



# Queensland Vocal Competition Festival 2026 (QVCF26)

## Rules and Regulations 2026

**Entries for QVC Festival 2026 (QVCF26) will be received via the online platform COMPS ONLINE**  
[Comps-Online](#)

### 1. IMPORTANT DATES

| Date                        |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Wednesday April 8           | Registration Opens  |
| Monday 18 May               | Cut off for Registrations   |
| Week of Monday 18 May       | Repertoire submissions start via Jotform                                |
| Week of Monday 18 May       | Copyright forms to be sent to entrants and available on the website     |
| Monday 1 June               | Cut off for registration cancellation with refund                       |
| Monday 1 June               | Repertoire submissions close  |
| Monday 1 June               | Last day for entrants to contact the official accompanist (if required) |
| Monday 8 June               | Last day for any changes to repertoire                                  |
| Saturday 20, Sunday 21 June | QVCF Weekend  |

### 2. ELIGIBILITY

All Entrants:

- Must be an amateur or semi-professional/non-professional.
  - A non-professional performer is defined as an individual who does not derive their principal income from performance.
  - Individuals who are currently engaged as full-time professional performers or who regularly receive remuneration for public performance as their primary occupation are not eligible to enter.
- Are not eligible for prizes if they have had lessons with the adjudicator within the last six months.
- Cannot enter the Senior Operatic Aria Section if they have won two times consecutively prior to 2026. In this case, one year of non-entry is required.
- Must sing a different song for each section entered.
- Age limits are outline in section 14.

### 3. ACCOMPANISTS

- Official QVCF accompanists are provided (if required) for all entrants for each section on 20 and 21 June 2026, which is included as part of the entry fee.
- Rehearsal: Entrants who require a rehearsal with the official accompanist will be charged at a professional rate payable by the entrant directly to the official accompanist.
- At the time of registration via [CompsOnline](#), all entrants must select if they need the official accompanist for each section entered. Entrants can perform with their own accompanists if preferred.

Sheet Music for the accompanist and on the day:

For each song entry please provide:

- One clean legible copy of sheet music for the official accompanist 3 weeks prior to competition (by 5pm, Monday 1 June 2026)
- One copy of the sheet music on the day for the Adjudicator/s
- If required, please bring a spare copy of the sheet music for the accompanist on the day.

Please read 7. COPYRIGHT regulations below.

Contact details for each accompanist for individual sections will be emailed after entries close on **Monday 18 May 2026**.

All entrants not requiring a rehearsal prior to the competition **MUST** contact their official QVCF accompanist to advise on style, speed/tempo and any other information required.

The official QVCF accompanist has the right to refuse to play for the entrant if:

- contact has NOT been made to discuss style and speed.
- NO rehearsal has taken place if deemed needed.
- a copy of the music has NOT been provided 3 weeks before the competition day (by Monday 1 June 2026).

#### 4. ADJUDICATION

The adjudicator's decision is final. No correspondence or discussion will be entered into, and prizes will be awarded at the adjudicator's discretion.

All sections apart from the AGQ Collaborative Art Song will have a single adjudicator.

AGQ Collaborative Art Song - Adjudication will be conducted by two adjudicators, with one adjudicator assessing the vocal performance and one adjudicator assessing the piano performance

#### 5. ENTRY FEES

**Entry Fees** are ONLY refundable if three (3) weeks' notice is given prior to the start of the competition (by Monday 1 June 2026). Consideration may be given on compassionate circumstances. A medical certificate may be required for a refund.

#### 6. MUSIC

a. Time limits for songs:

**ALL SECTIONS (Except AGQ Collaborative Art Song):** Song time limit is a maximum of **5 minutes**.

**AGQ Collaborative Art Song:** Time limit is a maximum of **10 minutes** for two contrasting art songs.

**All sections** (Except Collaborative Art Song): Entrants are permitted to sing one (1) song per section with a maximum time limit of 5 minutes. If the time limit is exceeded, entrants may be ineligible for a prize - decision is at the discretion of the adjudicator.

**AGQ Collaborative Art Song:** Entrants must sing two (2) contrasting songs in this section with a maximum time limit of 10 minutes. See section 14 for more information. If the time limit is exceeded, entrants may be ineligible for a prize - decision is at the discretion of the adjudicator.

b. Song Choice:

- For each section entered, song name and composer are to be submitted either by entrants or their guardians by Monday 5 June 2026.
- Song details are to be submitted via Jotform: links will be emailed to entrants during the week of Monday 18 May 2026
- NOTE: Failure to submit song details, by the due date may nullify an entry and the entry fee may not be refunded.
- Any repertoire changes must be made before Monday 8 June 2026. After this time no changes will be allowed under any circumstances.

c. CLASSICAL ART SONG – definition

A **classical art song** is a composition for **solo voice and piano**, deeply rooted in the classical music tradition. It typically sets a **poem or literary text to music**, with the piano part serving as more of a collaborative role than just an accompaniment. It actively enhances the meaning and expression of the text. Art songs are known for their **expressive depth, refined musical structure, and intimate performance style**.

