

SENIOR VOCAL / CITY OF WARRNAMBOOL ARIA 2026

CHRIS HAYES MEMORIAL AWARD



The Chris Hayes Memorial Award will be awarded to a first time participant as an encouragement award to attend the 2027 Aria. This will be judged by the adjudicator and will cover the entry fees of the Aria competition in 2027 and travel and accommodation expenses for 2 people, up to a total cost of \$600.

Christine Hayes joined the City of Warrnambool Eisteddfod Committee in about 2013, taking on the role of secretary and soon after assumed the role of Convenor of the Aria (Senior Vocal) Competition. This was very fitting as her father, Bruce Rogers, had been a foundation member of the first Eisteddfod Organising Committee in 1975, and had been the primary instigator of the inclusion of the Aria (Senior Vocals) in the competition in 1977. In her role as Convenor, the Committee came to appreciate Christine's quiet efficiency in planning and organisation.

Her chief leadership quality was to offer friendliness through regular communication with competitors, adjudicators and accompanists by telephone and email. Meanwhile she was getting on with all the hard work that underpins a successful competition.

Chris organised and ran her final Aria Competition in May, 2023. Chris died unexpectedly shortly after the completion of the Aria Competitions.

Chris had worked diligently and creatively to build from a registration of 6 in 2022 and achieved 22 registrations in 2023. The Aria was a huge success, not only because of the quality of the singing and accompaniment but because of the strong feeling of friendship and good fellowship that characterised the whole weekend. This was truly a fitting tribute to Chris as it characterised the qualities that she brought to the event.

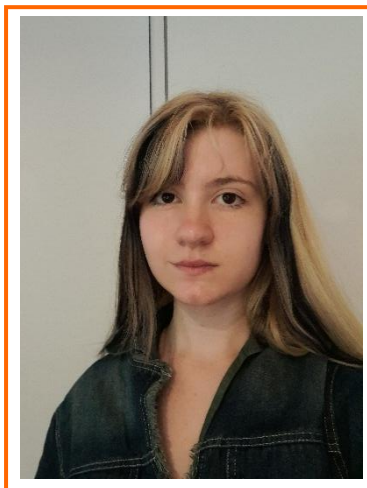
The Eisteddfod Committee misses the constancy and warmth of Christine's friendship and generosity of spirit. A permanent award in her honour was implemented in 2024.

Rest in peace, Chris.

Ann O'Brien. - 2023 President



CHRIS HAYES MEMORIAL AWARD WINNER 2025



Alcide Kerridge-Flaim

Alcide Kerridge-Flaim was awarded the Chris Hayes Memorial Award at the City of Warrnambool Eisteddfod Aria in 2025 as a first-year student of classical voice at Monash University. This award was both incredible encouragement for continuing to hone her craft and a warm introduction to the world of eisteddfods as a beginner.

Since winning the award, Alcide has gone on to direct the children's musical production Frozen Junior in Queensland and worked with various bands while in the state.

Back in Victoria, she has gained experience singing with Trinity College Choir and in various musical and operatic events run by Monash. Winning the Chris Hayes Memorial Award has been brilliant for Alcide's confidence and performing passion. An experience that she is very grateful for.

Unfortunately, Alcide will not be performing at this year's Aria. We wish her continued success in her musical journey.

SENIOR VOCAL / CITY OF WARRNAMBOOL ARIA 2026 30 & 31 MAY 2026

A WORD FROM OUR CONVENOR

Whether you are new to opera or have been enchanted for decades already – there is always something magical waiting in those soaring arias and compelling dramas. We are undoubtedly privileged to have this annual weekend of beautiful singing in Warrnambool.

To have convened the 2026 City of Warrnambool Eisteddfod Aria has been an enormous pleasure. As this was my first go at putting this amazing event together, I really didn't know what to expect. The previous convenor, Jennifer King, and I worked closely together to ensure a smooth transition. I am hugely indebted to her.

There are so many people I would like to thank for their expert, kind and patient guidance and help over the last few months. Kay Porter, without whom I would have been totally lost, and Sue Holland and Rosemaria Mammone for their ongoing enthusiasm and creativity. The whole Eisteddfod team – each and every one of them are volunteers who graciously lend their time and knowledge. I thank you.

For this sublime venue that we're allowed to use year after year, we thank The Right Rev. Bishop Scott and Christ Church Warrnambool. Not forgetting to show our deep appreciation for their beautiful grand piano. Again, we are so lucky!

