

WIRRINA YOUNG MUSICIANS' CONTEST ENTRY FORM:

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Thanks for your interest in the Wirrina Young Musicians' Contest! Below are some further **important details** about the competition:

When & Where: Sunday, 23 November, 12:15pm at the Blackboard Tent

Please assemble outside the Blackboard Tent by 12:15pm for a 12:30pm start. (Site map will be included in the festival program booklet; festival office volunteers can give further directions for those needing assistance).

Repertoire: Perform from memory a folk-style song/tune/set from the **Bluegrass / Acoustic Roots** genres. This includes styles such as:

- Bluegrass, Old Time, Americana, Country
- Irish, Scottish, Celtic, Cape Breton, Quebecois
- Any 'Folk' selections from the AMEB syllabus or similar collection

Instruments & Performance

- Acoustic instruments only – no amps or effects
- Performers should play or sing **from memory**, in keeping with aural folk traditions
- Singers can use their natural accent
- Performers can play solo, with an accompanist, or self-accompanied (e.g. guitar with singing)
- Performance must be **no longer than 5 minutes** (shorter is totally fine!)
- **Microphones will be provided** – no need to bring your own. We'll adjust these for you and do a quick sound check before your performance.

MC and Stage etiquette

- An MC will introduce each performer – you're welcome to speak too, but be aware this counts towards your 5-minute limit
- Standard performance etiquette expected - stay quiet during others' performances, be courteous to sound crew and stage managers.

Prizes

- 1st Prize: \$250
- 2nd Prize: \$150
- 3rd Prize: \$50

Winners will also be invited to **perform again that afternoon** on the **Wirrina Concert Stage** around 3:00pm (subject to minor change as the program is finalised) – please make sure you're on-site and contactable after the contest.

Judge Profiles



Jeri Foreman is a fiddle player from Adelaide, South Australia, now living in Glasgow, Scotland. She initially travelled to perform with the Shetland Fiddlers in the Edinburgh Military Tattoo at Edinburgh Castle and continued to play with the group for several years. She subsequently travelled extensively to learn from some of the most renowned professionals, as well as local tradition bearers in their places of residence. Jeri holds a Bachelor of Music with Honours (classical violin performance) from the Elder Conservatorium in Adelaide, South Australia. Today, Jeri is an active session musician, appearing on stage with diverse performers including ceilidh bands, traditional Scottish singers, country singers, Americana bands, progressive rock composers, jazz musicians, rappers (hip hop).

Jeri has released two albums of her fiddle compositions and has performed across the globe, playing stadium shows, major festivals, corporate events, small pubs, local dance halls - and everything in between! She moved to Glasgow in 2017 to develop her traditional Scottish (and other) music capabilities, and went on to start the Glasgow Old Time Session (American tunes).



Paula Standing has been performing in a myriad of ways since 1979, including stage shows, choirs, solo and ensemble acts. Paula has taught singing and performance techniques since 1983 after completing a Diploma of Arts with a Music Major. She has been part of the Judith Crossley Songwriting Award Committee (JCMSA) for the past six years and the SCALA (Songwriters, Composers and Lyricists Association) for 5 years prior to that. SCALA offers songwriters and performers the opportunity to present their original material in a friendly, supportive environment, while JCMSA encourages songwriters to pen songs about South Australia.

Over the past decades Paula has been part of many organisations who encourage and support performers of all ages. She has also picked up awards and accolades along the way for performing and songwriting. Elwyn Barber Memorial Bursary (Toowoomba 1984). Best Folk Album from Akademia (2017). Made the Top Ten in two World Songwriting Awards (2025)



Josh Bennett is a genre-bending multi-instrumentalist celebrated for his deep musicality, curiosity, and ability to make complex traditions accessible. The 2024 Instrumentalist of the Year (Folk Music Awards) he's a seasoned performer on guitar, mandolin, fiddle, sitar, dilruba, tabla, bouzouki, and more, and his musical reach spans folk, bluegrass, Celtic, Brazilian Jazz, Indian classical, funk, and Bollywood psychedelia. He teaches regularly at music camps and festival workshops, and has led community groups such as the String Along Sessions and Brunswick Old Time String Orchestra (BOTSO). Humble, charming, and funny, and an exceptionally gifted musician, Josh thrives on connecting musical dots, between cultures, styles, and players.

Purpose of the Contest:

The Wirrina Young Musicians' Contest was created to celebrate and encourage the next generation of folk and acoustic roots musicians. We believe deeply in the importance of supporting the next generation of folk musicians, and in giving them a platform to showcase their talent. Thanks to a government grant secured by a passionate festival supporter, the WYMC was established and held for the first time in 2023. Since its inception, the contest has provided young performers with valuable stage experience, feedback from professional musicians, and cash prizes to support their musical journey. Our judges are themselves lifelong musicians, keen to give back and inspire others as they were once inspired.

Funding:

The funding used to run this Contest over the last three years was generously granted by the SA Government [Music Development Office](#). Huge thanks to Leonard Cohen and Richard Tonkin from *Crooked Road* for applying for this grant on our behalf.

Our grant for the contest will run out after this year, and we are currently looking for new sources of funding. If you are keen to financially support this initiative in any way, large or small, we would love to hear from you! wirrinabluegrass@gmail.com.

Limited spots available – sign up now and secure your place!
Got questions? Email us at wirrinabluegrass@gmail.com