Notable traditions of art song include:

- **Lieder (German art songs)** – e.g., Schubert, Schumann, Brahms
- **Chansons (French art songs)** – e.g., Fauré, Debussy, Poulenc

- **English/American art songs** – e.g., Britten, Barber, Copland, Ives
- **Australian art songs** – e.g., works by Margaret Sutherland, Peter Sculthorpe, Ross Edwards, and Carl Vine.

Australian art song often reflects themes of landscape, identity, and indigenous influences, contributing a unique voice to the genre.

Unlike folk songs, which are often passed down orally, art songs are **formally composed and written in notation**. The piano part is not merely an accompaniment but plays an integral role in the interpretation and storytelling of the song.

**Please note:** The section **Non-English Art Song** refers to any art song in any language *other* than English. For example, Spanish songs, French songs, German, Russian and so on. In this section these art songs must be performed in original languages.

- d. For **English Language Art Song** this can be any art song composed from a predominantly English-speaking country such as, America, Canada, New Zealand, Ireland, England, Scotland, Wales and so on. Art songs presented in this section will be in the English Language.

## 7. COPYRIGHT

- ALL photocopies must be authorised in accordance with the Copyright Regulations of Australia.
- APRA/AMCOS copyright forms can be found on the QMTA QVCF Events Page and will also be emailed to entrants after entries close on **Monday 18 May 2026**.
- **PLEASE NOTE:** entrants are required to bring copyright forms & copies of sheet music to the competition **ON THE DAY** of performance and are **NOT** required to submit copies of sheet music and copyright forms to the QMTA prior to the competition.
- **Only ONE copyright form is required per entrant. This will list all songs being sung.**
- Please SIGN the form and bring to competition on the day of performance, along with a copy of the sheet music. **There will be NO copying facilities available at the venue.**
- Photocopies of music: Will be destroyed after the Festival in accordance with Copyright Laws.

## 8. NUMBER OF ENTRIES FOR SECTIONS

If insufficient entries are received for an individual section, the section may be cancelled or limited prizes awarded. At the discretion of the QVCF committee and convenor, entrants may participate for adjudicator comments only. Please note: Entrants must sing a different song for each section that they have entered.

## 9. PRIZES

Place getters will be decided and awarded by the adjudicators in each section at the competition. Trophies, Certificates and Cash Prizes will be awarded on the day. Cash prize amounts will be indicated in the official QVCF program.

## 10. QVCF SCHEDULE

The competition schedule will be available for all competitors after Monday 1 June 2026. An email will be sent to all entrants.

The competition schedule is final and there will be no change to the order of entrants or competition schedule. If an entrant is unable to make the section entered, there will be no refund given.

## 11. PUBLICATION PERMISSIONS

As part of your entry, you agree that an entrant's name may be included in QMTA publications and on the QMTA website and social media platforms (QMTA and QVCF). It is a requirement of the competition that parents or guardians of entrants under 18 years of age, give permission for the use of any photographic image of their child/ren in the Queensland Music Teachers' Association's publications, including social media platforms (QMTA and QVCF). If you wish to not grant permission, please contact us [qvcf@qmta.org.au](mailto:qvcf@qmta.org.au) two weeks prior to the competition (by Friday, 12 June 2026).

## 12. RECORDING and PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography (without a flash) is permitted during performance and award presentations. Video recording is NOT permitted during performances. - this is due to copyright rules and regulations.

### 13. QVCF DAY REGISTRATION

All entrants are to register at least **30 minutes** prior to the commencement of their section. If a section has part 1 & part 2, it is acceptable to register 30 minutes prior to the part which the entrant is competing in. Please bring the Repertoire/copyright form, attached to the sheet music on the day. Failure to register on time, may result in your entry being removed.

