

OZ SCHOOLS INSTRUMENTAL CHAMPIONSHIPS



A competition for Australia's best up-and-coming musicians.

DRUMS

Event Guide

NATIONAL FINAL

NOVEMBER 29TH

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WELCOME

Welcome to the 2025 Oz Schools Instrumental Championships (OSIC) National Final!

Over two exciting days at the Australian College of the Arts (Collarts) in Melbourne, students will showcase their skills in piano, strings, drums, and guitar - competing for trophies, prizes and the coveted National Championship title!

After an extraordinary season of auditions and state finals, this final round brings together an exceptional array of talent from across Australia. These young musicians are a testament not only to the remarkable abilities of Australia's next generation, but also to the dedication and support of their families and teachers, whose guidance has been invaluable throughout their journey.

We encourage you to read through this guide to ensure you're fully prepared for the event day. If there's anything you can't find, please email us at admin@osic.com.au

Keep practicing, and enjoy every moment on stage - this is your moment to celebrate all you've achieved

Warm regards,

OSIC Team

SCHEDULE

NATIONAL DRUMS FINAL - *Saturday November 29th*

Full programs (student order) will be provided on the event day.

8:00am - 9:00am

Registration from 7:30am



(Prep - Grade 2)

Primary
JUNIOR

9:00am - 10:20am

Registration from 8:30am



(Grades 3 & 4)

Primary
INTERMEDIATE

10:20am - 11:40am

Registration from 9:50am



(Grades 5 & 6)

Primary
SENIOR

11:40am - 1:10pm

Registration from 11:10am



(Years 7 - 9)

Secondary
JUNIOR

1:10pm - 2:40pm

Registration from 12:40pm



(Years 10 - 12)

Secondary
SENIOR

COMPETITION STRUCTURE

REGISTRATION - Students can confirm their attendance and collect their registration bag at the front administration desk. Registration for each age category opens 30 minutes prior to the category start time.

SHEET MUSIC - Providing a copy of your sheet music to the judges is not mandatory, but is highly recommended where a part is available. Sheet music can be provided at the registration desk on the event day.

TUNING/PRACTICE - A space will be available to students for tuning instruments, warming up or practicing prior to their performance.

PERFORMANCES - Students and the name of their piece will be introduced by the event host (students do not need to introduce themselves).

COMING/GOING - Students and families are welcome to enter/exit a session at any time (between performances).

PRESENTATIONS - Presentations will take place on stage at the end of each section (approximately 10 minutes after the final performance).

INSTRUMENTS/GEAR

DRUMKIT - Students will perform on the competition 5 piece acoustic kit (Red Rock Drums - Custom Kit). Students are permitted to use their own snare if preferred.

CYMBALS - The following cymbals will be provided for students: 1x hi-hat, 2x crash (18", 19") 1x splash (8"), 1x ride & 1x china. Students are permitted to use their own ride if preferred.

PEDALS - A double kick pedal (Pearl Demon Direct Drive) will be provided. Students are permitted to use their own kick pedal if preferred.

