

2026 VOCAL SYLLABUS
for
THE 59TH ANNUAL EISTEDDFOD
ORGANISED BY
TAREE AND DISTRICT EISTEDDFOD SOCIETY INC.

www.tareeeisteddfod.com.au

President: Tim Stack OAM & Julie Edwards
Secretary: Julie Edwards
Treasurer: Rosemary Latimore

Major Sponsor
STACKS FINANCE

www.stacksfinance.com.au



**“The important thing is not to win a prize or beat a rival,
but to pace one another on the road to excellence.”**

Tentative Dates: Tuesday 14th April to Saturday 18th April

Closing date for entries: Friday 13th March 2026

ALL ENTRIES AND FEES TO BE SUBMITTED ONLINE AT

www.comps-online.com.au

Venue: Manning Entertainment Centre, 33 Manning River Drive, Taree

Coordinators: Deirdre Sutherland, Kristine Waugh & Mandy Howard

Contact Details: 0467 655056 (DS) 0419 419064 (KW) 0402 789970 (MH)
Email: tareevocal.tdes@gmail.com

GRAND CONCERT

Saturday 13 June 2026 (to be confirmed) Selections of performers are made by the adjudicators and in some instances by the concert organiser in collaboration with section coordinators. Performers are selected from Championship and scholarship winners, multiple place winners and other high standard and entertaining performances.

AGE

A competitor's age for entry purposes is taken as at 1st January in the year of the event.

DONATIONS

Please consider donating. Every contribution, large or small, helps to keep our wonderful eisteddfod running. Your donation goes towards purchasing trophies and providing cash awards.

Donations can be included when submitting your entry at www.comps-online.com.au
Thank you to all our generous donors from last year.

ADMITTANCE TO THE THEATRE FOR PERFORMANCES

Everyone who enters the theatre other than competitors of the session are required to pay a session fee.

This assists us in covering some of our running costs. Full day and season tickets are also available.

END OF SESSION At the conclusion of each session the theatre will be cleared until the commencement of the next session. Please ask the front door person about day and section passes to reduce admission costs to the theatre.

PROGRAM

The program will be available from the Eisteddfod website once all entries are received and collated. The cost of the program is automatically added to your cart when you enter online.

RULES AND CONDITIONS

The Eisteddfod Rules and Conditions are available on our website

ENTRANTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS Please inform the coordinators, as soon as you complete your entry, if there are any special needs requirements e.g. wheelchair access, support person.

To Vocal Teachers and Students

Greetings from Deirdre Sutherland, Kristine Waugh & Mandy Howard, your Vocal coordinators for the 2026 Taree Vocal Eisteddfod. We extend a warm welcome to all vocalists and voice teachers.

Once again, we will hold the Community Choirs Section during the Vocal Section in 2026. This will be a celebration of choral music and vocal harmonies. It will not be a competition; however, our adjudicator will give written comments for each of the entries.

In 2026 we will only use Music Uploads for backing tracks. See page 7 for details.

We live in a very picturesque area of the Mid-North Coast. Competing in a regional eisteddfod has many advantages:

- It gives students an opportunity to refine their chosen repertoire and compete before the bigger city competitions.
- It builds performance and “nerves” muscles.
- The prize money overall is very generous.
- The prize money for the Open Age Aria competition is \$1000.
- There are two Smile Scholarships of \$1000 for further tuition.
- The timing of the Vocal Section coincides with the 2nd week of the NSW school holidays, Tuesday 14th April to Saturday 18th April (to be confirmed), which makes it easier for participants to come here.
- We have excellent accompanists and an excellent venue.

We would love to see you in the beautiful Manning Valley. Any queries – please email us:

tareevocal.tdes@gmail.com

Yours musically!

