



St George Instrumental Eisteddfod Inc

2026 Strings Results

Established

2013

Venue

Kogarah School of Arts
Cnr Queens Ave & Bowns Rd, Kogarah NSW 2217

Dates

17th to 19th July
24th to 26th July

Convenor

Mrs Kathryn Phillips

2026 Adjudicators

Caroline Otto
Cecilia Bersee
David Saffir
Sandi Oh
Sarah Jameson

Website

www.stgie.org

Supporters

Supporters for the 2026 Strings event include:

- Irwin Violins
- Music on the Move
- Studio 65
- Mr Evan Elsey
- Mrs Ann Chapman
- Mrs Faina Krel
- Back to Basics Chiropractic
- Lily Su

CALL FOR DONATIONS!

Welcome to the St. George Instrumental Eisteddfod Inc.

This entire event is operated by a team of volunteers, all of whom lead busy lives but devote a huge amount of energy and time to ensure the event runs smoothly and provides the maximum opportunities for your child.

The value of this exciting event is the benefits it gives to your child. Having a public platform to enable your child to perform to their best ability in a friendly, competitive environment is the best way to help your child develop their self-confidence. To be able to showcase their musical talents allows your child to grow and learn that is not possible without this valuable performing experience.

We, at the St. George Instrumental Eisteddfod Inc., are committed to providing these wonderful educational benefits to your child. In order for this to continue we need your help. We rely entirely on donations from private individuals and organisations to donate money to cover the cost of the event which is approximately \$30,000.

Please help us to help your child by donating to our donation fund which will help ensure we can continue to offer these opportunities for your child for years to come!

If you would like to provide a donation and require further information, please email info@stgie.org and a Committee member will contact you.

呼吁赞助商！

欢迎来到第一界圣乔治乐器艺术节！

这令人激动的乐器艺术节的价值在于给您的孩子带来的益处。拥有一个公众，友好，竞争的平台，使您的孩子展现他最好的表演能力，是帮助孩子发展自信心的最好方式。为了能够展示自己的音乐才华，让您的孩子成长学习，这些是离不开这个宝贵的表演经验。

我们，圣乔治乐器艺术节，致力于给您的孩子提供最精彩的教育效益。这整个事件是由一个志愿者团队在服务，所有的工作人员都生活忙碌，但投入了大量的精力和时间，确保整个活动顺利进行，为您的孩子提供最大的展示机会。

为了让此活动继续，我们需要您的帮助。我们完全依赖来自个人和机构捐赠的资金，来支付整个活动的成本大约三万澳元。

请帮助我们来帮助您的孩子通过捐赠给我们的赞助资金，这将有助于确保我们能够继续提供这些机会为您的孩子和将来！

如果您想提供赞助，需要进一步信息，请咨询艺术节任何一位志愿工作

Eisteddfod Prizes

Unless stated in the section, the awarded prize for each section is a trophy for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places and medals for 4th and 5th place.

Adjudicators

Caroline Otto - BMus (Perf), PGDip

Caroline Otto is an Australian cellist and dedicated strings educator, currently working as Head of Strings at Arden Anglican School. She previously held the position of Head of Strings at St Aloysius' College and was a strings educator at the Central Coast Conservatorium of Music. Passionate about guiding young musicians at every stage of their development, Caroline is committed to fostering confidence, independence, and a genuine love of music in her students. Alongside her teaching and performing career, she is completing a Master of Teaching (Secondary) at the University of New England, further strengthening her commitment to excellence in music education.

Caroline completed her Bachelor of Music (Performance) at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music before undertaking a Postgraduate Diploma at the Royal Northern College of Music in the UK. She then spent two years at the Orchesterzentrum NRW in Germany, studying with Professor Gregor Horsch, principal cellist of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra.

Cecilia Bersee - BMus, ASCM

Cecilia Bersée is a freelance violinist, teacher and an AMEB examiner. She has played with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra (SSO), the Australian Chamber Orchestra and predominately for Opera Australia Orchestra, where she played for more than 20 years. Her career highlight was performing a concerto as soloist with the SSO as state winner of the ABC Instrumental and vocal Competition (school aged division).