Our many sponsors, which are acknowledged on the back of this programme, are another vital cog in this well-oiled wheel. We thank them.

The City of Warrnambool Aria is continuously developing. This year the Final Winner walks away with \$5,000 and the Encouragement Award amounts to \$2,500.

I have found the last few months deeply rewarding and am looking forward to growing this already prestigious event well into the future.

Next year will be the Warrnambool Aria's 50th anniversary and we are planning a huge celebration. Hopefully you can join us in the festivities.

Karien Sinclair - Convenor

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

A warm welcome to the 2026 Warrnambool Eisteddfod.

This year we have programs in Speech and Drama (Primary), the Aria, Instrumental music and Dance.

Speech and Drama is our first program in May followed by the Aria and in early June, Instrumental music.

There is a short break before Dance in July. Our Roundabout Banners will be on display to advertise our event.

This year we welcome Karien Sinclair as the convenor of the Aria. We look forward to seeing Jennifer King (the previous convenor) return as chairperson for the final on Sunday.

We are very fortunate to have excellent adjudicators at our Eisteddfod. They provide valuable feedback. This includes positive comments and encouragement as well as areas to improve on.

Special thanks to our convenors and committee members who work tirelessly planning and implementing their program. We believe in the benefits the Eisteddfod brings to our performers and hope it assists them in developing confidence.

I would especially like to thank Kay Porter. Kay's knowledge of Stardom and IT are greatly valued, and she is very generous with her assistance. She has also written policies that are required for our organisation. Kay continues to update our website and posts on Facebook.

We greatly appreciate our sponsors whose generosity is greatly valued; in particular:

- Ray Ahearn Charitable Trust
- The A.R Trigg Family Foundation

Schools are very busy places, and I would like to acknowledge and thank teachers and students for the preparation they put into their performance. By attending our Eisteddfod, you the audience can show your appreciation of this effort.

Looking forward to seeing you at the 2026 Eisteddfod and I hope you enjoy this year's edition.

Paddy Mc Gennicken - President 2026



Liane Keegan - Adjudicator

Liane is a dramatic contralto with over 40 years' experience on the operatic and concert stage. Her career has taken her all over the world, with residencies in many of the leading opera houses and orchestras in Europe, America and Australia. She has performed in roles such as Azucena in *Il Trovatore*, Ulrica in *Un Ballo in Maschera*, Mistress Quickly in *Falstaff*, Suzuki in *Madame Butterfly*, and Klytemnestra in *Elektra*, among others. She has also made appearances as soloist in concert productions e.g. Mozart's Requiem and Mahler's 2nd Symphony. She is a specialist in Wagner, Verdi, Mahler, Elgar and Vaughan Williams, to name but a few, and many oratorios specific to the contralto voice.

Since returning to Australia in 2012, Liane has appeared in productions with Opera Australia, Victorian Opera and Melbourne Opera. She has been guest soloist for the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Queensland Symphony Orchestra, Australian Symphony Orchestra, Royal Melbourne Philharmonic, Zelman Symphony Orchestra, Ludovico's Band and Heidelberg Choral Society.

Liane is the Artistic Director of XL Arts Inc. and the newly formed Ensemble Creatus in Melbourne.

Along with teaching singing and adjudicating, she is a fully qualified arts therapist and visual artist who also has a passion for directing opera.



Phillipa Safey - Accompanist

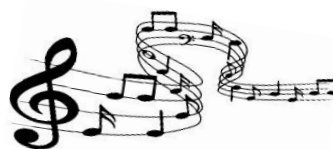
Phillipa Safey is a Melbourne based pianist. After early training in New Zealand, she completed post graduate studies in Accompaniment and Chamber Music at the Victorian College of the Arts, studying with Stephen McIntyre and Brachi Tilles. Further studies in Lieder, song and chamber music took her to England, Germany and Austria.

Returning to Melbourne, she commenced working with the Victorian State Opera, Opera Australia, the University of Melbourne, and Orchestra Victoria. She also accompanied many

of Melbourne's leading choirs.

Phillipa was for 12 years a full-time répétiteur and vocal coach for Victorian Opera, having worked with the company since its first year of operation. She is now enjoying a diverse range of opportunities in music and life, made possible by her return to freelancing, maintaining a wide range of professional activities including chamber music, orchestral work, opera in many forms, choral music, vocal coaching, accompaniment, and tutoring at the University of Melbourne.

Phillipa has been the official accompanist for the German-Australian Opera Grant since 2006 and the official accompanist for the National Liederfest since 2008.