Deirdre Sutherland 0467 655 056

Kristine Waugh 0419 419064

Mandy Howard 0402 789 970

Taree and District Eisteddfod Vocal Coordinators

TDES Vocal Syllabus 2026 Contents

- P5– Checklist, Venues
- P6 – Adjudicator, major prizes
- P7 – Entries, Program, Audience admittance, Grand Concert
- P7&8 – Stage etiquette, rules, and regulations, photocopying
- P9- Official Accompanists
- P10 –12 Junior Sections
- P13-15 Open Age Sections, Junior and Senior Championships

VOCAL SYLLABUS CHECKLIST

- **Performance dates: 14th – 18th April 2026 to be confirmed. Please note this is 2nd week of NSW school holidays.** Programming and age group days are not allocated until after 24th March 2026
 - **Closing date for entries: Friday 13th March 2026 midnight.** Please note the Comps-on-line system will not accept your entry after this date.
 - **Adjudicator's copy of music/lyrics MUST be emailed to tareevocal.tdes@gmail.com no later than: Wednesday 1st April 2026**
 - **Music to reach Accompanists no later than: Friday 13th March 2026.** This is teacher/student responsibility to organise. Accompanists need adequate time to rehearse your music!
 - **Appointment to be Booked for Accompanist Rehearsal: Friday 13th March 2026.**
-

VENUE – Manning Entertainment Centre (MEC), 33 Manning River Drive Taree

- **In 2026 the Vocal Section will be held in the main auditorium** of the MEC. All age group sections will be held during the daytime and evening, in the **main auditorium**. Junior and Senior Championships will be held on the evening of Saturday 18th April, time to be advised in program. Competitors are to use the Green Rooms allocated for costume changes and warm-ups.
- **The Community Choirs Section will be held in the main auditorium on a date to be advised.**

ADJUDICATOR – We are pleased to welcome

Phoebe Humphreys is a multi-award-winning vocalist, arts educator, and producer with over 12 years of experience in the performing arts and music industry across Australia and Europe. With more than 200 vocal awards and a decade performing in Opera Australia's prestigious full-time chorus—totalling over 1,500 performances—she has also graced the stage of the Sydney Opera House as a soloist on numerous occasions.

Holding a Master of Arts in Performance from Guildhall School of Music and Drama (London), Phoebe is recognized for her artistic excellence, leadership, and dedication to youth development in the arts. She has taught and mentored many of Australia's top emerging vocalists, offering comprehensive coaching in drama, stagecraft, and technique. A respected national adjudicator, she has judged major competitions including the Sydney, Ryde, and Penrith Eisteddfods, and has directed and produced vocal and dramatic programs in schools nationwide. Creative, organized, and passionate, Phoebe continues to contribute to the cultural landscape through her performance, education, and artistic leadership.

MAJOR AWARDS

CHAMPIONSHIPS

To be eligible for these sections, you must perform in other solo sections as noted in this syllabus.

16 years and under Championship \$300

20 years and under Championship \$300

Open Age Music Theatre Championship \$500

Open Age Operatic Aria Championship \$1000

ROMA LIGGINS PERPETUAL SCHOLARSHIP

A \$2500 scholarship will be available to an outstanding competitor in the 2026 Taree and District Eisteddfod. The scholarship is open to any competitor of any age and in any section of the eisteddfod, except Early Childhood. The management committee of the Taree and District Eisteddfod Society Inc., taking into consideration adjudicators' decisions, will then choose the successful competitor, whose name will be announced at the Grand Concert. A competitor will only be available for this scholarship once.

SMILE SCHOLARSHIPS

Two Smile Scholarships of \$1000 will be made to very talented competitors in the Vocal section.

ENTRIES

1. **ON-LINE ENTRIES – ALL** vocal entries must be made on-line via the <http://www.compsonline> website. Teachers may make individual or studio entries, but please note that there is a small fee included for www.compsonline for each entry that is made.
2. **If you require the services of the official accompanist, you must choose them in the Comps Online entry. The accompanist fee will be added to your entry (see page 8). There is also a \$1.75 APRA copyright fee for every song entered unless it is self-composed.**
3. **CLOSING DATE – Friday 13th March 2026 at midnight.** Please note that the Comps-on-line system will not accept your entries after that date. For urgent enquiries, contact Deirdre Sutherland phone: 0467 655 056, or email: tareevocal.tdes@gmail.com
4. **ENSEMBLES (duets, trios etc.) – one person only to complete entry with all names of competitors on the entry.**
 *Where two or more competitors are competing in combination, no competitor may compete more than once in this section.
 *It is not the responsibility of the committee to contact teachers/parents for competitor's names.
5. **STARBURST ENTRANTS –** may enter any age-appropriate vocal section using the same song as used in their Starburst entry.
6. **NUMBER OF ENTRANTS PER SECTION –**
 *In all sections, including championships, at least three competitors must enter for awards to be given.
 * If there are less than three entered, at the discretion of the adjudicator and vocal section coordinators, the section may be competitive, or there will be adjudication only or refund for that section.