She has had much success as a teacher, with many of her students accepted into the Rising Stars Program at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and awarded full music scholarships at many elite private schools. She is a past president of AUSTA NSW and travels frequently across the state to examine for the AMEB and to adjudicate various eisteddfods. She is currently on the staff of the Wollongong Conservatorium of Music and is a member of Zefiro trio, playing many concerts in the Illawarra and the Shoalhaven.

David Saffir

Born into a musical family in Melbourne, Australia, David Saffir went to the Tasmanian Conservatorium where he studied with Professor Jan Sedivka. Post-graduate studies took David to the Koelner Musikhochschule in Germany where he studied with Professor Igor Ozim and members of the Amadeus Quartet.

He returned to Australia to lead the New England String Quartet, the resident ensemble at the University of New England in Armidale. After a successful stint there, David freelanced in Sydney, working with all the major orchestras, until taking a position of Director of Strings at Newington College.

David Saffir was appointed Director of Strings at Barker College in 2000. He works with students throughout the school as an instrumental teacher and ensemble director. He leads a vibrant team of eleven string teachers; consequently, string playing throughout the school has developed strongly, with over two hundred students playing in its many string orchestras. There is also a thriving chamber music program.

David continues to perform professionally as a soloist, chamber musician and orchestral leader. From 2005 – 2015, he was Concertmaster of the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra and was Concertmaster Emeritus until 2019.

Sandi Oh - BMus (Perf) and BA

Sandi Oh is a highly regarded conductor, educator, and composer with a deep commitment to nurturing young musicians and fostering the growth of string ensembles. Throughout her career, she has focused on providing students with the tools to excel both technically and artistically, creating opportunities for them to develop their potential as performers and musicians.

Sandi holds a Bachelor of Music (Performance) and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of New South Wales, where she studied violin under the guidance of Evan Elsley. Since completing her studies, she has enjoyed a multifaceted career as a performer, teacher, and conductor in Sydney, working across a wide range of educational settings. As an educator, Sandi has influenced generations of young string players, known for her warm and approachable teaching style. Her expertise in violin pedagogy and ensemble direction has made her

a respected figure in Sydney's music community. She has taught at various schools across the city and has conducted and mentored numerous student ensembles, helping them to develop strong technical skills while fostering a deep appreciation for music. In her current role as the Coordinator of Strings at St Andrew's Cathedral School, Sandi oversees the development and growth of the school's string program, providing guidance and mentorship to both students and teachers. She is also an AMEB Strings Examiner, assessing the progress of students and contributing to the broader music education community.

Sarah Jameson - MMus, BMus (Hons), AMusA

Cellist Sarah Jameson completed her bachelor's and master's degrees at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, having studied with Dorothy Sumner and Georg Pedersen. Her master's thesis was on the topic of cello pedagogy.

Mrs Jameson has an active career as a performer and chamber musician. Since 2013, she has been Principal Cellist with the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra. Between 2010 and 2016, she toured with Musica Viva. Mrs Jameson plays regularly with local ensembles and for community and school events. In addition to performing, Mrs Jameson has taught privately and at schools including Barker College and Loreto Normanhurst. She has composed and arranged extensively for youth string orchestras and has initiated and developed string programs in schools. As a teacher, she is committed to providing students with a solid technical foundation while fostering their enthusiasm and love of playing.

Acknowledgements

The Convenor wishes to thank all the candidates, parents and all the helpers who have given their time to make the 2024 St George Instrumental Eisteddfod Inc such an enjoyable and entertaining musical festival.

A special thanks to Ophelia Lam for managing the online entries and the website. A special thanks to Sara Ng our Treasurer, for managing online entry payments.

A very special thanks to Extreme Piano Removalists for sponsoring the Concert Grand Piano in 2024.

Last but not least, the St George Instrumental Eisteddfod Committee would like to thank all major sponsors for without their contributions, this year's Eisteddfod would not be possible.

