



2027

Competitive Scholarships



Central Coast
Conservatorium
Of Music

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Scholarships Overview

Each year the Central Coast Conservatorium of Music 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 available for application. Our Competitive Scholarships are awarded to support students with excellent potential and talent as well as to encourage further study and achievement at the Conservatorium.

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





2027 Scholarships

Allen Family Finals Senior Scholarships:

1st place \$3,000 | 2nd place \$2,000 | 3rd place \$1,000

Allen Family Junior Scholarships:

1st place \$750 | 2nd place \$500 | 3rd place \$250

Pearl Beach Association Senior Scholarships:

1st place \$2000 | 2nd place \$1000 | 3rd place \$750 | People's Choice \$500 | Rising Star \$500

Irvine Family Piano Scholarship:

\$1000

Richard Newton Central Coast Philharmonia Choir Vocal Scholarship:

\$1000

The Music Centre Gosford Guitar Scholarships:

Senior: \$500 | Junior: \$250

Important Dates to Diarise

Applications open: Tuesday 8 September 2026

Applications close for video auditions: Sunday October 18 2026

Video audition round results announced: Monday 26 October 2026

Live audition round date: Saturday 7 November 2026

Live audition results announced: Monday 9 November 2026

Allen Family finals and Supporters Concert: Saturday 6 March 2027

Pearl Beach Association Junior Showcase Concert: Saturday 22 May 2027

Pearl Beach Association Senior Scholarship Competition Concert: Saturday 22 May 2027

Scholarship Details

Overview of all available scholarships with key eligibility and audition information.

Scholarship Name	Age Range	Instrument	Minimum Standard	Audition Details	Notes / additional requirements
Allen Family Senior	14-22	Vocal & Instrumental	Grade 8 AMEB minimum or equivalent	1st round - Video audition 2nd round - Live audition Finals - Finalists to compete in Allen Family Finals Concert, an adjudicated public concert (date as specified on page 3).	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.
Allen Family Junior	13 & under	Vocal & Instrumental	Grade 3 AMEB minimum (2+ years study)	1st round - Video audition 2nd round - Live audition	Applicants must prepare Junior audition requirements for instrument as specified in the Audition Requirements section of this document. Award recipients as determined at live audition will be required to perform as guests at Allen Family Finals Concert (date specified on page 3).
Pearl Beach Association Senior	14-22	Vocal & Instrumental	Grade 8 AMEB minimum or equivalent	1st round - Video audition 2nd round - Live audition Finals - Finalists to compete in Pearl Beach Senior Scholarships Finals Concert, an adjudicated public concert (date as specified on page 3).	Applicants must prepare 2 contrasting solos (Maximum 15 min total, minimum 1 accompanied).

Scholarship Name	Age Range	Instrument	Minimum Standard	Audition Details	Notes / additional requirements
Irvine Family Piano	10-22	Piano	Grade 5 AMEB or above	1st round - Video audition 2nd round - Live audition	Applicants must prepare 2 contrasting solos as specified in the Audition Requirements section of this document. Award recipient as determined at live audition will be required to perform as a guest at the Pearl Beach Junior Showcase (date as specified on page 3).
Richard Newton Central Coast Philharmonia Choir	14-22	Vocal	Grade 7 AMEB minimum (3+ years study)	1st round - Video audition 2nd round - Live audition	Applicants must prepare senior vocal audition requirements as specified in the Audition Requirements section of this document.
The Music Centre Gosford Guitar - Senior	14-22	Guitar	Grade 6 AMEB or equivalent Contemporary Stage	1st round - Video audition 2nd round – Live closed audition	Applicants must prepare senior audition requirements for instrument as specified in the Audition Requirements section of this document.
The Music Centre Gosford Guitar - Junior	13 & under	Guitar	Grade 2 AMEB or equivalent	1st round - Video audition 2nd round - Live closed audition	Applicants must prepare Junior audition requirements for instrument as specified in the Audition Requirements section of this document.

How to Apply

Applicants are required to complete an online Application Form (including any relevant video links) and upload their video audition to their preferred platform (e.g. dropbox, youtube, Google Drive etc) prior to the submission deadline detailed on page 3 of this document. Applicants are reminded to ensure video access (including the ability to download the video) is shared with events@cccmusic.nsw.edu.au.

Audition Requirements

These are general audition requirements for all students.

Age:	Juniors are students aged 13 years and under (as at 31 December in audition year). Seniors are students aged 14 to 22 years (as at 31 December in audition year).
Dress:	Suitable concert dress or smart casual attire is expected for both audition videos and at live auditions.
General:	Applicants may be asked general knowledge questions on repertoire and/or general commitment to their music education. General presentation and performance etiquette will be taken into consideration.
Accompaniment:	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 a live audition. All other applicants are expected to use live accompaniment wherever possible.
Music:	Applicants who are successful in progressing to the live round of auditions will be required to submit PDFs of scores for all repertoire being performed. Successful applicants for the Allen Family and Pearl Beach Finals must submit PDF of music (including piano accompaniment) no later than 1 month before the specified performance date.
Video:	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 assist with arranging this. Students are requested to submit their video audition by uploading their video audition to their preferred platform (e.g. Dropbox, YouTube, Google Drive etc) prior to the submission deadline detailed on page 3 of this document and include links in the application form. Applicants are reminded to ensure video access (including the ability to download the video) is shared with events@cccmusic.nsw.edu.au .

Instrument Specific Requirements

String, Woodwind, Brass and 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 tracks may be used if necessary)

Scholarship Criteria

1. Scholarships will be applied to the students Fees Account as follows:

- Recipients are considered the scholarship holders for the duration of the calendar year following the initial audition year.
- The Allen Family Scholarships will be paid by bank transfer OR applied to tuition fees depending on award recipient's preference after the fees have been concluded. It is expected that any prize money disbursed via bank transfer will also be put towards the award recipient's music education.
- All other scholarships will be applied against the student's Conservatorium tuition fees in the term following the award determination.

2. Scholarship applicants must:

- Be enrolled in a Conservatorium program at the time of submitting their application; and
- Commit to attending a minimum half hour weekly individual lesson for the duration of the calendar year in which the scholarship is held (excepting the Allen Family Senior scholarships where the recipient may have graduated and moved on to external tertiary or international study); and
- Junior Applicants should be aged 13 or under (as at 31 December in the audition year).
- Senior Applicants should be aged 14 to 22 (as at 31 December in the audition year).

3. Professional musicians and/or staff of the Conservatorium are not eligible.

4. Applicants must be current 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. The 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. The 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.

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

Online audition submissions will be reviewed by an external adjudicator to select finalists who will progress to the live auditions.

The live auditions will be adjudicated by external adjudicator/s. Following the live auditions, successful applicants will be advised on the following Monday.

Questions?

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

THANK YOU