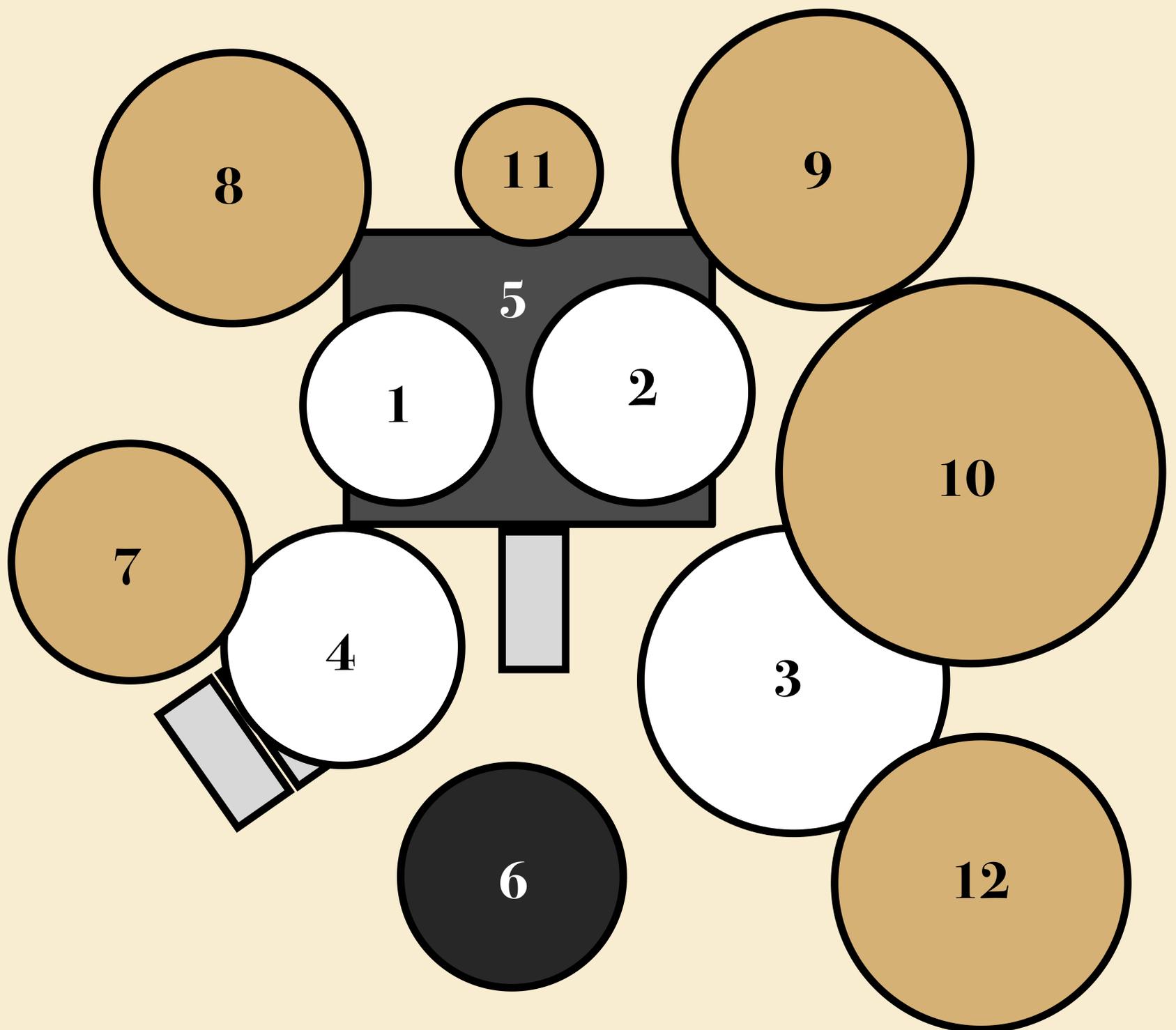
STICKS - Students are required to bring their own drumsticks. Spares will be provided on the kit.

BACKING TRACKS - Backing tracks are permitted and must be submitted no later than November 16th (see next page for instructions on submitting your backing track).

HEADPHONES - Over-ear monitor headphones (Vic Firth SIH3) will be provided. Students are permitted to bring their own headphones (wired only) if preferred.

ADJUSTMENTS - Students are permitted to re-arrange the kit where needed. If you perform with a left-handed setup, please let us know by emailing admin@osic.com.au.

KIT LAYOUT



1. Rack tom 1
2. Rack tom 2
3. Floor tom
4. Snare
5. Kick
6. Stool

7. Hi-hat cymbal
8. Crash cymbal (18")
9. Crash cymbal (19")
10. Ride cymbal
11. Splash cymbal (8")
12. China cymbal

WHAT TO PERFORM

Students can perform any piece within a **4 minute time limit** (plus additional 30 second grace period). Cut pieces, sections of a piece/multiple pieces are all accepted.

ACCOMPANIMENT/ BACKING TRACKS

BACKING TRACKS - Backing tracks are permitted and must be submitted no later than November 16th.

Split tracks, where a click track is sent to headphones and clickless is sent to FOH, are permitted. To organise a split track, please upload 2 backing tracks (one clickless), or a stereo file with left channel clickless, and right channel with click.

SUBMITTING A BACKING TRACK - To submit your backing track, follow the steps on the OSIC homepage, or visit:
www.osic.com.au/uploadbacking

EXPLICIT LANGUAGE - Use of clean/censored backing tracks is encouraged where explicit language is present.

LIVE ACCOMPANIMENT - Live accompaniment is permitted, but must be noted under 'stage requirements' during registration, or via email (admin@osic.com.au).

SOUND CHECK - Students will have the opportunity to test and adjust their sound levels before their performance.

ASSESSMENT

Students will be assessed on the following criteria:

Timing and Rhythm

Consistency (no rushing or dragging)

Groove (strong & natural feel)

Dynamics

Volume control (balanced changes)

Technique

Precision (accuracy & execution)

Posture (stability & placement)

Difficulty (complexity of piece)

Creativity

Originality (personal interpretation)

Musicality (connection to music)

Stage Presence

Confidence (assurance & poise)

Energy (engagement & enthusiasm)

ABOUT THE JUDGES

2025 National Drums Judge - Corey Mills

Corey Mills is a Melbourne-based drummer, recording artist, and educator with nearly two decades of experience. He's performed with leading acts including Ella Hooper, Karise Eden, KIAN, Hayley Mary, and the Dili Allstars, and toured internationally across major venues and festivals.