Mrs. Kathryn Phillips Convener

T.mus.A. A.mus.A. L.mus.A. ATCL. LTCL. MMTA

Prize Ratios

Number of entrants	Prizes
1 to 4	1st prize only
5 to 8	1st & 2nd prize
9 to 12	1st, 2nd & 3rd prize
13 to 16	1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th prize
17 to 20	1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th prize

Section ST301 – Open 7 years and under Cello/Double Bass

Contestant No.	First name	Surname
1 st Place	Masha	Chen

Section ST302 – Open 9 years and under Cello/Double Bass – Division 1

Contestant No.	First name	Surname
1 st Place	Olivia	Yan
2 nd Place	Daniel	Bang
3 rd Place	Zitao	Bao

Section ST302 – Open 9 years and under Cello/Double Bass – Division 2

Contestant No.	First name	Surname
1 st Place	Oliver	Kim
2 nd Place	Jaeah	Sung
3 rd Place	Mario	Zou

Section ST303 – Open 10-12 years Cello/Double Bass – Division 1

Contestant No.	First name	Surname
1 st Place	Erin	Chi
2 nd Place	Clara	Oh
3 rd Place	Violet	Li

Section ST303 – Open 10-12 years Cello/Double Bass – Division 2

Contestant No.	First name	Surname
1 st Place	Isabella	Kim
2 nd Place	Clarice	Zhong
3 rd Place	Charissa	Chang

Section ST304 – Restricted 13-16 age group Cello/Double Bass

Contestant No.	First name	Surname
1 st Place	Yiyang	Lin
2 nd Place	Jenny	Li
3 rd Place	Clara	Kwon

Section ST305 – Open 13-16 age group Cello/Double Bass

Contestant No.	First name	Surname
1 st Place	Gordon	Guo

Section ST306 – Restricted 7 years and under No Cello/Double Bass – Division 1

Contestant No.	First name	Surname
1 st Place	Aurora	Yu
2 nd Place	Milie	Ye

Section ST306 – Restricted 7 years and under No Cello/Double Bass – Division 2

Contestant No.	First name	Surname
1 st Place	Hannah	Kim
2 nd Place	Iris	Liu

Section ST307 – Open 7 years & under No Cello/Double Bass

Contestant No.	First name	Surname
1 st Place	Aurora	Yu
2 nd Place	Isaac	Liu

Section ST308 – Restricted 8 years & under No Cello/Double Bass

Contestant No.	First name	Surname
1 st Place	Alice	Zhang
2 nd Place	Claire	Kim
3 rd Place	Bianca	Liu
4 th Place	Hannah	Gu

Section ST309 – Open 8 years & under No Cello/Double Bass

Contestant No.	First name	Surname
1 st Place	Alice	Zhang
2 nd Place	Sarah	Moon
3 rd Place	Hannah	Gu

Section ST310 – Open 8 years and under Study/Etude All strings

Contestant No.	First name	Surname
1 st Place	Alice	Zhang
2 nd Place	Jessica	Yang
3 rd Place	Emma	Wu

Section ST311 – Open 3/4th grades All strings

Contestant No.	First name	Surname
1 st Place	Emma	Wu
2 nd Place	Hannah	Kim
3 rd Place	Annabel	Han

Section ST312 – Restricted 9 years & under No Cello/Double Bass

Contestant No.	First name	Surname
1 st Place	Clara	Yuan
2 nd Place	Ophelia	Song
3 rd Place	Evan	Yang

Section ST313 – Open 9 years & under No Cello/Double Bass

Contestant No.	First name	Surname
1 st Place	Aimee	Li
2 nd Place	Chloe	Siu
3 rd Place	Claire	Ge

Section ST314 – Restricted 10 years & under No Cello/Double Bass

Contestant No.	First name	Surname
1 st Place	Timothy	Lam
2 nd Place	Claire	Ge
3 rd Place	Sharlyn	Yu

Section ST315 – Open 10 & Years & under No Cello/Double Bass

Contestant No.	First name	Surname
1 st Place	Yunchang	Liu
2 nd Place	Alicia	Wu

Section ST316 – Open 11 years and under No Cello/Double Bass

Contestant No.	First name	Surname
1 st Place	Ziyu	Bao
2 nd Place	Julie	Chen
3 rd Place	Nicole	Lin

Section ST317 – Restricted 12 years & under No Cello/Double Bass

Contestant No.	First name	Surname
1 st Place	Ian	Yan
2 nd Place	Tanya	Lin
3 rd Place	Julie	Chen
4 th Place	Nicole	Lin

