

OZ SCHOOLS INSTRUMENTAL CHAMPIONSHIPS



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

GUITAR

Event Guide

NSW STATE FINAL

AUGUST 24

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WELCOME

Welcome to the inaugural Oz Schools Instrumental Championships (OSIC) National Series!

Over 10 weeks, more than 1,000 students from across the country will come together to showcase their talents and compete for championship titles in piano, strings, drums, and guitar.

We've been blown away by the talent displayed in auditions and nominations over the past three months. Each section promises outstanding performances and some very close competition!

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

Keep up the practice – see you on stage soon!

Warm regards,

OSIC Team

SCHEDULE

NSW GUITAR STATE FINAL - Sunday August 24th

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

COMBINED SECTION

Students will perform for the same audience, with individual winners selected for each of the two categories.

8:00am - 10:30am

Registration from 7:30am



(Grades 3 & 4)
Primary
INTERMEDIATE



(Grades 5 & 6)
Primary
SENIOR

11:30am - 1:30pm

Registration from 11:00am



(Years 7 - 9)
Secondary
JUNIOR

1:30pm - 3:30pm

Registration from 1:00pm



(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 is not mandatory, but is highly recommended where possible.

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

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 and exit a session at any time. Please note that an entry/exit opportunity is made available between performances to minimise competitor disruption.

PRESENTATIONS - Presentations will take place on stage at the end of each section (approximately 5 minutes after the final performance).

INSTRUMENTS/GEAR

GUITARS - Students are required to bring their own instrument.

AMPS - Standard amps are provided. Students are permitted to bring their own amp if preferred.

PEDALS - Students are permitted to use their own pedal/ pedal boards in their performance.

CABLES/RACKS/STANDS - All cables, racks and stands will be provided.

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

MICROPHONES - Acoustic guitars without plug-in capability will be amplified by a front-facing condenser mic.

WHAT TO PERFORM

Students can perform any piece within a **4 minute time limit**. Full pieces, cut pieces, sections of a piece, and sections of multiple pieces are all accepted.

ACCOMPANIMENT/ BACKING TRACKS

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

FOLDBACK - A foldback monitor will be provided for all student performances.

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).

ASSESSMENT

Students will be assessed on the following criteria:

Timing and Rhythm

Consistency (no rushing or dragging)

Flow (natural phrasing and feel)

Dynamics

Volume control (balanced changes)

Technique

Precision (accuracy & execution)

Posture (placement and alignment)

Difficulty (complexity of piece)

Creativity

Originality (personal interpretation)

Musicality (connection to music)

Stage Presence

Confidence (assurance & poise)

Energy (engagement & enthusiasm)

ABOUT THE JUDGES

2025 NSW Guitar Judge - Maya Gertler

Maya Gertler is a Sydney/Gadigal-based session guitarist, PRS Guitars Pulse Artist, and Conservatorium of Music undergraduate.

Performing as Maya Riv, she has worked with Ayesha Madon, Kala Gare, Memory Motel, and played festivals including Yours and Owls, SXSW, and Changing Tides.



ABOUT THE JUDGES

2025 NSW Guitar Judge - James Audet

James Audet is one of Sydney's leading classical guitarists. He holds a Master's from the Mozarteum University of Salzburg and a Doctorate in Music from the Sydney Conservatorium, where he now lectures.

James performs regularly as a soloist and chamber musician in Australia and internationally.



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**).

