



LUNCH HOUR SERIES CRITERIA & INFORMATION

(Updated September 2025)

Recitals Australia runs two series of Lunch Hour concerts each year. Each series runs over ten (10) weeks, and comprises three distinct stages:

- Stage 1: Selection – applicants are judged on their merits against the Eligibility Criteria to proceed to Stage 2
- Stage 2: Heats – a series of weekly concerts in which participants compete for a place in Stage 3
- Stage 3: Finals – a concert in which winners of Stage 2 compete for finals prizes.

In Stage 1, entries to perform are made through the Recitals Australia website and are judged by the Recitals Australia Lunch Hour Series Selection and Advisory Sub-Committee to select ten winners who will perform in Stage 2.

Each Stage 1 winner receives a cash prize and a date to perform in one of the heats in Stage 2.

Each performer in Stage 2 is judged by the Recitals Australia Lunch Hour Series Adjudication Panel and up to six performers will win the chance to compete for cash prizes at the Series Final in Stage 3.

One Award of \$1,000 will be made each series, as judged by the Recitals Australia Lunch Hour Series Finals Judging Panel, with other finalists receiving a minimum of \$250 each. The maximum prize pool available per series is \$3,000.

The awards will be made immediately following this Finals concert.

Eligibility Criteria

There are separate eligibility criteria for persons wishing to (A) perform in a LHS Series Concert as distinct from (B) perform in a LHS Finals Concert.

(A) Perform in a LHS concert (excluding the series finals):

Lunch Hour Series entries are open to all instrumentalists and singers of any age who:

- have attained at least AMEB Certificate of Performance or equivalent
- can perform a full recital of at least 25 minutes duration.

If there are more applicants than concert slots available, then preference will be given to those who:

- i. live and spend the majority of their time in SA, and
- ii. are under the age of thirty, and
- iii. do not yet have an established professional career in music (either as a teacher or performer).

(B) Perform in a LHS Finals Concert:

A person is eligible to perform in a LHS Series Finals concert and compete for a Prize if:

- they have performed in a LHS concert and judged as 'outstanding' or 'highly recommended',

- have attained at least AMEB Certificate of Performance or equivalent,
- are under the age of 30 (at the time applications for the Series close),
- live and spend the majority of their time in SA, and
- do not yet have an established professional career in music (either as a teacher or performer).

Eligible performers can win a maximum of three First Prizes in total, and cannot win First prize in successive Series.

Adjudication Procedure

Prospective performers eligible for a Lunch Hour Award will be alerted to the conditions of the Lunch Hour Awards competition.

At least two weeks before the Finals concert, winners from Stage 2 will be requested to confirm whether or not they wish to participate in Stage 3. Eligible performers wishing to perform in the Lunch Hour Awards Finals will be informed of their acceptance two weeks before the Series Finals concert.

Each performer accepted to perform in the Series Finals concert, whose confirmation has been received by the due date, will perform for 10 to 15 minutes. The Finals Judging Panel will consist of up to four people comprising a Chairperson, who will be a Recitals Australia Council member and who will not vote except to break a deadlock, and three others who are expert musicians appointed by Council.

Publicity

Information about Recitals Australia award programs will be publicised through multiple networks to ensure that as many suitable applicants as possible apply, including:

- The Recitals Australia website
- The Music Teachers' Association.

Eligibility criteria and assessment procedures for all Recitals Australia awards will be articulated clearly in publicity material available to applicants.

Conflicts of Interest

The current teacher of an entrant for a Recitals Australia award is excluded from the being an adjudicator at any stage of the competition. Any person who has a close personal relationship with an entrant for a Recitals Australia award is similarly excluded from the assessment or adjudication procedure.

For further information

For further information, please contact Recitals Australia: Phone: 08 8236 7488

Email: info@recitalsaustralia.org.au PO Box 6454, Halifax Street, ADELAIDE SA 5000

Or complete the [Entry Form](#)