SATURDAY 30 MAY 2026

SENIOR VOCAL

VENUE: Christ Church, Henna Street, Warrnambool

Adjudicator: Ms Liane Keegan

Accompanist: Ms Phillipa Safey

SECTION 1 LIEDER SOLO – OPEN ~ Registration 10:30am Start 11:00am

TIME: 6 minutes 1st Prize \$150 2nd Prize \$100 3rd Prize \$50

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Hartley Trusler (Southbank)* | 8. Madeleine Turewicz (Preston)* |
| 2. Lisette Bolton (Ivanhoe) | 9. Janneke Ferwerda (Blackburn South) |
| 3. Maria Woolford (Pascoe Vale South)* | 10. Alexander Owens (Doncaster) |
| 4. Uma Dobia (Ormond)* | 11. Heulen Cynfal (Brunswick East) |
| 5. Isabella Hincksman (Surrey Hills) | 12. Gemma Livingstone (Glenhuntly)* |
| 6. Danielle Vita (Chirnside Park) | 13. Amelia Wawrzon (Moonee Ponds)* |
| 7. Joshua Erdelyi-Götz (Sandringham) | |

1ST 2ND 3RD



LUNCH BREAK



SECTION 2 CHAMPIONSHIP SOLO - OPEN ~ Registration 2:00pm Start 2:30pm

Competitors must sing twice:

- A. Oratorio - own choice. To be sung in original key.
- B. Art Song - own choice

TIME: 6 minutes each song 1st Prize \$300 2nd Prize \$100 3rd Prize \$50

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Uma Dobia (Ormond)* | 8. Gemma Livingstone (Glenhuntly)* |
| 2. Danielle Vita (Chirnside Park) | 9. Maria Woolford (Pascoe Vale South)* |
| 3. Heulen Cynfal (Brunswick East) | 10. Janneke Ferwerda (Blackburn South) |
| 4. Madeleine Turewicz (Preston)* | 11. Isabella Hincksman (Surrey Hills) |
| 5. Amelia Wawrzon (Moonee Ponds)* | 12. Joshua Erdelyi-Götz (Sandringham) |
| 6. Alexander Owens (Doncaster) | 13. Lisette Bolton (Ivanhoe) |
| 7. Hartley Trusler (Southbank)* | |

1ST 2ND 3RD



DINNER BREAK

Competitors must enter both sections above to be eligible
for the heats of the Aria.

Those competitors marked with asterisk () are not eligible
for the Chris Hayes Memorial Award*



SATURDAY 30 MAY 2026 continued...

CITY OF WARRNAMBOOL ARIA

SECTION 3 HEATS FOR THE ARIA ~ Registration 6:00pm Start 6:30pm

TIME: 6 minutes Competitors are required to sing an operatic aria preceded by recitative (if any) of their choice, in the original key, from the standard repertoire of grand opera. Competitors are required to introduce their arias and briefly describe their character.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Uma Dobia (Ormond)* | 7. Gemma Livingstone (Glenhuntly)* |
| 2. Danielle Vita (Chirnside Park) | 8. Maria Woolford (Pascoe Vale South)* |
| 3. Madeleine Turewicz (Preston)* | 9. Janneke Ferwerda (Blackburn South) |
| 4. Amelia Wawrzon (Moonee Ponds)* | 10. Isabella Hincksman (Surrey Hills) |
| 5. Alexander Owens (Doncaster) | 11. Joshua Erdelyi-Götz (Sandringham) |
| 6. Hartley Trusler (Southbank)* | 12. Lisette Bolton (Ivanhoe) |

Six (6) competitors will be selected to be finalists in the Aria.