VOCAL SECTION STAGE ETIQUETTE, RULES, AND REGULATIONS

1. Please arrive at the venue at least half an hour before the session time. Report to the registration desk prior to entering the theatre.
2. All competitors and groups must perform in the order of their name in the program book. Changes may only be made after consultation with the session coordinator.
3. **REPertoire** – Please follow the description requirements for song choices in the syllabus sections. An incorrect genre of song choice will unfortunately be disqualified. A competitor who has won first place in a section, may not use that song choice again in this eisteddfod. There is an expectation that music will be performed by memory, unless otherwise stated.
4. **ACCOMPANIMENTS** – accompaniment is to be with piano, unless otherwise stated, for each section. If you wish to use the services of the official accompanist, check page 8. You may also use your own accompanist.
5. **AMPLIFIED SECTION ACCOMPANIMENTS.** CDs are no longer allowed!! Backing tracks must be through <https://musicuploads.com.au>

Please be advised Music Uploads have fees. They are only used for Pop Sections and the Music Theatre Amplified sections. They may also be used for the Ensemble sections.

6. **PROPS** – props are to be minimal and free-standing. Notify stage manager if you need help.
7. **Courtesy** – all competitors and their support persons must demonstrate courtesy. If they distract or cause problems for the performers and adjudicator, the Stage Manager and Vocal Coordinator have the authority to ask any person causing trouble to leave immediately. There must be silence in the auditorium during a performance.
8. No teacher, parent or carer is permitted to contact a competitor during the item being performed, unless as the accompanist. No prompting or assistance of any kind may be given by any person other than the adjudicator. (With the exception of the 8 yrs and under sections which are non-competitive).
9. All competitors are to wait where the Stage Manager instructs. All competitors, their teacher and parents are to follow directions from the Stage Manager.
10. No parent, teacher, competitor, or any other interested person shall be allowed to approach the adjudicator. to do so could disadvantage their competitor or other competitors. All enquiries are to be made to one of the coordinators.
11. **Photography and filming, including mobile phones: there is no filming of any sort allowed during a performance. There will be a photographic opportunity given at the end of each session.**
12. **Time Limits** – Please endeavour to stay within the time limits printed within the syllabus. It is at the discretion of the adjudicator as to whether a competitor will be disqualified for exceeding the time limit. Backing tracks exceeding time limits **need to be cut.**

REGULATIONS REGARDING PHOTOCOPYING –

A photocopy of all songs' sheet music and pop lyrics, to be performed, must be emailed to tareevocal.tdes@gmail.com by **Wednesday 1st April 2026**. This copy will be used by the adjudicator and later destroyed. The accompanists may perform from a photocopy which must be marked as ACCOMPANIST COPY. Each entrant must please sign an AMCOS copyright form for eisteddfods, available for download from the AMCOS website. AMCOS/APRA charges a small fee for each eisteddfod performance song, which is in the public domain. TDES collects that on behalf of APRA in each Comps online entry.

REGISTRATION ON THE DAY OF YOUR PERFORMANCE

Competitors must sign in at the Registration Desk, in the foyer, at least half an hour prior to their section beginning (also handing in any adjudicator's music that has not been emailed.)

OFFICIAL ACCOMPANISTS

Anyone who requires the services of the Official Accompanist must make this choice in their Comps Online entry forms. You may also use your own accompanist. A copy of the music in a folder with plastic inserts is to be sent to the Official Accompanist. **Friday 13th March 2026 is the latest date for accompanists to receive music.** Loose-leafed music is not acceptable. Set out folders with contents page as follows:

1. The competitors name and contact phone number
2. The competitors age group
3. The section name and number
4. The Song Title and Composer

The music supplied to the accompanist must be a full accompaniment not a single line with chords. Accompanists will not transpose or improvise and will only play the written accompaniment. They may not help the competitors by playing the vocal line.

