NEW ZEALAND ARIA Festival of Song

2026 Syllabus

Entries Open: **17 September 2026**
Entries Close: **15 October 2026**
Competition Dates: **5 - 8 November 2026**
FINALS NIGHT: **7 November 2026**

www.nzaria.org.nz

All Sections- Thursday 5th -Sunday 8th November 2026

The New Zealand Aria Trust welcomes you to the
79th Festival Weekend of Song
to be held at Sir Howard Morrison Centre

Featuring the final of the

COOMBES JOHNSTON BMW NEW ZEALAND ARIA

on Saturday 7 November 2026 at Sir Howard Morrison Centre

OFFICERS 2026/2027

Trustees: Liz Carrington, Sandra Smaill, Denise Carlyon, Neil Carrington Claire Caldwell,

President: Liz Carrington
Vice President:
Funding/treasurer: Antonia Magness
Volunteers Coordinator: Sandra Smaill
Vocal Convenors:
Open Classes: Claire Caldwell
Under 21 Section: Neil Carrington

ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO BE ADDRESSED TO:
Under 21 yrs Classes: Neil Carrington
Phone 027 292 1140
Email: nzariaU21convenor@gmail.com

Open Classes: Claire Caldwell
Phone 021 373 836
Email: clairecaldwell1966@gmail.com

Liz Carrington President
9, Castor Place, Rotorua, 3015
Email: events@nzaria.org

Our Amazing Supporters

The New Zealand Aria Trust wishes to thank the following for their generous support:

COOMBES JOHNSTON BMW
TOI OHOMAI INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
WĀHIĀO TUHOURANGI O WHAKAREWAREWA TRUST
DAME MALVINA MAJOR FOUNDATION
ROTORUA TRUST
NEW ZEALAND COMMUNITY TRUST
AOTEAROA GAMING TRUST
ONE FOUNDATION
PUB CHARITY
FOUR WINDS FOUNDATION
ROBERT TUCKER
BLACKSLATE ACCOUNTANTS
HOUSE OF ELLIOTT
ADVOCATE PRINT
STEINER'S BY DESIGN
MARGOT BUTTON
MUSICATALYST LTD
STEVE WILLIAMS
SUZANNE & MICHAEL LENTINI
CAROLYN PENNY
FUTURE YOU PROJECT

Welcome to the 2026 New Zealand Aria

On behalf of The New Zealand Aria Trust I am delighted to welcome you to the 80th Anniversary of this special competition, first held in 1946. The Trust decided that despite this being the 79th competition, a year was missed due to the pandemic, we decided to celebrate this, our 80th year.

To mark this we have rebranded, becoming New Zealand Aria, A Festival of Song, celebrating classical voice, musical theatre and Waiata.

We could not put this competition on it's current format without the support of our generous sponsors, donors and supporters, and the amount of volunteer hours that are willingly given.

Along with the return of the Waiata Section to Tangatarua Marae last year, there are some new additions this year; Musical Theatre Open Class will be held at Shambles Theatre as an opportunity to collaborate with our other community performing arts providers.

On Sunday 8th November 2026 we are delighted to be able hold the Oratorio/Sacred open class at the historic St Faith's Church in Ohinemutu. Following this there will be a public masterclass with our esteemed judges Peter Coleman-Wright AO and Cheryl Barker AO for selected Coombes Johnston BMW New Zealand Aria finalists.

Liz Carrington, Chairperson, New Zealand Aria Trust.

Venues for the 2026 New Zealand Aria

Sir Howard Morrison Performing Arts Centre

1170 Fenton Street, Rotorua 3010

Tangatarua Marae

Toi Ohomai Mokoia Campus, 1 Mokoia Drive, Tihiotonga, Rotorua 3015

Shambles Theatre

8, Amohau Street, (Behind Pak n Save) Victoria, Rotorua, 3010

St Faith’s Church

3, Hurunga Street, Ohinemutu, 3010

JUDGES:
New Zealand Aria Open Classes

PETER COLEMAN-WRIGHT AO
BARITONE

Peter Coleman-Wright AO has enjoyed a long and highly successful career. He has sung over 75 roles all over the world, including Don Giovanni, Il Conte, Don Alfonso, Papageno, Macbeth, Posa, Germont, Michele, Sharpless, Marcello, Scarpia, Donner, Gunther, Beckmesser, Wolfram, Pizzaro, Figaro, Dandini, Billy Budd, Balstrode, Owen Wingrove, Demetrius, Sid, and The Traveller among many others.

