



Central Coast
Conservatorium
Of Music

2026

Competitive Scholarships



2026 Competitive Scholarships

Scholarships Overview

Each year the Central Coast Conservatorium supports students through its competitive and non-competitive scholarship programs. These programs are bolstered through the generosity of donors, supporters and sponsors from our community.

Below you'll find information about the Competitive Scholarships on offer for 2026. Our Competitive Scholarships are awarded to support students with excellent potential and talent as well as to encourage further study and achievement at the Central Coast Conservatorium of Music.

If you are awarded a scholarship, you are identified through the competitive process as a student with noteworthy potential and become an unofficial ambassador for the Conservatorium. We wish all students the best in their preparation and audition.

Kind regards,

Patrick Brennan
Artistic Director and CEO

Important Dates to Diarise

- Applications Open: Thursday, 13 November 2025
- Applications Close for Video Auditions: Saturday, 29 November 2025
Results announced: Monday, 1 December 2025
- Live Audition Dates: Juniors Friday, 12 December 2025
Seniors Saturday, 13 December 2025
- Scholarship Announcements: Tuesday, 16 December 2025
- Allen Family Finals and Supporters Concert: Saturday, 21 February 2026
- Pearl Beach Association Senior Musician Scholarship Competition Concert: Saturday, 23 May 2026



2026 Available Scholarships

- Richard Newton Central Coast Philharmonia Choir Vocal Scholarship: (14-22 years of age)
\$1,000
- Allen Family Junior Scholarships: (13 years and under)
1st place \$750 | 2nd place \$500 | 3rd place \$250
- Irvine Family Piano Scholarship: (ages 10-22, Grade 5 and above)
\$1,000
- The Music Centre Gosford Guitar Scholarships: (Junior: 13 years and under) (Senior: 14-22 years of age).
Senior: \$500 | Junior: \$250
- Allen Family Finals Senior Scholarships: (14-22 years of age)
1st place \$3,000 | 2nd place \$2,000 | 3rd place \$1,000
- Pearl Beach Association Senior Scholarships: (14-22 years of age)
Various scholarship values are available. Scholarship Finals 23 May 2026.

Richard Newton Central Coast Philharmonia Choir Scholarship

The Richard Newton Central Coast Philharmonia Choir Scholarship is open to vocal students aged between 14 and 22 years of age (on 31 December 2025). Applicants for this scholarship must prepare and present the Senior Vocal Audition requirements outlined below. Please select this scholarship on the application form.

Applicants should have been studying voice for at least 3 years and be of Grade 7 AMEB minimum standard or equivalent. Please discuss these requirements with your teacher if unsure if you comply with the minimum standard.

Allen Family Senior Scholarships

The Allen Family Senior Scholarships are open to students (vocal and instrumental) aged between 14 and 22 years of age who are Grade 7 AMEB minimum standard or equivalent. Please select this scholarship on the application form.

An adjudication panel will assess applicant auditions for the Allen Family Senior Scholarships and determine the successful candidates who will proceed to the Scholarship Finals, a public concert performance, to be held in Robert Knox Hall.



To audition for the Allen Family Finals, applicants must present two contrasting solo pieces of 12 to 15 minutes duration in total (minimum of one accompanied work with piano). Piano students do not require an accompaniment. Please discuss these requirements with your teacher if unsure if you comply with the minimum standard.

Successful applicants will be required to perform in the Allen Family Scholarship Finals and Supporters Concert. Applicants are required to perform the repertoire that is presented in their initial online audition. Changes to repertoire may be approved in consultation with their teacher and the Artistic Director.

The date of this performance is Saturday, 21 February 2026.

Allen Family Junior Scholarships

The Allen Family Junior Scholarships are open to students aged 13 and under. The Competitive Scholarships adjudication panel will assess applicants for the Allen Family Junior Encouragement Scholarships on Friday, 12 December and determine the successful candidate/s at this audition.

Applicants must be under 14 years of age on 31 December 2025 to be eligible for this scholarship, should have been studying their instrument/voice for at least 2 years and be of Grade 3 AMEB minimum standard or equivalent. Please discuss this requirement with your teacher if you are unsure if you comply with the minimum standard.

Pearl Beach Association Senior Scholarships

The Pearl Beach Association Senior Scholarships are open to students aged between 14 and 22 as of 31 December 2025. The Competitive Scholarships adjudication panel will assess applicants for the Pearl Beach Association Senior Scholarships on Saturday, 13 December and determine the successful candidate/s at this audition, who will go through to the final public competition with adjudication on Saturday 23 May 2026 at the Pearl Beach Progress Memorial Hall, 9 Diamond Avenue, Pearl Beach.

The Music Centre Gosford Guitar Scholarships

The Music Centre Gosford Guitar Junior Scholarship is open to any guitar student aged between 13 years and under. The Music Centre Gosford Senior Scholarship is open to guitar students aged between 14-22 years of age as at 31 December 2025.



Irvine Family Piano Scholarships

The Irvine Family Piano Scholarship is open to any piano student (aged between 10 and 22, Grade 5 or above as at 31 December 2025). The Competitive Scholarships adjudication panel will assess applicants for the Irvine Family Piano Scholarships on Saturday, 13 December 2025 and determine the successful candidate/s at this audition.