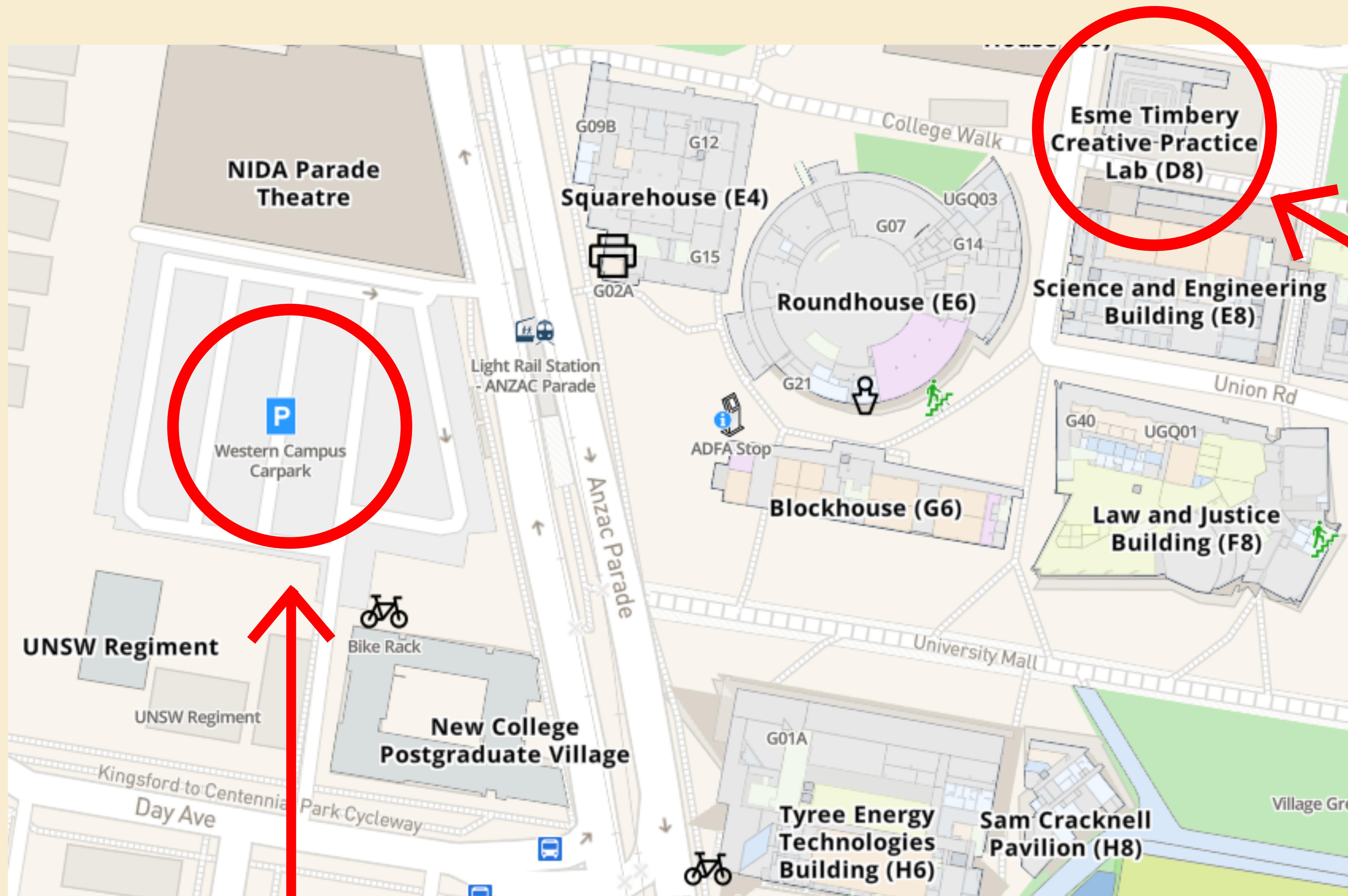
VENUE

All guitar finals will take place at Studio One, located at the University of New South Wales (Kensington Campus).

LOCATION - Access is via Gate 2. Look for the building with the big steps, enter through the glass sliding doors and down the steps to your right (or take the lift).

ADDRESS - Esme Timbery Creative Practice Lab, High St, UNSW, Kensington NSW 2033

PARKING - Free all-day parking is available at the UNSW NIDA carpark, accessible via Day Avenue.



Parking

Studio One

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@vsic.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!