Peter has had long associations with the Royal Opera Covent Garden, English National Opera, Welsh National, Glyndebourne Festival and Touring, La Monnaie, Bastille, Munich, La Scala, La Fenice, Warsaw, Geneva, Aix-en Provence, Netherlands, Bordeaux , Kammer Oper- Wien and Opera Australia.

In America, Peter has performed at the Metropolitan Opera New York, New York City Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Santa Fe and Buenos Aires.

In addition Peter has championed new and 20th Century works including operas by Henze Dallapiccola Jonathan Harvey, David Blake Detlev Glanert (Caligula), Jake Heggie (End of the Affair) and Brett Dean (Bliss).

Coombes Johnston BMW

JUDGES:
New Zealand Aria Open Classes

CHERYL BARKER AO

Cheryl Barker AO has established a distinguished International Operatic Career throughout the UK, Europe, USA, Asia and Australasia.
She has performed for the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, English National Opera, Welsh National Opera, Paris Opera, Nederlandse Opera, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Hamburg State Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Grand Théâtre de Genève, National Opera du Rhin, De Vlaamse Opera, La Monnaie, Opera Holland Park, Reis Opera, Scottish Opera, Glyndebourne Festival Opera, Minnesota Opera, Vancouver Opera, Taipei Opera, Opera Queensland, Opera Australia, State Opera of South Australia, Opera New Zealand, Victoria State Opera and Western Australian Opera.
Her many roles include the title roles in Jenufa, Tosca, Suor Angelica, Madama Butterfly (Mo Award performer of the year), Manon Lescaut, Rusalka, Arabella and Salome (both for which she won green room and Helpmann awards), Adrianna Lecouvreur, Francesca di Rimmini, Hanna Glawari in Die Lustige Witwe, Katya Kabanova, Maria Stuarda.
Other roles include Countess/Le Nozze di Figaro, Adina/L'elisir d'amore, Mimi in the award winning Baz Luhrmann production of La boheme, Violetta/La Traviata, Donna Elvira/Don Giovanni, Tatyana/Eugene Onegin, Nedda/I Pagliacci, Antonia/The Tales of Hoffmann, Giorgetta/Il Tabarro, Lauretta/Gianni Schicchi, Marschallin/Der Rosenkavalier, Madeleine/Capriccio, Chrysothemis/ Elektra, The Governess and Miss Jessel/The Turn of the Screw, Desdemona/Otello, Musetta/La Boheme, Marie/Die Tote Stadt, Salud/La Vida Breve, Jenifer/A Midsummer Marriage, Micaela/ Carmen, Emilia Marty/Vec Makropoulos, Marzelline/Fidelio, Oksana/Christmas Eve, Kate/Kiss me Kate. She created the role of Sarah in Jake Heggies Opera The end of the Affair for Houston Grand Opera. Gertrude in Brett Deans Hamlet, Juno in Platèe for Pinchgut.
She has appeared in concert at Londons Wigmore Hall, The Barbican, Royal Festival Hall, Royal Albert Hall London, Konzerthaus Wien, Koningin Elisabethzaal Belgium, at the Brisbane, Melbourne, Spoletto Festival Italy, The Australian Festival of Chamber Music and with the SSO, QSO, MSO,WASO and TSO and two tours for Musica Viva.
As well as a sought after adjudicator of major competitions she has also given extensive masterclasses both in Australia and the UK.
Recordings include Puccini Passion, Pure Diva (Melba Recordings), Seduction & Persuasion, Don John of Austria, Beethoven 9 (ABC Classics), La Boheme, Madama Butterfly, Marschallin in Der Rosenkavalier OA (CD & DVD) Madama Butterfly, CD of Great Operatic Arias with the LPO, Katya Kabanova, Quo Vadis, Rusalka, Makropoulos Case (Chandos), Madama Butterfly (Belgium and Netherlands Television) Madama Butterfly opus Arte.
Cheryl was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia in the 2015 Queen's Birthday Honours and also holds an Honorary doctorate of Music conferred by the Melbourne University. Cheryl Barker was Head Voice Teacher at the Australian National University School of Music, Canberra and currently Co- Artistic Director of Pacific Opera Studios Young Artists Program and Mentor for Opera Australia's Young Artists Program.