Recipients of the Irvine Family Piano Scholarship/s will be required to perform at the Pearl Beach Scholarship Concert on Saturday, 23 May 2026 at the Pearl Beach Progress Memorial Hall, 9 Diamond Avenue, Pearl Beach.

How to Apply

Applicants are required to complete an online [**Application Form**](#) and upload an Audition Video recording in the link provided on the form and [**here**](#).

Scholarship applications close on Saturday 29 November, 2025.

Audition Requirements

These are general audition requirements for all students. Please note, Juniors are students aged 13 years and under, seniors are students aged 14 to 22 years (as of 31 December 2025). General presentation and performance etiquette will be taken into consideration. Proper concert dress or smart casual attire is expected for audition videos and at live auditions.

Applicants may be asked general knowledge questions on repertoire and/or general commitment. Applicants who are permitted to use backing tracks (e.g. contemporary vocalists and percussion applicants) must provide their own backing track to the audition and indicate on the application form the type of sound equipment required for the audition.

Please ensure the audition video is recorded in a quiet environment with adequate natural lighting. If any student requires access to a suitable space for recording, our Administration Team will be happy to arrange this.

INSTRUMENTAL (STRINGS, WIND, BRASS & GUITAR)

- Two contrasting works. (Minimum of one accompanied work with piano)
- Guitar students may be accompanied by another guitarist
- Total audition time should not exceed 10 minutes (Junior students) or 15 minutes (Senior students)



PIANO

- Piano students do not require accompaniment, and may present more than 2 contrasting works up to the time limit.
- For Irvine Family Piano Scholarship, students must audition with at least two contrasting pieces of music.

PERCUSSION

- Two contrasting works:
- Drum kit - two different styles of music (e.g. rock, jazz, Latin, etc.). One piece should be accompanied by a backing track.
- Orchestral percussion – to include one piece on mallet percussion, the other may be on snare drum, timpani, mallet percussion or multiple percussion instruments. One piece should be accompanied on piano or marimba.

VOCAL

- Two contrasting songs:
Classical: piano accompaniment and sung with natural voice
Contemporary: piano accompaniment (backing track if necessary, but piano preferred)

Criteria

1. Scholarships will be applied to the students Fees Account as follows:
 - The Allen Family Scholarships will be applied in the Term that the Scholarship Finals Concert happens, and recipients are considered the 2026 scholarship holders. The prize will be paid by bank transfer after the finals. It is expected that the prize money be put towards their music education.
 - All other scholarships will be applied against your Conservatorium tuition fees.
2. Scholarship applicants must be:
 - currently enrolled at Central Coast Conservatorium as one-to-one students or in an ensemble wanting to take up one-to-one lessons; and
 - attending a minimum half hour weekly lessons; and
 - Juniors should be aged 13 or under as at 31/12/25
 - Seniors should be aged 14 to 22 as at 31/12/25
3. Professional musicians are not eligible.
4. Applicants must be Central Coast Conservatorium students. This includes students participating in the ensembles and musicianship classes.
5. Scholarships will not be awarded if the adjudicator or adjudication panel deems that there are no candidates of a sufficient standard.



6. Students with outstanding or overdue fees are ineligible to apply for the scholarship program.
7. Scholarships will not be awarded to students with outstanding fees.
8. Central Coast Conservatorium reserves the right to withdraw a scholarship at any time should a student fail to demonstrate commitment or if any of the scholarship conditions are not met.
9. Scholarship 1st place winners from the previous year are ineligible to apply for the same scholarship.
10. The Conservatorium will notify you of your accompanist for the audition day. Central Coast Conservatorium will cover the cost of the accompanist for the live competitive audition. However, the student must pay the accompanist's costs for rehearsals and video audition. All accompanist fees must be paid for through the Administration office.
11. The decision of the adjudicator(s) will be final and no dialogue or correspondence will be entered into.
12. Requirements for scholarship auditions are listed above, are obtainable from instrumental teachers, and will also be displayed on the Conservatorium website.
13. Finalists for the Allen Family Scholarship will perform at the Allen Family Scholarship Finals and Supporters Concert at Robert Knox Hall, 45 Mann Street, Gosford. The winners will be announced at the adjudication prior to the conclusion of the event.

All scholarship recipients are required to submit a letter of appreciation within 2 weeks after the Scholarship Finals, thanking the sponsor and explaining how they will use the money to support their musical education. You may send this directly to Administration on admin@cccmusic.nsw.edu.au or drop in a hard copy to the Administration office and it will be sent to the donor.

Selection Process

A panel of internal adjudicators will carefully review online audition submissions to select finalists who will progress to the live auditions.

The live auditions will be reviewed by a panel of external adjudicators. Following the live auditions, successful applicants will be announced on Tuesday, 16 December 2025.

Questions?

For more information on the 2026 Competitive Scholarships, contact the Conservatorium of Music on 02 4324 7477 or email admin@cccmusic.nsw.edu.au



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THANK YOU

