

OZ SCHOOLS INSTRUMENTAL CHAMPIONSHIPS



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

STRINGS

Event Guide

VICTORIAN STATE FINAL

OCTOBER 19

CONTENTS

Welcome.....	3
Schedule.....	4
Competition structure.....	5
Instruments/gear.....	6
Accompaniment/backing tracks.....	7
What to perform.....	7
Assessment.....	8
About the judges.....	9
Audience tickets.....	11
Venue.....	12
Photo/video.....	13
Dress code.....	13
Contact.....	13

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

VIC STRINGS STATE FINAL - Sunday October 19th

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



(Prep - Grade 2)
Primary
JUNIOR



(Grades 3 & 4)
Primary
INTERMEDIATE

10:30am - 12:30pm

Registration from 10:00am



(Grades 5 & 6)
Primary
SENIOR

COMBINED SECTION

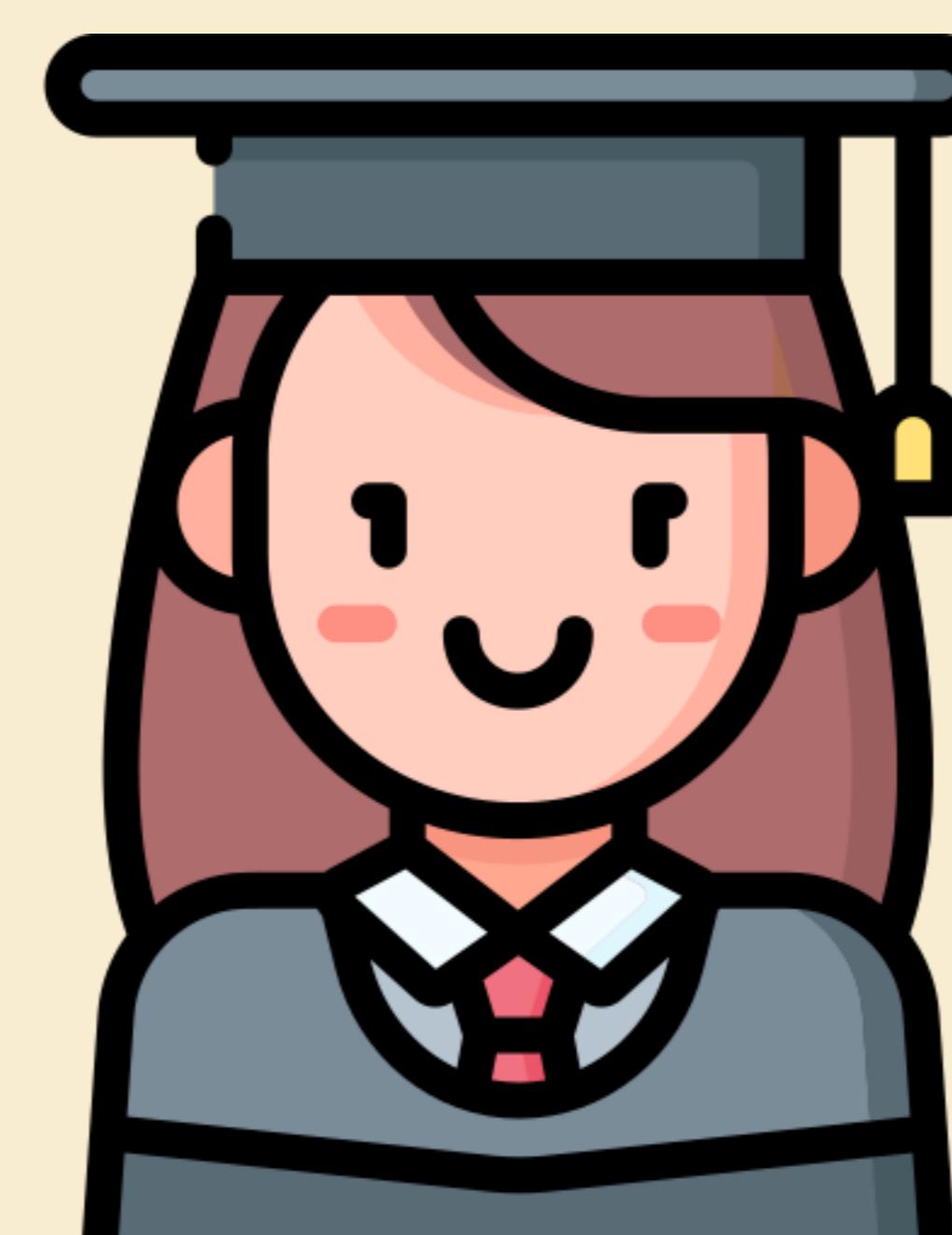
Students will perform for the same audience, with individual winners selected for each of the two categories.

1:30pm - 3:30pm

Registration from 1:00pm



(Years 7 - 9)
Secondary
JUNIOR



(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

STRINGS INSTRUMENTS - Students are required to bring their own instrument.

PIANO - Accompanists will be permitted to use the event's Kawai (baby grand) piano. The piano will be amplified by 2 mics, controlled by the event AV team.

BACKING TRACKS - Backing tracks are permitted and must be submitted no later than October 5th. To submit your backing track, follow the steps on the OSIC homepage, or visit: www.osic.com.au/uploadbacking

MICROPHONES - Violins and violas will be amplified with an overhead condenser mic. Cello and double bass instruments will be amplified via a front-facing mic.

LIGHTING - Sheet music lighting will be provided.

MUSIC STANDS - Music stands will be provided.

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

ACCOMPANIMENT - Official piano accompaniment will be provided by Caleb Salizzo. If you would like to be accompanied by Caleb on the day, please email your sheet music and any accompanist notes to caleb.salizzo@gmail.com no later than Sunday Oct 5th.

Private accompaniment is also permitted - private accompanists must visit the registration desk upon arrival to receive a pass (no charge for admission).

BACKING TRACKS - Backing tracks are permitted and must be submitted no later than October 5th (see previous page for details).

ASSESSMENT

Students will be assessed on the following criteria:

Timing and Rhythm

Consistency (no rushing or dragging)

Flow (strong & natural 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 Victorian Strings Judge - Helena Wang

Helena is a professional violinist and educator with extensive orchestral, chamber, and solo experience. She holds a Bachelor of Music (Honours), AMusA (distinction) and has performed as Casual First Violin with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra and as a core member of Camerata, Queensland's Chamber Orchestra.

Her performances include appearances with the Australian Youth Orchestra, solo and chamber concerts at the Bangalow Music Festival and SummerSalt Festival, and international performances with the University of Queensland Symphony Orchestra in Xi'An, China. Helena is also a leading strings educator in Melbourne, guiding students through AMEB and Trinity exams, competitions, and scholarship preparation.

ABOUT THE JUDGES

2025 Victorian Strings Judge - Suzannah Calvert

Suzannah is a Melbourne-based professional violinist and educator who began her musical journey at age four. She trained at the College of the Arts Secondary School and holds a Bachelor of Music, building a career that spans classical performance, contemporary music, and teaching at some of Melbourne's most prestigious schools.

Specializing in electric violin, Suzannah has performed for high-profile events including the Women's FIFA World Cup, Melbourne Cup Carnival and Melbourne Fashion Week.



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.

AMMENITIES - Bathroom facilities are available for all students and guests (ground floor).



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!