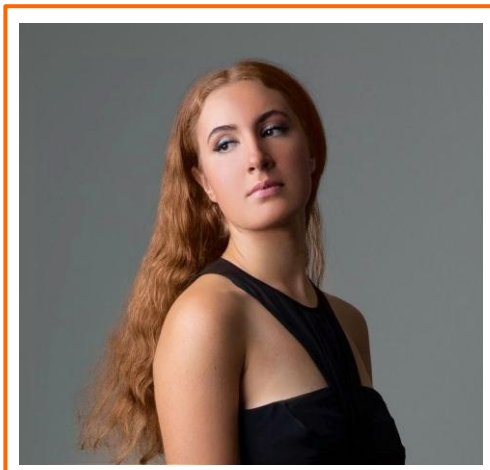
END OF SATURDAY COMPETITION

~PRESENTATION OF THE CHRIS HAYES MEMORIAL AWARD~

WINNER



CHRIS HAYES MEMORIAL AWARD WINNER 2024



Zinaida Campion

Zinaida Campion is a classical soprano, vocal coach, artist, and model raised in Winchelsea. Her love of singing was sparked in childhood through the legacy of fellow Winchelsea-raised soprano Marjorie Lawrence, whose career continues to inspire her work. She began formal vocal studies at thirteen under multi-award-winning soprano Lee Abrahmsen, became a Windfire Vocal Scholar, and later completed her training with Victorian Opera's youth program VOYCE. She has performed with ensembles including Trinity College Chapel Choir, St Paul's Choir Geelong, and the Windfire Chamber Choir.

Zinaida has appeared as a freelance soloist across Geelong, Melbourne, and rural Victoria, winning awards at competitions including the Warrnambool Eisteddfod, and successfully entering 3MBS The Talent 2025. An enthusiastic entrepreneur, she is Vice President of Geelong Opera and Artistic Director of the Winchelsea Music Season, as well as the founder of Rural Arts Victoria, an organisation dedicated to elevating regional creativity, celebrating local heritage, and employing Australian artists. Together with acclaimed organist/pianist Victoria Hay, she is a founding member of the classical duo Cecilia's Daughters.

With a strong background in languages, she is a keen arts writer with her own column in the Winchelsea Star, ArtsRural. Passionate about community engagement, she is committed to promoting the arts in rural areas and fostering meaningful cultural experiences across her home region. She is not competing this year as she is starring in *Melba* in Ballarat with Geelong Opera.

SUNDAY 31 MAY 2026 - 2:30PM

CITY OF WARRNAMBOOL ARIA



VENUE: Christ Church, Henna Street, Warrnambool

Adjudicator: Ms Liane Keegan

Accompanist: Ms Phillipa Safey

WINNER: \$5000

ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD: \$2500

4 FINALISTS: \$200



- ♪ To be eligible for the Aria Final, entrants must have competed in Session 1, Session 2 and Session 3.
- ♪ During the Aria Heats (Session 3) competitors will be required to sing an operatic aria of their choice preceded by recitative (if any), from the standard repertoire of grand opera.
- ♪ Up to six competitors will be selected to be finalists in the Aria.
- ♪ All finalists must be available to sing in the Aria Final at Christ Church, Henna Street, Warrnambool, on Sunday 31st May 2026. Finalists must be available for an interview with the adjudicator at least one hour before the commencement of the final section. A competitor not available will be disqualified.
- ♪ For the Aria Final, competitors must have prepared at least three operatic arias. Each finalist will sing two arias in the Final. One being the aria presented in Session 3 (Saturday evening), and another to be chosen by the adjudicator from a list of two other arias submitted by the competitor.
- ♪ In the Aria Final competitors are required to introduce their arias and briefly describe their character.
- ♪ A previous winner of the City of Warrnambool Aria may not enter again for a period of three years after having received the award.



Our thanks go to:

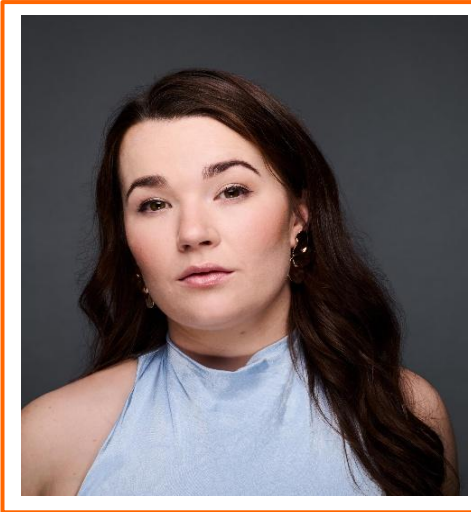
- ♪ The Right Rev. Bishop Scott and Christ Church Warrnambool for this wonderful venue.
- ♪ Our fantastic and knowledgeable accompanist Phillipa Safey and adjudicator Liane Keegan.
- ♪ Our guest artists – Eleanor Donelan (flute) and Andrea Li (piano) for the wonderful intermission.
- ♪ Our hard-working volunteers, whom we couldn't run this magnificent event without.
- ♪ Ron Philp for creating a beautiful ambient space with lighting and all our other fantastic and generous sponsors who give in-kind and donation, listed on the back cover – please support them.
- ♪ Rosemaria Mammone for all her hard work on the 'Where Are They Now?' biographies of our past winners – please check them out in the foyer of the hall.
- ♪ And last but not least, our talented competitors – thank you for your wonderful performances.