Section ST318 – Open 12 years & under Ryan Wang Memorial All strings

Contestant No.	First name	Surname
1 st Place \$100	Yunchang	Liu
2 nd Place	Sarah	Moon
3 rd Place	Kite	Wang
4 th Place	Cyrus	Fu

Section ST319 – Open 12 years & under Baroque All strings

Contestant No.	First name	Surname
1 st Place	Julie	Chen
2 nd Place	James	Han
3 rd Place	Isabella	Kim
3 rd Place	Celina	Ngyuen

Section ST320 – Open 13 years & under Concerto All strings – Dr Frank Chapman Trophy

Contestant No.	First name	Surname
1 st Place \$100	Dana	Hyun
2 nd Place	Elizabeth	Luiskandl
3 rd Place	Ivy	Yan

Section ST321 – 12 years and under Junior Championship - Evan Elsley Award All strings

Contestant No.	First name	Surname
1 st Place \$150	Ian	Yan
2 nd Place \$100	Yunchang	Liu
3 rd Place \$50	Sarah	Moon

Section ST322 – Open 13-15 years Sonata All strings

Contestant No.	First name	Surname
1 st Place \$100	Dana	Hyun
2 nd Place \$75	Oliver	Gao
3 rd Place	Allen	Lu
4th Place	Irene	Zhang
5th Place	Chelsea	Wang
5th Place	Elizabeth	LuisKandl

Section ST323 – Open 5th and 6th grades All strings – Division 1

Contestant No.	First name	Surname
1 st Place	Olivia	Yin
2 nd Place	Daniel	Bang

Section ST323 – Open 5th and 6th grades All strings – Division 2

Contestant No.	First name	Surname
1 st Place	Lauren	Lee
2 nd Place	Lily	Song
3 rd Place	Clarice	Yuen

Section ST324 – Restricted 13-16 years No Cello/Double Bass

Contestant No.	First name	Surname
1 st Place \$100	Jack	Ng
2 nd Place \$75	Andy	Wang
3 rd Place	Chelsea	Wang
4th Place	Marcus	Chang

Section ST325 – Open 13-16 years No Cello/Double Bass

Contestant No.	First name	Surname
1 st Place \$100	Will	Zhang
2 nd Place \$75	Andy	Wang
3 rd Place	Chelsea	Wang

Section ST326 – Open 13-16 years Baroque Dr Frank Chapman Trophy All strings

Contestant No.	First name	Surname
1 st Place \$100	Ethan	Chen
2 nd Place \$75	Sienna	Kim
3rd place	Eloise	Motum
4th Place	Dana	Hyun
5th Place	Ivy	Yan

Section ST327 – Open 7th and 8th grades Music on the Move Award All strings

Contestant No.	First name	Surname
1 st Place \$100	Alice	Zhang
2 nd Place \$75	Violet	Li
3 rd Place	Kite	Wang
4th Place	Arielle	Lam

Section ST328 – Open Etude 13 years and over Etude All strings

Contestant No.	First name	Surname
1 st Place \$100	Danielle	Hu
2 nd Place	Dana	Hyun

Section ST329 – Open Age String Solo Studio 65 Award All strings

Contestant No.	First name	Surname
1 st Place \$200	Ian	Yan
2 nd Place \$100	Oliver	Gao
3 rd Place \$75	Ivy	Yan
4th Place	Nerissa	Du

Section ST330 – Open Age String Concerto Championship All Strings

Contestant No.	First name	Surname
1 st Place \$1500	Ivy	Yan
2 nd Place \$750	Sienna	Kim
3 rd Place \$250	Nerissa	Du

Section ST331 – Open Age Ensemble Groups of 2-8 players All instruments

Contestant No.	First name	Surname
1 st Place \$100	Yuting	Jin
2 nd Place	SCMP	Group
3 rd Place	Samantha	Yan

Faina Krel Award Most Outstanding String Player – 9 years - Clara Yuan

Merit Award Trophy – 10 -12 years and under – Yunchang Liu

Merit Award Trophy – 10 years and under – Alice Zhang

Studio 65 Encouragement Trophy – 13 to 15 years - Yiyang Lin