

Competition Guidelines for Accordion, Composition, Piano and Strings (2025)

General rules and requirements

1. The 2025 Melbourne Star International Music Competition (hereafter referred as the MSIMC) is open to all entrants.
2. Each section has specific requirements. Failure to comply with these may lead to disqualification and the withdrawal of prizes and awards.
3. If disputes occur, our adjudication panel's decision is final. We do not allow any variation to the rules to ensure a fair competition.
4. For all aged sections, an entrant's age is determined as at the final day of the MSIMC, which is Sunday, 17th August 2025.
5. Section winners may be required to provide birth certificates.
6. Registration is now open and will close on Monday, 30th June 2025.

Categories and competition rounds

7. The 2025 MSIMC will feature contestants competing across five categories:

- 1) Accordion solo*
- 2) Cello and other string solos
- 3) Composition**
- 4) Piano solo
- 5) Violin solo

* Please also refer to the **Specific Guidelines for the Accordion category** for additional entry requirements.

**All entries must be original compositions; arrangements of existing works will not be accepted. Composition entries may include works for all instruments and/or ensembles.

8. Each category, **excluding Open Age groups and the Composition category**, will have one preliminary round and one final round. Contestants who register in Melbourne will compete in Melbourne, Australia; contestants who apply in China will compete in a designated city in China.
9. All final rounds are live performances held in Melbourne, with one single final round for all Open Age groups registered in Melbourne.

10. Both rounds are **limited to one piece** (excluding the Virtuoso Entertainment Music for accordion). For all categories, the repertoire performed in the final round can be the same as that played in the preliminary round.
11. String contestants must arrange their own accompanists.
12. Composition:
 - 1) The Composition category consists of one single round with online submissions and adjudication. An award ceremony will take place on the final day of the competition.
 - 2) Contestants are required to submit **a PDF file of music scores and a MP3 file** via email at melbournestarimc@outlook.com. The full name of the contestant must be included in the subject of the email, as well as the name of the two submitted files (e.g. Your Full Name.pdf, Your Full Name.mp3)
 - 3) All necessary documents must be submitted by the registration closing date, Monday, 30th June 2025.

Report

13. An adjudication report will be prepared and shared with the finalists of all categories, including contestants from all Open Age groups and the Composition category.
14. No report will be prepared in the preliminary round.

Registration fee

15. Instrument solo: AU\$ 95
Composition: AU\$ 75
16. Entrants can apply for multiple sections. Each section will require an individual registration fee.

Agenda and registration

17. Preliminary round (excluding Open Age groups): 27th July, 3rd August 2025 (Sundays)
Venue: Australian Music World Concert Hall, 27 25-37 Huntingdale Road, Burwood
18. Final round (including Open Age groups):
 - 1) String solos: Sunday 10th August 2025
Venue: Australian Music World Concert Hall, 27 25-37 Huntingdale Road, Burwood
 - 2) Piano and accordion solos: Sunday 17th August 2025
Venue: Flockart Hall, MLC, 207 Barkers Road, Kew

- 3) Award ceremony for the Composition category: Sunday 17th August 2025 (afternoon)
Venue: Flockart Hall, MLC, 207 Barkers Road, Kew

19. Entrants can register via TryBooking under 'Apply Online'.
20. Late application will be considered if a written request is made via email. Registration fees are non-refundable, except when the 2025 MSIMC is cancelled. Entrants wishing to withdraw their registration are required to notify via email at melbournestarimc@outlook.com prior to the date of their section.
21. Sections are scheduled according to adjudicator availability and may fall on any advertised date of the competition. J&S International Education Group reserves the right to amend, cancel, or combine any section.
22. Contestants will be notified of their appearance time via email in advance. **It is the contestant's responsibility to check both their inbox and junk mail folders for the confirmation email.** Failure to attend a session due to not checking emails is the contestant's own responsibility, and no refund will be provided.

Divisions and time limit

23. Age is determined as of Sunday 17th August, the final date of the 2025 MSIMC.
24. The Division titled as 'Open' can be entered by persons of any age.
25. Selections of performance should be chosen to finish within the time limit prescribed. In the case of a performer exceeding the time limit the performance will be adjudicated up to the point of the time limit being reached.

Piano & String solos		
Division	Age group	Time limit
Minor I	7 years & under	4 minutes
Minor II	10 years & under	4 minutes
Junior I	12 years & under	5 minutes
Junior II	14 years & under	5 minutes
Senior I	16 years & under	6 minutes
Senior II	18 years & under	8 minutes
Open	No limit	10 minutes

Accordion solo		
Division	Age group	Time limit
Minor	10 years & under	4 minutes
Junior	13 years & under	5 minutes
Senior	16 years & under	6 minutes
Open	No limit	8 minutes
Virtuoso Entertainment Music*	No limit	10 minutes

*All entrants must refer to the **Specific Guidelines for the Accordion category** for additional entry requirements.

Composition		
Division	Age group	Time limit
Minor	10 years & under	No limit
Junior	16 years & under	
Senior	Above 16 years old	

Awards

- 26. All entrants will be awarded a Certificate of Participation in the preliminary round, where applicable.
- 27. Cash prizes or vouchers, along with a certificate, will be awarded to the 1st prize winner in all categories.
- 28. A certificate will be awarded to the 2nd, 3rd, and honourable mention winners.

Session check-in

- 29. Entrants must allow adequate time to register for their session before their competition section starts. Failure to register may result in being disqualified for an award.
- 30. Entrants are required to bring the original music score and submit, as appropriate, a clean photocopy of their music for use by the adjudicator at registration. All photocopies will be destroyed after the event.
- 31. No warm-up time is provided at the venue. Contestants are recommended to have a warm-up time prior to attending their competition section.

Audience

- 32. Free entry for all audience members during the final round.
- 33. No entry for audience during the preliminary round.

Consent for use of images and videos

- 34. All entrants (and their guardians if under 18) in the MSIMC give permission for their photographs or videos taken by J&S International Education Group to be used now or in the

future for the purpose of external communications, including advertising and marketing as well as posted on their website and social media account (s) including Facebook, Instagram, etc.

35. These photos and recordings are solely for archival or marketing purposes of J&S International Education Group. No such recording or image may be on-sold for profit. If a participant does not wish to be filmed or photographed by J&S International Education Group, they can notify via email at melbournestarimc@outlook.com upon the time of registration.

Recording, photography and filming

36. Photography and recording will not be permitted by the audience during performances.
37. Public audio or video recording will not be permitted, including on smartphones or similar devices. J&S International Education Group is not held responsible for any breach of the copyright from the public member(s).

Privacy

38. By participating in the 2025 MSIMC, the entrant consents to any personal information collected being used by J&S International Education Group for the purposes, or directly related purposes, of conducting the MSIMC.
39. J&S International Education Group will not sell, rent, trade, or otherwise supply to third parties any personal information obtained from participants unless he/she consents.