Coombes Johnston BMW

JUDGES:
Junior Classes

New Zealand Aria Under 21
Julia Booth

Award-winning soprano (NZ Aria, Lexus Song Quest), Julia has built a career that bridges opera, musical theatre, and contemporary voice practice. Performance credits include opera and musical theatre productions such as Phantom of the Opera, Les Misérables, and Next to Normal, alongside numerous NZ premieres including Michael Williams' The Juniper Passion, award-winning collaboration with Dr Jeremy Mayall and Dan Inglis' LOQshun, and collaborative contemporary musical theatre project Mum's Kitchen. Alongside her performing career, Julia is a passionate teacher and vocal coach whose workfocuses on connecting voice physiology with practical, embodied application. She lectures in
voice for contemporary and musical theatre performers within the Bachelor of Music and Performing Arts degree at Wintec | Te Pūkenga in Kirikiriroa Hamilton, where she also supervises postgraduate research as an active Creative Researcher. In private practice, Julia works with a wide range of professional artists, most recently coaching both seasons of TV3's comedy Happiness. As an Estill Master Trainer, she has also assisted Anne-Marie Speed (The Voice Explained) in presenting Estill courses internationally across New Zealand, Australia, Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom and Finland.
Next on the horizon is a project Julia is currently developing; a boutique collaborative song- cycle for voice and piano that explores joy, happiness, vulnerability, and artistic identity through multiple compositional perspectives. Blending genres and vocal styles, the project reimagines the traditional song-cycle as a celebration of artistic autonomy, emotional complexity, and the many voices we carry within us.

Dame Malvina Major Foundation

JUDGES:
Junior Classes

New Zealand Aria Under 21
Na Young Kim

Korean-born soprano Na Young Kim is an Auckland-based performer who has appeared as a soloist in opera, oratorio, and concert repertoire. Her appearances include Handel's Messiah, La Resurrezione, Jeptha, and Alexander's Feast, as well as Duruflé Requiem, performing with the Auckland Choral Society, Hamilton Civic Choir, Handel Consort & Quire, and the NZ Korean Philharmonic Orchestra. Her operatic roles include performances in Hansel & Gretel, Suor Angelica, A Christmas Carol, and The Boy Who Grew Fast.

Alongside her performing career, Na Young is an experienced singing teacher and vocal coach who has worked with secondary school singers and choirs across Auckland. She currently teaches at St Cuthbert's College and Epsom Girls Grammar School and has previously taught at Westlake Girls High School, Diocesan School for Girls, and Mt Roskill Grammar School. She served for many years as vocal consultant to the Cantare Choir at Westlake Girls High School and is currently vocal coach to Saints Alive Choir at St Cuthbert's College. Her competition achievements include winning the Becroft Grand Operatic Aria, the Linda Wootten Memorial Award, and the Ladies Vocal Championship at the North Shore Performing Arts Competition. She was awarded second prize in the Lockwood Aria Competition in Rotorua (now the NZ Aria Competition) and the Hawke's Bay Aria Competition, and was also a finalist in the McDonald's Operatic Aria Competition in Sydney.

Na Young holds a Bachelor of Music from Ewha Women's University in Seoul, a Master of Music with First Class Honours from the University of Auckland, where she was awarded the prestigious Fowlds Memorial Prize for the most distinguished student, and a Graduate Diploma from the Royal College of Music in London.

Dame Malvina Major Foundation

JUDGE:
Waiata Section

Māori Song Classes - Bobby Mihi Howard
Rongowhakaata/Ngai Tamanuhiri/Ngāpuhi/Ngati Pikiao

Bobby Mihi Howard is a Rotorua-based singer, songwriter, voice teacher, and musical theatre creator whose work spans jazz, and contemporary performance. She recently played Abuela Claudia in In the Heights with Hamilton Musical Theatre and joined the backing vocals ensemble for Tauranga Musical Theatre's Jersey Boys. She is also the President of Rotorua Musical Theatre and serves on the executive for Musical Theatre NZ.