Accompanist fees – a fee of **\$8 per song** is charged by the Eisteddfod Society if the services of an official accompanist are to be used in any vocal section. This is included in the on-line booking. **Official accompanists are not to be used for the Pop Sections.** Rehearsal fees with an official accompanist are to be paid at the time of the rehearsal. Fees are approximately \$40 per half hour. See below for rehearsal bookings.

8YRS, 10YRS, 12YRS, Open Age – LYDIA WILLS

Postal Address for music: Lydia Wills, 5 Kyogle Place, Port Macquarie, NSW 2444.

Port Macquarie and northern region competitors may book rehearsals directly with Lydia.

Phone: 0408 741371 or 65814892. Lydia's rehearsals for Taree, Wingham, Gloucester,

Forster/Tuncurry, and southern regions will be held **Sunday 29th March 2026** in Songlines Music Studio 2/66 High St, Taree. **To book rehearsal appointments please call Deirdre: 0467 655056, by Friday 13th March 2026.**

14YRS, 16YRS, 20YRS – DON SECOMB

Postal Address for music: Don Secomb, 52 Flett St, Taree, NSW 2430

To book a rehearsal appointment please call Don by Saturday **1st March 2026**. Phone: 0400 402090.

JUNIOR SECTIONS

RESTRICTED VOCAL SOLO - OWN CHOICE

For competitors who have not gained a first prize in the Taree Eisteddfod Vocal Section.
Any genre. **Entry fee \$12.** Time limit 4 minutes. Must use Official or own accompanist. No backing tracks.

Section 1. 8yrs and under
Section 2. 10yrs and under
Section 3. 12yrs and under

Section 4. 14yrs and under
Section 5. 16yrs and under
Section 6. 20yrs and under

FOLK OR TRADITIONAL SONG – OWN CHOICE

A song of no known authorship. May be sung unaccompanied or may be accompanied by one or two appropriate instruments. Official or own accompanist. **Entry fee \$12.** Time limit 4 minutes.

Section 7. 8yrs and under
Section 8. 10yrs and under
Section 9. 12yrs and under

Section 10. 14yrs and under
Section 11. 16yrs and under
Section 12. 20yrs and under

SONG BY AN AUSTRALIAN COMPOSER (art song/classical genre, not pop or folk) – OWN CHOICE

or own accompanist.

Entry fee \$12. Time limit 4 minutes. Official

Section 13. 8yrs and under
Section 14. 10yrs and under
Section 15. 12yrs and under

Section 16. 14yrs and under
Section 17. 16yrs and under
Section 18. 20yrs and under

VOCAL SOLO - OWN CHOICE (art song/classical style, not music theatre, pop, folk, or traditional. Suitable to age level.)

Entry fee \$12. Time limit 4 minutes. Official or own accompanist.

Section 19. 8yrs and under

Section 20. 10yrs and under

VOCAL SOLO ART SONG FROM ELIZABETHAN TO 21ST CENTURY CLASSICAL

REPERTOIRE – OWN CHOICE **Entry fee \$12.** Time limit 4 minutes. Official or own accompanist.

Section 21. 12yrs and under
Section 22. 14yrs and under

Section 23. 16yrs and under
Section 24. 20yrs and under

SACRED SONG, CANTATA or ORATORIO – OWN CHOICE. NOT POP or CONTEMPORARY

Entry fee \$12. Time limit 4 minutes. Official or own accompanist. Lyrics may be held for song/aria from cantata/oratorio.

Section 25. 16yrs and under

Section 26. 20yrs and under

ENSEMBLES – Duet, Trio, Quartet - OWN CHOICE For 2 – 4 singers

One song which must contain some harmony. May be from Popular, Music Theatre or Classical genres. Backing tracks uploaded to <https://musicuploads.com.au> or official or own accompanist. **Entry fee \$12.**

Time limit 4 minutes. (Add all names of competitors onto one entry form but one person only must send in full amount of entry fee.)

Section 27. 14yrs and under
Section 28. 16yrs and under

Section 29. 20yrs and under

SONG IN COSTUME – OWN CHOICE

The song is to be chosen from music theatre, or operetta (including Gilbert and Sullivan). The song must be specifically written for the show and genre. Official or own accompanist. Backing track & microphone NOT allowed. Must be performed in appropriate costume. Must use official or own accompanist.

