

# **2026 MSIMC Guidelines for All Categories**

## **General information**

1. The 2026 Melbourne Star International Music Competition (hereafter referred as the MSIMC) is open to all entrants.
2. Each category 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, 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2026.
5. Section winners may be required to provide birth certificates.

## **Agenda**

6. Dates\*:
  - 1) Piano solo: Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> August
  - 2) Strings and Accordion solo: Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> August
  - 3) Composition: Online submission and adjudication

\*Schedule is flexible, but all sessions will take place on 16<sup>th</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup> August only, between 1.00 PM - 9.00 PM (Melbourne time).

## **Venue**

7. Church of All Nations  
180 Palmerston St, Carlton VIC 3053

## **Categories & Rules**

8. The competition is divided into five categories:
  - 1) Piano solo
  - 2) Accordion solo
  - 3) Violin solo
  - 4) Cello and other strings solo
  - 5) Composition\*

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

9. Each category will consist of a single round, with one piece permitted per entrant. Special consideration may be granted if requested in advance.
10. From the 1) to 4) categories, entrants must compete in person. Special consideration may be granted upon prior request for legitimate reasons. For example, entrants registering from China may be allowed to submit a video recording.
11. For the 3) and 4) categories, an official accompanist will be provided with a fee (refer to item 16). Entrants may also choose to arrange their own accompanist. The contact details of the official accompanist are provided below:

Ms. Suki Gui

Mobile: 0452518662

Email: [guishiqi01@gmail.com](mailto:guishiqi01@gmail.com)

12. In the 5) Composition category, entrants are required to submit a PDF file of music scores and a MP3 file via email at [melbournestarimc@outlook.com](mailto:melbournestarimc@outlook.com). The full name of the entrant 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)
13. In the 5) Composition category, submissions are divided into Traditional Composition and AI Composition. For Traditional Composition, works must be entirely created by the human composer, with no use of generative AI for melody, harmony, structure, or orchestration. The two composition groups may be combined if the number of entries is not significant.
14. Entrants can apply for multiple sections. Each section will require an individual application fee.
15. Only the piano solo category is divided by style and age group, excluding the Rising Star and Open Age divisions. All other categories are divided only by age group. Please find the categories in the next page:

### Piano solo - by style

| Style                   | Divisions | Age group        | Time limit |
|-------------------------|-----------|------------------|------------|
| Baroque                 | Junior I  | 9 years & under  | 4 minutes  |
|                         | Junior II | 12 years & under | 5 minutes  |
|                         | Senior I  | 15 years & under | 6 minutes  |
|                         | Senior II | 18 years & under | 8 minutes  |
| Classical               | Junior I  | 9 years & under  | 4 minutes  |
|                         | Junior II | 12 years & under | 5 minutes  |
|                         | Senior I  | 15 years & under | 6 minutes  |
|                         | Senior II | 18 years & under | 8 minutes  |
| Romantic                | Junior I  | 9 years & under  | 4 minutes  |
|                         | Junior II | 12 years & under | 5 minutes  |
|                         | Senior I  | 15 years & under | 6 minutes  |
|                         | Senior II | 18 years & under | 8 minutes  |
| Contemporary or Leisure | Junior I  | 9 years & under  | 4 minutes  |
|                         | Junior II | 12 years & under | 5 minutes  |
|                         | Senior I  | 15 years & under | 6 minutes  |
|                         | Senior II | 18 years & under | 8 minutes  |

### Piano solo – all styles welcome

| Special divisions | Age group       | Time limit |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Rising Star       | 6 years & under | No limit   |
| Open              | No limit        | 10 minutes |

### Violin/Cello & other strings solo\*

| Divisions | 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 Age  | No limit         | 10 minutes |

\*Violin solo may be held as its own category.

### Accordion solo

| Divisions | Age group        | Time limit |
|-----------|------------------|------------|
| Minor     | 10 years & under | 4 minutes  |
| Junior    | 13 years & under | 5 minutes  |
| Senior    | 16 years & under | 6 minutes  |
| Open Age  | No limit         | 8 minutes  |

## Composition\*

|                         | Divisions | Age group          | Time limit |
|-------------------------|-----------|--------------------|------------|
| Traditional Composition | Minor     | 10 years & under   | No limit   |
|                         | Junior    | 16 years & under   |            |
|                         | Senior    | Above 16 years old |            |
| AI Composition          | Minor     | 10 years & under   | No limit   |
|                         | Junior    | 16 years & under   |            |
|                         | Senior    | Above 16 years old |            |

\*The two composition groups may be combined if the number of entries is not significant.

## Registration and fees

16. Instrument solo: AU\$ 95

Composition: AU\$ 95

Accompanist fee on the day: AU\$ 10, and rehearsals with the official accompanist will be charged at a standard rate that is to confirmed with Ms. Suki Gui. Both fees are to be paid directly to her.

17. Entrants can apply for multiple sections. Each section will require an individual registration fee.

18. The registration will open on 31<sup>st</sup> March and close on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2026.

## Awards

19. If a significant number of registrations is received, each division may be split into multiple groups. Each group will award 1st Prize, 2nd Prize, 3rd Prize, and Honourable Mention within the division.

20. Only one 1st Prize will be awarded in each group. Equal 2nd Prizes, 3rd Prizes, and Honourable Mentions may be awarded as appropriate.

21. Vouchers, along with a certificate, will be awarded to the 1st prize winner in all divisions. A certificate will be awarded to the 2nd, 3rd, and Honourable Mention winners.

## Session check-in

22. 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.

23. 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.

24. No warm-up facilities are provided at the venue. Entrants are recommended to have a warm-up time prior to attending their competition section.

### **Consent for use of images and videos**

25. 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.
26. 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](mailto:melbournestarimc@outlook.com) upon the time of registration.

### **Recording, photography and filming**

27. 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**

28. By participating in the 2026 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.
29. 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.