. Those who make it to the finals will be truly worth hearing.

The Aria final, which is always an excellent concert, will be held on:

Saturday 26 September 7.30pm in the Llewellyn Hall, Acton

Choirs

The Choirs Division was held on 14 and 15 August at the Llewellyn Hall, ANU. Financial support from artsACT made it possible to use this acoustically wonderful venue, which was appreciated by all the participating Choirs.

The Choirs Committee was delighted that Anne Williams, the Director of the stunning Eltham East Primary School Choir, which won five sections in the 2008 Eisteddfod, was able to Adjudicate for the two days. Before giving her adjudication to the Primary Choirs, Anne was able to do mini-workshops with all the children in the auditorium. Both the children and Choir Directors found this very enjoyable and helpful and Anne also gave a workshop for Choir Directors the day after the Eisteddfod, which was well attended. Anne was joined by George Torbay to co-adjudicate the Open and Championship Sections on Saturday and they formed an excellent team. George has a wealth of musical experience, amongst them as the Musical Director of the Australian Idol Final (2004-2007) at the Opera House and as one of the Judges on Prime's *Battle of the Choirs* in 2008.

With just under \$20,000 in prize money, the event is becoming one of the premier choral competitions in Australia and a list of winners is set out separately in this Newsletter. For the first time the syllabus was only available on the Eisteddfod web page and the Committee was very pleased with the response, as this saved on printing and postage costs. The Choirs Division Syllabus will only be available on the website from now on.

The **2010** Choirs Division will be on 13-14 August at Llewellyn Hall. A slight change to the programming will be that both the 12 Years and Under and 19 Years and Under Championships will be on the **Friday night** and the Open Popular and Open Championship will be held on the **Saturday night**. Anne Williams and George Torbay have both agreed to adjudicate again in 2010.

Finally, thanks must go to the Choirs Committee for its support the past year, to the Companies and individuals who generously sponsored prizes and to the many others who helped over the two days by doing tasks such as manning the music desks, ushering the choirs, selling raffle tickets and providing food for the adjudicators and helpers.
Dianne Anderson, Convenor

CHOIRS DIVISION RESULTS

Australian Open Championship

First Place Exaudi Youth Choir (Melbourne)
Second Place Sons of Sunbury (Victoria)
Third Place Endeavour Harmony Chorus (Sydney)

19 Years and Under Championship

First Place Combined Canberra Grammar Schools Motet Choir
Second Place Radford College Choir
Third Place Burgmann Anglican School Choir

12 Years and Under Championship

First Place Canberra Grammar Junior School Chorale
Second Place Central Coast Children's Choir
Third Place Queanbeyan Public School Senior Choir

Primary School Choirs Grade Four and Under

First Place Queanbeyan Public School Junior Choir
Second Place St Matthews Primary School Choir
Third Place Canberra Girls Grammar School Junior Choir
Encouragement Award: Canberra Grammar Infants Choir

12 Years and Under Choirs Welsh Songs

First Place Musical Interpretation Jerrabomberra Senior Choir
First Place Welsh Language Jerrabomberra Senior Choir

Primary School Choirs – Grade 6 and Under

First Place Queanbeyan Public School Senior Choir
Second Place Palmerston Primary School Choir
Third Place Canberra Girls Grammar School Senior Choir
Encouragement Awards: Burgmann Anglican School Choir, Radford College Junior School Girls Choir, Arawang Primary School Senior Choir

Open Contemporary Choral

First Place Exaudi Youth Choir (Melbourne)
Second Place Endeavour Harmony Choir (Sydney)
Highly Commended: Choir of Southern Lights (Wollongong)

Open Sacred Choral

First Place Exaudi Youth Choir (Melbourne)
Second Place Igitur Nos (Canberra)
Highly Commended: Sunbury Divas (Victoria)

Australia Britain Section

First Place Exaudi Youth Choir (Melbourne)
Second Place Igitur Nos (Canberra)

Open Popular Section

First Place Sunbury Divas (Victoria)
Second Place Sons of Sunbury (Victoria)
Highly Commended: Endeavour Harmony Chorus (Sydney)

Piano

The piano competition was held from 1 to 5 September at the Italian Cultural Centre in Forrest. The advantage of this venue was that we could stay there for the whole of the competition, not having to move to another venue for the Open, as in previous years.

There were 130 competitors, and 417 performances were scheduled. A few were withdrawn, usually for some reason other than lack of preparation.

Our adjudicator was Lachlan Redd, who began his musical studies in Canberra, won the University medal in 1997 and has since studied and performed in many parts of the world. He has appeared as concerto artist with all the ABC orchestras in Australia.

The adjudicator had difficulty distinguishing between performances of equally high standard so that in the lower age groups he awarded a great number of Highly Commended certificates, and in some cases, equal second and third prizes. His reports were read with interest by competitors and teachers, and regarded as high quality and very helpful. He took great care with his reports and this made the week very enjoyable. A great number of duets were played, in all the age groups which had a duet section, and the quality of playing showed the dedication of teachers, performers and parents to the difficult task of getting young people together so that they can practise together.

The 18 and under age group played on Wednesday night and the Open sections were held on Friday night and Saturday afternoon.

The piano division was well publicised, thanks to the efforts of people on the committee, and a few people responded to the advertisement and were delighted with the events they attended. However, we would like to attract more people and build more support for these hard working young people.

The convenor (Doris Rowland) is retiring this year, and the committee now faces the task of finding someone else, or a group of people, to convene the division. It is a voluntary position but a very rewarding one; all the convenors feel that their job is very worthwhile, and a continuous stream of voluntary workers is needed to keep a good thing going.

Winners Piano Division 2009

Listed in the order in which the sections were held

081	Solo Own Choice	Nicole Wang
092	Solo Restricted	Christian Tang
091	Solo Classical style	No first prize
093	Solo Own Choice	Jared Cheung
101	Solo Own Choice	Jared Cheung
103	Solo Classical style	Renee Wu
102	Solo Baroque period	Daniel Cherepinsky
104	Duet	Bernice Chua and Jonathan Lee
112	Solo Restricted	Henry Xu
113	Solo Classical	Henry Xu
111	Solo Bartok	Rena Li
121	Sonatina	Jason Zang
122	Solo Fr Norw Russian	Mia Fu Huang
123	Solo Own Choice	Mia Fu Huang
124	Duet	Henry Xu and Rena Li
181	Solo Romantic/Impressionist	Marko Sever
182	Solo Kerry Evans Memorial	Qian-au Chen
183	Solo Chopin Championship	Qian-au Chen
005	Open Duet	Lucus Allerton and Susan Dedman
131	Solo Australian	Emma Rayner
132	Solo Restricted	Kristofer Erb
133	Solo Own Choice	Emma Rayner
141	Solo Baroque period	Anthony Chen
142	Solo Own Choice	Anthony Chen
143	Solo 20th or 21st Century	Anthony Chen
144	Duet	Jessica Wu and Emma Rayner
151	Solo Romantic/Impressionist	Katherine Chow
152	Solo Australian	Karam Kim
153	Solo Classical	Steven Harrison
161	Solo Romantic/Impressionist	Zoe Gallagher-Avery
162	Solo Baroque	Liam Kemp
163	Solo 20th or 21st Century	Emily Buckley
164	Duet	Emily Buckley and Jasmin Kang
002	Open 20th or 21st Century	Rose Holcombe
003	J S Bach	Rose Holcombe
004	Open Beethoven/Schubert	No first prize
001	Open Piano Recital	James Huntingford

**The next newsletter will appear after the conclusion of the Singing Division.
Doris Rowland (Editor)**