Entry fee \$12. Time limit 4 minutes.

Section 30. 8yrs and under
Section 31. 10yrs and under
Section 32. 12yrs and under

Section 33. 14yrs and under
Section 34. 16yrs and under
Section 35. 20yrs and under

MUSIC THEATRE AMPLIFIED – OWN CHOICE

The song is to be chosen from music theatre, film, television. May be in costume. Microphone must be used. Accompaniment must be on <https://musicuploads.com.au>

Entry fee \$12. Time limit 4.5 minutes.

Section 36. 8yrs and under
Section 37. 10yrs and under
Section 38. 12yrs and under

Section 39. 14yrs and under
Section 40. 16yrs and under
Section 41. 20yrs and under

POP SONG – OWN CHOICE

A pop song is a non-classical song, which can be Country, R&B, Jazz, Ballad, Rock & Roll and is usually characterised by an insistent rhythmic beat.

The Official accompanist is not available for this section. Accompaniment may be by own instrumentalists or <https://musicuploads.com.au> Backing vocals will be allowed. A copy of lyrics only will be required for the adjudicator. A microphone is available for use.

Entry fee \$12. Time limit 4.5 minutes.

Section 42. 8yrs and under
Section 43. 10yrs and under
Section 44. 12yrs and under

Section 45. 14yrs and under
Section 46. 16yrs and under
Section 47. 20yrs and under

POP SONG BY AN AUSTRALIAN SONGWRITER – OWN CHOICE

THIS SONG MUST BE WRITTEN BY AN AUSTRALIAN SONGWRITER. Encouragement is given to local singer song-writers to enter their own song. See definition and requirements in above section.

Entry fee \$12 Time limit 4.5 minutes for all age groups.

Section 48. 8yrs and under
Section 49. 10yrs and under
Section 50. 12yrs and under

Section 51. 14yrs and under
Section 52. 16yrs and under
Section 53. 20yrs and under

Aggregate Awards

10 years and under Aggregate Winner - \$100 – given to the entrant with the highest average score of all their results, in the following sections – 8, 14, 20, 31 or 37 (whichever is higher of the two music theatre sections), 43 or 49 (whichever is higher of the two pop sections).

12 years and under Aggregate Winner - \$100 – given to the entrant with the highest average score of all their results, in the following sections – 9, 15, 21, 32 or 38 (whichever is higher of the two music theatre sections), 44 or 50 (whichever is the higher of the two pop sections).

14 years and under Aggregate Winner - \$100 – given to the entrant with the highest average score of all their results, in the following sections – 10, 16, 22, 33 or 39 (whichever is higher of the two music theatre sections), 45 or 51 (whichever is the higher of the two pop sections).

16 years and under Amplified Aggregate Award - \$150

Given to the entrant with the highest score of their results in the following sections -

Section 34. Song in Costume

Section 40. Music Theatre Amplified

Section 46. Pop Song

Section 52. Pop Song by Australian Songwriter

20 years and under Amplified Aggregate Award - \$150

Given to the entrant with the highest score of their results in the following sections -

Section 35. Song in Costume

Section 41. Music Theatre Amplified

Section 47. Pop Song

Section 53. Pop Song by Australian Songwriter

JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Date: Saturday 18th April 2026

SECTION 54 - 16 YEARS AND UNDER VOCAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Entry fee \$18

To qualify for entry, competitors must have performed in any two the following sections – 17, 23, 25. Competitors will be required to sing two songs which will be performed consecutively.

Time limit – maximum 10 minutes

1st Prize \$300 donated by Manning Valley Choral Society

(A) Art Song or Aria from Baroque Period to Classical Period repertoire

(B) Art Song or Aria from Romantic to 21st Century Classical repertoire

SECTION 55 – 20 YEARS AND UNDER VOCAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Entry fee \$18

To qualify for entry, competitors must have performed in any two of the following sections – 18, 24, 26.

Competitors will be required to sing two songs which will be performed consecutively.