As a songwriter and creator, Bobby is developing her original musical Ko Tāua, set for release this year. The work explores whakapapa, identity, and resilience through a uniquely Aotearoa lens, blending te ao Māori with contemporary musical theatre.

Alongside her performance career, Bobby teaches voice at Rotorua Lakes High School, nurturing the next generation of singers. She also contributes to youth development in the arts, including her work with the Youth Stage at the Blues and BBQ Festival. Bobby remains deeply committed to celebrating diverse voices, and serves as adjudicator for the Māori song section of the New Zealand Aria.

Rules of Class 345
NEW ZEALAND ARIA-COOMBES JOHNSTON BMW FINALS
Open Class Competition

1. Competitors are to prepare **two** Arias of their own selection.**Repertoire:** The Arias may be chosen from the entire range of the operatic literature as currently performed in opera houses around the world, including Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Verismo, Modern, Opera Comique, and Operetta. All Arias must be sung in the original key and language set by the composer, performed from memory with piano accompaniment. ***Please state opera, composer, and title of aria on your entry.*** CLASS **345** WILL BE LIMITED TO **45** ENTRIES.
2. Competitors will perform one Aria in the **HEATS,** Thursday 6th November 2025 (Class 345). To be eligible for consideration for the **FINALS**, competitors must also compete in **both** class **334**, Lieder, and Class **336**, Art Song-in English. If the competitor is invited to compete in the **FINALS**, Saturday 8th November 2025 (**Class 346**) they will perform their **second** Aria. ***Competitors must EMAIL music to entries@nzaria.org.nz***
3. Competitors entering class 345 are required to submit a short biography (this may be edited by the organisation) and a head-shot that can be used in promotional posts by the competition organisers.
4. Previous **first** placed winners are **not** eligible to re-enter.
5. Competitors who place at finals night will be required to provide a statement for promotional use, and be available for photographs with the sponsor of their prize. Following receipt of the above, prize monies will be released.
6. Selected finalists will have the opportunity to participate in a public masterclass with judges Peter Coleman-Wright AO and Cheryl Barker AO on Sunday 8th November 2026.
7. The COOMBES JOHNSTON BMW NEW ZEALAND ARIA FINALISTS will be accompanied by the AUCKLAND PHILHARMONIA.
8. In choosing your second Aria **(Class 346)**, you will need to ensure that the orchestral music is available in New Zealand (see the Auckland Philharmonia Library). If the Aria of your choice is not listed in the Orchestra's library, please contact their librarian**, Madison Vienna a**t your earliest opportunity, **MadisonV@aucklandphil.nz** or you can contact her by telephone on **09-638-6266**, Ext. **206** or mobile: **022 021 2994.** She will advise you as to whether the Aria is available for hire from the National Library of New Zealand or from any other source within New Zealand, or whether it may be possible to obtain the Aria from overseas (and at what cost). In the event of your Aria having to be procured from overseas, you will be charged accordingly.
9. Competitors must be **over 18 years** of age as at 1 October 2026.
10. No professional performers will be eligible to enter.
11. Competitors aged 18-21 entering the Dame Malvina Major Foundation Recital Class are **not** eligible to enter class 345/346.
12. No official accompanists are appointed. However, if competitors require an accompanist please check on the website (closer to the competition) for contact details to make your own arrangements directly with them. Rehearsals and payments will be negotiated between the competitor and an available accompanist.
13. Time limit is 10 minutes maximum.
14. Attire of formal dress, lounge suit, or costume is required.
15. Pianist must be advised with entry as it is critical when scheduling classes.

NOTES:
This year we are requesting that competitors EMAIL all music to entries@nzaria.org.nz no paper copies required.
Regardless of circumstances, song titles cannot be changed after closing date.

