

Press Release

2 February 2010

Historic eisteddfod adopts new name

The McDonald's Performing Arts Challenge will roll this year as McDonald's Sydney Eisteddfod. This competition began seventy-seven years ago as the City of Sydney Eisteddfod and organisers believe the new name ties more closely with its roots.

Widely regarded as the most successful competitive festival of its type in the world, the competition offers three hundred-plus classical and contemporary events for singers, dancers, actors and musicians. There are also sections for choirs, bands and orchestras, along with creative categories for composers, writers and poets. Once again, the \$57,000 McDonald's Operatic Aria and the \$36,000 McDonald's Ballet Scholarships will highlight the program. Other major events include the Robert & Elizabeth Albert Junior Classical Ballet Scholarship, the John Allison Sydney Eisteddfod Piano Scholarship, the NSW Doctors Orchestra Instrumentalist Scholarship, The John Lamble Australasian Choral Championships, the Musica Viva Award for Chamber Music and a Contemporary Singer of the Year title.

The competition attracts serious contenders from across the nation, but its program is open to all and includes something for everyone. Some enter to test their skills before a live audience, others simply for fun, but as performing in public is great for confidence building, whatever paths entrants follow in future life, the self-assurance they gain through competing will always serve them well. The eisteddfod is essentially an educational event, so although not everyone emerges with a prize, everyone learns and most thoroughly enjoy the experience.

This year, there will be an added incentive for entrants from regional New South Wales and other States as some financial assistance will be available through the Sydney Eisteddfod Travel Fund for those who have to return to Sydney to compete in a final. In addition, through the generosity of Mr Lorand Loblay, the Matana Foundation for Young People is offering two \$2,500 scholarships to instrumentalists aged between 16 and 20 years who qualify for the final rounds of either the John Allison Sydney Eisteddfod Piano Scholarship or the NSW Doctors Orchestra Instrumentalist Scholarship and can provide evidence of financial disadvantage.

The 2010 festival will open on 1 June and conclude on 26 September with a spectacular Dance of the Champions.

The complete Syllabus is available on the Sydney Eisteddfod website.

Entries close 22 March and can be lodged online. If you require a printed copy of the Syllabus or any further information, phone (02) 9261-8366 or email info@sydneyeisteddfod.com.au.