Time limit – maximum 10 minutes

1st Prize \$300

(A) Art Song or Aria from Baroque Period to Classical Period

(B) Art Song or Aria from Romantic Period to 21st Century Classical repertoire

OPEN AGE SECTIONS

Date: Saturday 18th April 2026

Section 56. RESTRICTED VOCAL SOLO – OWN CHOICE

For competitors who have not gained a first place in the Taree Vocal Eisteddfod. Official or own accompanist.

Entry fee \$12. Time limit 4 minutes.

Section 57. FOLK OR TRADITIONAL SONG – OWN CHOICE

A song of no known authorship. May be sung unaccompanied or may be accompanied by one or two appropriate instruments. Official or own accompanist.

Entry fee \$12. Time limit 4 minutes.

Section 58. ART SONG BY AN AUSTRALIAN COMPOSER – OWN CHOICE

Entry fee \$12. Time limit 4 minutes. Official or own accompanist.

Section 59. VOCAL SOLO ART SONG. (Not Operatic Aria) ELIZABETHAN TO 21ST CENTURY CLASSICAL ART SONG/LIEDER/CHANSON/CANZONE REPERTOIRE – OWN CHOICE

Entry fee \$12. Time limit 4 minutes. Official or own accompanist.

First prize \$200 Marieke Dan Perpetual Memorial Trophy

Section 60. SACRED SONG, CANTATA or ORATORIO ARIA– OWN CHOICE

Entry fee \$12. Time limit 4 minutes. Official or own accompanist.

Section 61. OPEN AGE COMMUNITY CHOIRS - OWN CHOICE

Two contrasting songs of any genre, which must contain some harmony. Own accompanist or 'a Capella'. Add name of group onto one entry form.

Entry fee \$25. Time limit 10 minutes.

Section 62. SONG FROM MUSIC THEATRE, OPERETTA – OWN CHOICE Official or own accompanist, not B/T. The song must be specifically written for the show and genre. May be performed in costume.

Entry fee \$12. Time limit 4.5 minutes.

Section 63. MUSIC THEATRE AMPLIFIED – OWN CHOICE. The song is to be chosen from Music Theatre, Film, Television, Operetta. Microphone must be used. Accompaniment must be on

<https://musicuploads.com.au>

Entry fee \$12 Time limit 4.5 minutes.

Section 64. POP SONG – OWN CHOICE

A pop song is a non-classical, non-music theatre song, which can be Country, R&B, Jazz, Ballad, Rock & Roll and is usually characterised by an insistent rhythmic beat.

The Official accompanist is not available for this section. Accompaniment may be by own instrumentalist or on <https://musicuploads.com.au>. Backing vocals will be allowed. A copy of lyrics only will be required for the adjudicator. A microphone is available for use in this section.

Entry fee for each section \$12. Time limit 4.5 minutes.

Section 65. POP SONG BY AN AUSTRALIAN SONGWRITER – OWN CHOICE

THIS SONG MUST BE WRITTEN BY AN AUSTRALIAN SONGWRITER. Encouragement is given to local singer song-writers to enter their own song. See definition and requirements in above section.

OPEN AGE ARIA COMPETITION AND VOCAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Date: Saturday 18th April 2026

Section 66. OPEN AGE MUSIC THEATRE CHAMPIONSHIP

Entry fee \$18

**Official or own accompanist may be used. Not Backing Tracks.
First Prize \$500 Donated by Taree Arts Council**

To qualify for entry competitors must have performed in the following two Open Age solo sections: 62, 63.

Competitors will be required to sing two music theatre songs, which will be sung consecutively. Competitors are encouraged to perform in costume if appropriate for the character (be creative with your costume changes!)

Time limit maximum 12 minutes.

(A) Music Theatre Song from Broadway or West End 1940 - 1969

(B) Music Theatre Song from Broadway or West End 1970 – current era

Section 67. OPEN AGE VOCAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Entry fee \$18

Official or own accompanist may be used

First Prize \$1000 donated by Mr Tim Stack OAM and Taree Eisteddfod Society

To qualify for entry competitors must have performed in **two** of the following solo sections: Open Age Sections 58, 59, 60.

Competitors will be required to sing two arias, which will be sung consecutively.

Time limit maximum 12 minutes.

(C) Operatic Aria from Baroque or Classical Period

(D) Operatic Aria from Romantic or Contemporary period

(The arias may be sung in English or the original language)