NEW ZEALAND ARIA Festival of Song

Coombes Johnston BMW

CLASS **345** Entry Fee $45

1st Prize The Coombes Johnston BMW Prize
$20,000 Total Prize Package
$10,000 cash, $5,000 towards tuition fees, $5,000 towards entry in the Sydney Eisteddfod

2nd Prize Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology
$10,000 Cash

3rd Prize Wāhiāo Tuhourangi O Whakarewarewa Trust
$5,000 Cash

The Dame Malvina Major Foundation Award
$3,000 cash awarded to a promising finalist not placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd

All other finalists receive $500 cash

OPEN CLASSES-18 Years and Over

CLASS		ENTRY FEE
345	Aria Heats (please see rules page 8)	$45
346	Aria Finals (if selected)	NC
331	Māori Waiata	$18
332	Solo Own Selection (not an Operatic Aria) Sponsored by *Musicalayst Ltd*	$18
333	Oratorio or Sacred Song **Sunday 8th November** **St Faith's Church**	$18
334	Lieder (Original European Language -German, French etc. NOT English)	$18
335	Folk or Traditional	$18
336	Art Song-sung in English	$18
338	NZ Art Song-not a traditional Waiata Prize money donated by *Robert Tucker*	$18
443	Musical Theatre- *Steiner's By Design MT Class* (sung in English, Costume optional) **Friday 7th November evening class**	$25

NOTE: Regardless of circumstances, song titles CANNOT be changed after the closing date 15/10/2026

OPEN CLASSES-AWARDS

Coombes Johnston BMW New Zealand Aria (Compulsory Classes 345, 334, 336)
1st $20,000 (Package) **Coombes Johnston BMW**
2nd $10,000 (Cash) **Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology**
3rd $5,000 (Cash) **Wāhiāo Tuhourangi O Whakarewarewa Trust**
DMMF Award-most promising not placed finalists **$3,000**
All other finalists $500

Open Māori Waiata Class (Class 331)-page 17
1st $1,000

Solo Own Selection (Not operatic Aria) Sponsored by Musicatalyst (Class 332)
1st $400 2nd $200 3rd $100

Oratorio or Sacred Song (Class 333)
1st $400 2nd $200 3rd $100

Lieder-French or German (Class 334)
1st $400 2nd $200 3rd $100

Folk or Traditional-not a Waiata (Class 335)
1st $400 2nd $200 3rd $100

Art Song sung in English (Class 336)
1st $400 2nd $200 3rd $100

New Zealand Art Song Prize Donated by Robert Tucker
1st $400 2nd $150 3rd $50

Steiner's by Design Musical Theatre (Class 443)
1st $1,000 2nd $700 3rd $300

Ethel & William Harman Ambassador's Award
A prize of $150 will be awarded to the singer who shows the greatest spirit of the competition in their relationship with the organisers, fellow competitors, accompanists and volunteers.

JUNIOR and UNDER 21 CLASSES

ENTRY FEE: $14.00 PER CLASS

AGE AT 1st October 2026

UNDER 10 YEARS SECTION:

SPONSORED

Classes 1-4

1. Own Selection
2. Folk/Traditional
3. Sacred/Oratorio
4. Light Entertainment (Costume optional)

10 AND UNDER 13 YEARS SECTION:

Classes 5-8

5. Own Selection-
6. Folk/Traditional
7. Sacred/Oratorio
8. Light Entertainment (Costume optional)

13 AND UNDER 16 YEARS SECTION:

Classes 9-13

9. Own Selection-
10. Folk/Traditional-
11. Sacred/Oratorio-
12. Light Entertainment (Costume optional)
15. Māori Song Class-see pg 17

16 & UNDER 18 YEARS SECTION:

Classes 16-21

17. N.Z. Composer-Not a traditional Waiata
18. Māori Song Class-see pg 17
19. Own Selection
20. Folk/Traditional-
21. Sacred/Oratorio
22. Light Entertainment (Costume optional)

DAME MALVINA MAJOR FOUNDATION 16 & UNDER 21 RECITAL CLASS

The Dame Malvina Major Foundation Recital Class is open to young performers aged 16 and under 21 as of the 1st October 2026.