### 14. SECTIONS

#### SECTIONS AND AGE LIMITS (Age as of Friday 19 June 2026)

- 1 Novice - Music Theatre, 10 to 13 years
- 2 Novice - Australian Art Song, 10 to 13 years
- 3 Novice - English Language Art Song, 10 to 13 years
- 4 Novice - Sacred Song, 10 to 13 years
- 5 Emerging - Music Theatre, 14 to 17 years
- 6 Emerging - Australian Art Song, 14 to 17 years
- 7 Emerging - English Language Art Song, 14 to 17 years
- 8 Emerging - Non-English Art Song, 14 to 17 years
- 9 Emerging - Sacred Song, 14 to 17 years
- 10 Open - Music Theatre, 18 Years and above
- 11 Open - Australian Art Song, 18 Years and above
- 12 Open - English Language Art Song, 18 Years and above
- 13 Open - Non-English Art Song, 18 Years and above
- 14 Open - Sacred Song, 18 Years and above
- 15 Open - Operatic Aria, 18 Years and above
- 16 Open – AGQ Collaborative Art Song - Voice and Piano, 16 Years and above

#### NOVICE: 10 - 13 years of age

1. Music Theatre
  - Music Theatre (incl film music): Own choice - one item from music any genre from stage or film. (Make-up, props and costumes are optional).
2. Australian Art Song - Classical Art Song by an Australian composer
3. English Language Art Song (excludes Australian Art Song)
  - Suggested composers include T. Morely, C. Hubert-Parry, E. Elgar, R. Vaughan Williams, R. Quilter, F. Bridge, B. Britten, C. Armstrong Gibbs, E. Coates & J Ireland.
4. Sacred Song
  - Choice from hymns, oratorios, gospel and masses.

#### EMERGING: 14 - 17 years of age

5. Music Theatre
  - Music Theatre (incl Film Music): Own choice - one item from music any genre from stage or film. (Make-up, props and costumes are optional).
6. Australian Art Song Classical Art Song by an Australian composer
7. English Language Art Song (excludes Australian Art Song)
  - Suggested composers: C. Hubert-Parry, Eg. Elgar, R. Vaughan Williams, R. Quilter, F. Bridge, B. Britten, C. Armstrong Gibbs, E. Coates & J Ireland, Barber, Copland.
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8. Non-English Language Art Song
  - Classical Art Song from a non-English speaking country sung in their original language Eg. Spain, Italy, Brazil, Russia, France, Germany and Asia.

9. Sacred Song

- Own choice of any Oratorio, Mass or Bach Aria. Preceding recitative, if any, and Da Capo sections must be sung. Hymns and gospel also included.

**OPEN: 18 years and above (Except Section 15 and Section 16)**

10. Music Theatre

- Music Theatre (incl film music): Own choice - one item from music any genre from stage or film. (Make-up, props and costumes are optional).

11. Australian Art Song: Classical Art Song by an Australian composer

12. English Language Art Song (excludes Australian Art Song)

- Suggested composers C. Hubert-Parry, R Vaughan Williams, R. Quilter, F. Bridge, B. Britten, E. Coates. J. Ireland, Samuel Barber, Copland, Ives. In this section, particular attention must be paid to the relationship between voice and piano when interpreting and performing these works.

13. Non-English Language Art Song

- Classical Art Song from a non-English speaking country sung in their original language. Eg. Spain, Italy, Brazil, Russia, France, Germany and Asia.

14. Sacred Song:

- Own choice of any Oratorio, Mass or Bach Aria. Preceding recitative, if any, and Da Capo sections must be sung. Hymns and gospel also included.

**OPEN OPERATIC ARIA: 18 years and above**

15. Open Operatic Aria:

- **To be eligible to sing in the Operatic Aria Section, one other open section must be entered.**
- Arias are to be sung in the original language and key. If selected for the Finals the same Aria performed in the preliminary heat will be sung.
- Heats will be performed, before the final on the afternoon/evening of **Sunday 21 June**.

**OPERATIC ARIA FINALS CONCERT (Sunday 21 June)**

The Operatic Aria Final's Concert (18 and over) will be held on the evening of **Sunday 21 June**, (time TBC after schedule is finalised) at the AMEB Premises in Ashgrove. The Aria to be performed will be the same as in the heat.

**OPEN AGQ COLLABORATIVE ART SONG – VOICE AND PIANO: 16 years and above**

16. Open AGQ Collaborative Art Song:

- Entries must be presented as a voice and piano duo.
- Both performers will be assessed as part of a collaborative partnership, with consideration given to ensemble, musical interpretation, stylistic awareness, and engagement with text.
- Two contrasting art songs:
  - One work of the performers' own choice (any period, any language)
  - One compulsory Australian art song after the year 2000 (different from the work presented in the QVCF Australian Art Song Open section)

**15. QVCF VENUE**

AMEB Qld – 9 Nathan Avenue, Ashgrove 4060

Google maps -> [HERE](#)

QVCF organisers reserve the right to interpret the application of any rules. All competitors will be issued with a performer's pass to allow entry to all sessions. E & OE