Founder of The Xmatics and Head of Music for a 300+ student program, Corey is proudly endorsed by DW Drums, Evans, Promark, Audix, Protection Racket, Roland, DWe, and Soundworks by DW.



ABOUT THE JUDGES

2025 National Drums Judge - Campbell Phillips

Campbell Phillips is a Melbourne-based drummer and educator, founder of D²Drumline, and Drumline Director for the Victorian State Schools Spectacular (VSSS).

He has performed with the Top Secret Drum Corps, Blue Devils International Corps, and collaborated with artists including What So Not and the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. Campbell is a specialist educator and an international artist for Mapex Drums, Zildjian Cymbals, Evans Drumheads, and Promark Sticks.



ABOUT THE JUDGES

2025 National Drums Judge - Rachel Trainor

Rachel Trainor is a New Zealand-born, Melbourne-based drummer, vocalist and multi-instrumentalist. After studying music at University of Otago in Dunedin, she has since studied with Dave Elitch and Benny Greb.

Rachel has performed and toured with Stephanie Lake's Manifesto, Highwire Entertainment's Rebel and The Defiant, and was head musician at Dracula's Cabaret Melbourne. Her session and live credits include Amanda Palmer, The Merindas, Die Roten Punkte, Coda Chroma, Honeybone, and her solo project Nighteyes.

Rachel is endorsed by Gretsch Drums, Meinl Cymbals, and Evans Drumheads.



AUDIENCE TICKETS

Audience tickets can be purchased prior to the event by following the steps on the OSIC homepage, or going straight to: www.osic.com.au/tickets

Remaining tickets will be available for purchase on the event day at the OSIC registration desk.

Please note that limited seats are available for audience in each age category. Some age categories are already close to capacity and may sell out prior to the event. There is no guarantee of availability to purchase audience tickets on the competition day.

An audience ticket is a reserved seat to the listed age category. Tickets also permit entry into all other categories on the same day (**subject to available seats**).

Competing students do not need an audience ticket, and can attend all other categories on their event day (**subject to available seats**).

VENUE

All finals will take place at The Australian College of the Arts (Collarts), Wellington St Campus Theatre.

ADDRESS - 208 Wellington St, Collingwood (entry via the main door on Wellington Street)

PARKING - Street parking is available on neighbouring roads - Stanley Street, Cambridge Street and Oxford Street.

ACCESSIBILITY - Wheelchair access is available for all areas used in the event.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT - The closest tram lines are 11, 12, 86, 96 and 109. The closest train stations are Collingwood Station and Parliament Station.



REHEARSAL SPACES (FOR TRAVELLING STUDENTS)

Practice spaces will be available at Collarts 30 minutes prior to your event. Please note that, as Collarts is a busy university during the week, these rooms cannot be accessed in the days leading up to the event. If you're planning to arrive early, we highly recommend the following venue:

Three Phase Rehearsal Studios (Brunswick)

This building offers great spaces for drum rehearsals! Rooms are available on weekdays from 9am-6pm. For \$30 per hour, students can book a private studio room with a 5-piece kit, kick, stool and cymbals all set up and ready to go. Information regarding this space can be found on their website:
<https://threephasemusic.com/rates/>

To book a drum room, email rehearsals@threephasemusic.com



NATIONAL FINAL PROGRAM (STUDENT BIOS)

To celebrate the achievements of all students who have qualified for the 2025 National Final, the official event program will include a short biography for each participant.

We kindly ask all finalists to complete a brief online form, providing some background information about their musical journey, goals, and achievements, along with a profile photo (any style of photo is welcome).

Selected highlights from your submission will appear in the printed program. Please note that the length of each biography will be adjusted to suit the program's formatting requirements.

Submission Deadline: Sunday, November 16th

To ensure your biography is included in the official hard-copy program, please submit your form by the deadline above.

You can access the biography submission form on our website via the National Final page by clicking the "Submit Bio" button, or go directly to the form using the link below:

<https://www.osic.com.au/submitbio>

PHOTO/VIDEO

PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEO - An official photographer will be collecting media at various points throughout the event. Parents are welcome to take recordings and photographs of their own child.

OPTING OUT - Students can elect not to be photographed or recorded by sending an email to admin@osic.com.au. Students who ticked the non-consent to media box during registration have already had their preference noted.

DRESS CODE

There are no restrictions on competitor attire. School uniform and performance blacks are not required.

CONTACT

Can't find what you're looking for? Get in contact via email (admin@osic.com.au) and we will provide an answer!

SUPPORTED BY

VENUE: COLLARTS

COLLARTS
AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

GEAR & PRIZES: RED CYMBALS



DRUM SUPPORT: RED ROCK DRUMS