The class will be limited to 30 entries, and competitors who enter class 30 are NOT permitted to enter into class 345 Aria Heats

This class requires the competitor to perform three pieces consecutively, in at least two different living languages, which must be introduced by the competitor, time limit 10 minutes- please see rules for junior classes pg 18

1. Operatic Aria-class 30
2. Lieder-class 31
3. Own Selection-class 32

Prizes:
1st place $2,500
2nd place $1,250
3rd place $750

Dame Malvina Major Foundation

Entry fee **$50-**Class 30 (to be able to enter your pieces via the online entry system you must also enter classes 31 and 32, which will be no charge)

The Māori Waiata Section will be held at Tangatarua Marae Thursday 5th November

13 and under 16 Class

16 and under 18 Class

OPEN Class 331 (OVER 18)
Sponsored by
1st Prize $1,000-invited to perform at the Finals Night at Sir Howard Morrison Performing Arts Centre

Rules for the Māori Waiata Section:
May be accompanied by piano or other acoustic instrument, or performed a capella.
Traditional arrangement, sheet music to be provided for the adjudicator.
Name of the Waiata and composer/arrangement to be included on entry submission.
Previous first place winners (open class) are not eligible to enter.
Arrival at Tangatarua Marae- pohiri onto Marae(subject to change-all competitors will receive a confirmation email regarding timings, and are required to attend pohiri)

GENERAL COMPETITION RULES

1. COMPETITORS - These competitions are open to all comers.
2. AGE LIMIT - To be taken as of 1 October 2026. Satisfactory proof of age must be produced if required by the Committee.
3. ENTRIES - All entries must be lodged by 5pm on or before **15th October 2026** LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. ENTRANCE FEES MUST BE PAID AT THE TIME OF ENTRY. The NZ Aria Trust reserves the right to refuse an entry. Only one entry from each competitor is allowed in each class.
4. SONG TITLES - Titles of all items must be on the entry form. No change of item will be permitted after closing date. **In all classes, competitors may not render any piece with which they have previously won at these competitions, and must not give the same item in more than one class.**
5. ALL music must be emailed: Please EMAIL your music prior to the competition to **entries@nzaria.org.nz**
6. JUDGES - No competitor who has been regularly taught by the Judge during one year preceding the competitions will be allowed to compete. Communications with the Judge, either by competitors, teachers, or any other interested parties prior to, or during the competitions, is prohibited. A judge reserves the right to communicate if appropriate. Additional adjudicators may be appointed as required to accommodate entrants' levels.
7. SUBSTITUTE JUDGE - The NZ Aria Trust reserves the right to appoint a substitute Judge for an announced Judge when necessary.
8. ORDER OF PERFORMANCE - Competitors compete in the order in which they appear in the programme. Any change must be made with the permission of the appropriate Convenor.
9. PRIZE MONEY - All donated prize money as listed in the Syllabus Programme for the current year will be awarded. Where there is a minimum of three entries, the Judge reserves the right to award prize money appropriately.
10. ACCOMPANISTS - These will be listed on the website www.nzaria.org.nz as they become available.
11. PROTESTS - Competitors desiring to enter a protest must lodge the same in writing with the NZ Aria Trust, together with the grounds on which it is based, and a sum of $20. Should the protest, on investigation by the NZ Aria Trust, be deemed frivolous or unfounded, the deposit shall be forfeited. No protest will be entertained unless it is made within 12 hours after the Judge's award is announced in the item. The decision of the NZ Aria Trust shall be final.
12. STAGE - No person, other than the officials, will be permitted backstage, or at the side of the stage. No prompting, or assistance of any kind may be rendered during the performance except by the Judge, or his/her appointee.

GENERAL COMPETITION RULES/FAQs

GENERAL RESERVATION - The NZ Aria Trust reserves the right of determining the status of all competitors, and of applying and interpreting all of the rules. The decision of the Trust is final.

THE NZ ARIA TRUST - Reserves the right to cancel a class where there is less than a minimum requirement of three entries.

NO ENTRY WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL PAYMENT IS RECEIVED.

