



COMPOSITION COMPETITION

presented by Generations in Jazz Inc.

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FOR TO BE USED AS A GUIDE FOR THE 2026 VEA COMPOSITION COMPETITION.
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Background:

Generations in Jazz Festival (GIJ) is inviting Australian Vocal Ensemble Composers to create new works to be featured as Set Piece (test piece) for the National Vocal Ensemble Awards at Generations in Jazz, with specific requirements pertaining to each of these divisions as outlined below.

The winning entry will be awarded up to \$2000 (AUD) in mentoring.

Entry Fee: No Entry Fee Required

Eligibility: Applicants must be an Australian citizen and 25 years of age or younger as at June 1st 2025.

Closing date: 31.12.2025

Questions:

Questions can be directed to Generations in Jazz via email to admin@generationsinjazz.com.au

COMPOSITION DETAILS:

The composition is for choirs within the intermediate realm who are starting to immerse themselves in jazz harmony. These ensembles are able to sing in two to three-part harmony and are developing their understanding of the varying styles of jazz vocal performance.

VOICING

The composition is to be composed and arranged for SAB choir. The majority of the composition should be in 3 parts. While splits may be used sparingly as required, they should not exceed 4 parts in total.

INSTRUMENTATION

Piano and bass parts must be *fully notated* and include chord symbols to allow accessibility for piano players who do not read chord symbols, as well as those that do.

RANGE

While it is expected that each part will remain within standard approximate ranges, please keep in mind that the composition is for developing voices. The soprano range should not exceed A5, and the bass range should remain at G2 and above.

LYRICS AND SUBJECT MATTER

Please ensure that the chosen subject matter and lyrics of the piece are inclusive. For example, an all-male choir should feel equally as comfortable singing about the subject matter as mixed and all-female choirs.

SOLO/SOLI

While the focus is on ensemble singing, a solo line may be provided in addition to the 3 parts. Likewise, a notated soli incorporating scat syllables may be used at the composer's discretion.

VOCAL IMPROVISATION

An open section for vocal improvisation may be used but should only necessitate the use of one to two scales.

STYLE

The musical style is at the discretion of the composer and may incorporate styles idiomatic to jazz such as Swing, Bossa-nova, Afro- Cuban, Funk, Fusion or Contemporary straight 8th grooves.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

The purpose of the prize is to encourage the composition and performance of the highest quality vocal ensemble music for a range of performance levels across the secondary school sector. Therefore, compositions should be conceived and constructed to ensure effective performance by secondary school vocal ensembles within the prescribed conditions.

Submissions will be assessed on their musical merits while also considering the suitability of the composition according

to the conditions above.

SUGGESTED REHEARSAL REQUIREMENTS

It is suggested that the original composition should be such that a secondary school vocal ensemble could reach performance standard after approximately 20 hours of rehearsal. This approximation is not inclusive of specific sectionals or individual practice.

LENGTH

The length of the work should be designed for a performance duration of between 3- 3.30 minutes.

DEADLINE

The deadline for submission is 31.12. 25 by completing the online entry form and uploading a link to access your files.

SUBMISSION DETAILS

Submissions must:

1. Include a single PDF file of a fully notated transposed score, generated from a music notation program such as Sibelius, Finale, Dorico, Musescore (or other). Please note that handwritten sketches will not be accepted.
2. Include a single Mp3 file of a recording or audio representation of the original composition. While live recordings are encouraged, it is understood that live recordings may not be possible, therefore, Mp3 files of exported midi will also be accepted.

Audio files must be submitted in mp3 format only.

Note:

All submissions will be judged on their compositional merits, regardless of performance and audio quality.

3. Be labelled VEA and include the title of the composition e.g. VEA *Walk in the Park*
4. **Be completely anonymous files.** The composer's name (or any other name) must not appear on the score or labelled on any submitted files.

Submissions will be forwarded to judges for blind assessment.

5. Be submitted before 11:59pm AEST on 31.12.2025
6. Include a completed official entry form (to be completed online) www.generationsinjazz.com.au
7. Be submitted as two (2) separate labelled files - 1. PDF of score, 2. Mp3 audio file.

Please note: Submissions will not be returned under any circumstances to the sender, and it is the competitor's responsibility to ensure that they do not send any 'masters' of any notated files, audio files or any other content.

PRIZE

The winning entry will be awarded up to \$2000 (AUD) in mentoring.

If shortlisted; attendance at the GIJ festival (1st to 3rd May 2026) is required, a festival pass will be provided but accommodation and travel is at your own cost.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

1. Submitted works must be original compositions, meaning it is the unassisted conceptual work of the composer other than receiving general guidance or advice from a teacher or mentor
2. Submitted works must be unpublished.
3. Submitted works must not exceed the range requirements as specified for division.
4. The composer must be an Australian citizen or have permanent resident status in Australia.
5. The composer must be 25 years of age or younger by **1 July 2025**.
6. Composition may have been previously performed.
7. A condition of accepting the prize will be granting performance rights to Generations in Jazz and exclusive performance, recording rights and use for up to one year after the festival or as negotiated.
8. The Generations in Jazz Board reserves the right not to award any prize, to reserve or partially distribute the prize money, and/or to negotiate modifications to submitted scores.
9. In the event that the judges deem that no submission has reached the required standard, the prize will be retained for a future competition. The judges' decisions are final in all respects.

No correspondence or communication will be entered into by the Generations in Jazz or the judges on any aspect of the competition.

10. Works other than the winning entry may be chosen for performance and or use; in which case a performing fee will be negotiated.