**SEE YOU IN MAY
2027 AT THE**

**ARIA'S 50th
ANNIVERSARY**

CITY OF WARRNAMBOOL ARIA WINNER 2025

BREANNA STUART - WHERE IS SHE NOW?



Since winning the 2025 City of Warrnambool Aria Award, I have had an incredibly full and rewarding year both in competitions and on the stage.

I joined Melbourne Opera as a Richard Divall Emerging Artist and made my role debut as Fiordiligi in their production of *Così fan Tutte*. I also performed the role of Flora in *The Turn of the Screw* with iOpera, and I was the Soprano Soloist in Handel's *Messiah* with the Essendon Choral Society.

Following from Warrnambool, I was honoured to be named Runner Up and receive the Dame Elisabeth Murdoch Prize in the 101st Herald Sun Aria. I was also awarded first prize in the Mildura Eisteddfod Aria, took out first prize in the Sydney International Song Prize, and was selected as a semi-finalist in the 2025 German-Australian Opera Grant.

2026 promises to be a continued year of growth; I am currently preparing the role of Donna Elvira, which I will be covering in Melbourne Opera's mainstage production of *Don Giovanni*. I am excited to continue undertaking overseas auditions as I work towards relocating to Europe in 2027 to further develop my career internationally.

I am deeply grateful to the Warrnambool Eisteddfod for their continued support. The City of Warrnambool Aria Award has not only provided financial assistance, but also invaluable encouragement as I move into this new chapter in my career. Follow @breanna_stuart on Facebook and Instagram

CITY OF WARRNAMBOOL ARIA WINNER 2024

TERESA INGRILLI - WHERE IS SHE NOW?



Since winning the 2024 Warrnambool Aria, Teresa continues emerging as an Australian lyric soprano to watch.

In the last 12 months, she has performed three lead roles and numerous concerts. Highlights include Laetitia from Menotti's *Old Maid and the Thief* and Frau Fluth from Nicolai's *Die Lustigen Weiber von Windsor*. Fun fact: Laetitia's aria and Frau Fluth's aria were Teresa's winning arias in the 2024 Warrnambool final! A special

highlight was touring Australia's east coast to sing the soprano lead for the anime *Demon Slayer: Kimetsu No Yaiba In Concert*.



Prior to this, Teresa debuted two lead roles for new Australian operas, travelled to China as soloist, won first place in the John Sutherland and Richard Bonyng Foundation *Sydney International Song Prize* and was one of four Melbourne-based sopranos to progress through to Stage 2 for Opera Australia's Young Artist Program.

She has also performed many leading roles including: The Countess in *The Marriage of Figaro*, Erste Dame in *Die Zauberflöte*, the title role in *Suor Angelica*, Blanche de la Force in *Dialogues des Carmélites*, Queen Tye in *Akhenaten* and the title role of *Maria Stuarda*. In February 2025, Teresa recreated the role of Ariadne in Forest Collective's new Australian production of *Labyrinth* to a second sold-out season as part of Midsumma Festival in Melbourne. Highlights of her concert repertoire include Mozart's *Coronation Mass in C* and Mahler's *Symphony No. 2*.

She graduated from the University of Melbourne with a Master of Music (Opera Performance) in 2020.

Follow @TeresaIngrilli on Instagram and Facebook

JAMES EMERSON – WHERE IS HE NOW?



James is once again in the UK and will be debuting with the London Symphony Orchestra in July in their performances of *Tristan and Isolde* under the baton of Sir Antonio Pappano.

James graduated from the Royal College of Music in July 2025 and has since started the Artist Diploma Opera Studio program at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama in London. Their season of *Autumn Opera Scenes* saw first-year Opera students perform excerpts from composers including Mozart, Donizetti, Bizet and Menotti.

James has performed in several sold-out concerts both here in Australia and overseas in the past year and was invited to sing at the Australian High Commission in London in November 2025 for the 50th Anniversary of the Australian Music Foundation of which James is an awardee.

Follow @jamesemersonsing on Instagram



Autumn Opera Scenes at Guildhall School of Music & Drama

“WHERE ARE THEY NOW?”

FOR MORE NEWS ABOUT OUR

PREVIOUS WINNERS

CHECK OUT THE

THE HAMMOND HALL!