SENIOR CLASSES

Please EMAIL your music prior to the competition to entries@nzaria.org.nz

Warm up spaces-these are very limited, there will be spaces allocated, please be respectful of our junior competitors, NO vocal warm ups in the bathrooms, these need to be a safe space for everyone, we know the accoustics are wonderful, but please refrain.

Queries regarding repertoire, we have introduced some new classes and amended others. Lieder-German or French, Art Song-in English, New Zealand Art Song-not a traditional/waiata, composed by a New Zealand composer, if originally written in a language other than English, may be performed in that language. Please email Claire Caldwell Open Class convener-email on page 2, if you have queries.

Competitors who take first place in the aria final, musical theatre class and the open class Māori Waiata Section are not eligible to enter these classes again.

JUNIOR CLASSES

Please EMAIL your music prior to the competition to entries@nzaria.org.nz

Each age group is clearly defined as Under 10 years Section, 10 and Under 13 years Section, 13 and Under 16 years Section, 16 and Under 18 years Section and the Dame Malvina Major Recital Class is 16-21 years. All ages are as of 1st October 2026.

Junior classes will be held on Thursday 5th and Friday 6th November 2026 at the Sir Howard Morrison Centre, with the exception of Māori song classes which will be held at Tangatarua Marae, Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology. These classes will be held on Thursday 5th November in the evening, timings will be confirmed closer to the date.

Sheet music is required for all junior classes-hard copies, taped together, competitors name and class number on the right hand corner of the first page.

Our convener Neil Carrington is happy to answer your queries-email on the second page. During the competition, please ask one of our friendly volunteers if you have any questions.

JUNIOR CLASSES

DAME MALVINA MAJOR RECITAL CLASS:

Please EMAIL your music prior to the competition to: entries@nzaria.org.nz
This class is aimed at meeting the needs of our competitors who are ready for the next stage of development.
We recognise that the open classes can seem daunting, being able to compete with singers at the same age and stage of vocal development provides a unique opportunity. The prize pool is generous, and aims to support ongoing development. Competitors in this recital class will **not** be eligible for entry o**r consideration in the Open Coombes Johnston BMW Aria, Classes 345/346** they are of course able to enter any other open class. Previous first placed winners are not eligible to enter.

New for 2026

To mark our 80th Year as a competition, we are delighted to bring some exciting new initiatives. We are attempting to commit to sustainability.
Music:
Each year we are left with hundreds of pieces of music, and while we do recycle these, they have had to be printed. This year we are providing the opportunity to have music stored electronically. **Please EMAIL your music prior to the competition to entries@nzaria.org.nz**

Competition attire:
This year we will have garments that have been donated from boutiques and individuals, many of these items have been upcycled and reinvigorated. You can purchase these over the weekend during the competition, You are welcome to bring any of your own garments you wish to sell/swap. Volunteers will be on hand to help with styling and attire. Finalists will be offered the opportunity to have an appointment with House of Elliott for hair/styling.

PAST WINNERS

2025	Sarah Mileham
2024	Breony Bearman
2023	Felicity Tomkins
2022	Emmanuel Fonoti-Fuimaono
2019	Elizabeth Mandeno
2018	Manase Latu
2017	Jarvis Dams
2016	Frederick Jones
2015	Amitai Pati
2014	Isabella Moore
2013	James Ioelu
2012	Stephen Diaz
2011	Stacey Alleaume
2010	Amelia Berry
2009	Pene Pati
2008	Julia Booth
2007	Wade Kernot
2006	Aivale Cole
2005	Philip Rhodes
2004	Viktoriya Dodoka
2003	Spencer Silby
2002	Anna Leese
2001	Ben Makisi
2000	James Harrison
1999	Joanna Heslop
1998	Ramonda Te Maiharoa-Taleni
1997	Jud Arthur
1996	Brent Alcock
1995	Richard Weston
1994	Patricia Hughes

SPONSORS, DONORS AND SUPPORTERS, WE THANK YOU

Coombes Johnston BMW

Dame Malvina Major Foundation

TOI-OHOMAI Institute of Technology

musicatalyst FIND YOUR VOICE

Otonga School
Te Kura o Tihiōtonga

AOTEAROA GAMING TRUST

Four Winds FOUNDATION

FYP

nzct