MICMC 2027 RULES AND REGULATIONS

ELIGIBILITY/RULES

The Competition is open to string quartets and piano trios of all nationalities whose members are all under the age of 35 on 9 July 2027.

A person who was a member of a first prize winning ensemble in any previous Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition is not eligible to compete in the same category of the Competition.

A person may enter the Competition as a member of only one ensemble.

APPLICATION PROCESS

All Applications are to be submitted via MICMC's official Application partner, Acceptd.

Online applications, together with all required supporting documents, audio-visual material and the application fee, must be submitted between 12:00am local time 13 July 2026 and 11:59pm local time 30 September 2026.

An application fee USD $280 is payable upon submission of the Application. The application fee is non-refundable.

Applicants must submit the following supporting documents with their Application:

1. A certified copy of passport or birth certificate (or similar document), confirming the date and place of birth for each ensemble member.
2. A résumé of the ensemble's history including repertoire list and performance history for the period covering January 2025 until application submission.
3. A brief résumé of each member's training and experience
4. Two (2) professional and signed letters of recommendation in English by musical referees familiar with the ensemble's playing and achievements. References must be addressed specifically to the Competition.
5. Two (2) recent ensemble colour photographs of professional quality in high-resolution format (minimum 300 DPI) for publication and publicity purposes: one (1) in landscape orientation, and one (1) in portrait orientation.
6. One (1) 250-word biography of the ensemble in English suitable for Competition publicity. Ensembles whose first language is not English must provide professional-standard translations of biographic material in English.

7. Three videos*, one per work, recorded after 1 January 2026, containing:

   - **String Quartets**:
     i. Two contrasting movements of a Haydn, Mozart or Beethoven Op.18 quartet
     ii. First movement of a 19th century Romantic quartet, or Ravel, Sibelius, Elgar or similar Romantic 20th century work.
     iii. Complete 20th century quartet by Bartok, Janacek, Berg, Schoenberg, Britten, Ligeti, Shostakovich, or 20th century work of similar stature. Cannot be Romantic 20th century repertoire from Item ii.

   - **Piano Trios:**
     i. Two contrasting movements of a Haydn, Mozart or Beethoven Op.1 trio.
     ii. First movement of 19th century Romantic work, or Ravel or similar Romantic 20th century work.
     iii. Complete 20th century piano trio. Cannot be Romantic 20th Century from Item ii.

   *Each video must be of professional quality, shot by a single stationary camera in real time, and must not be edited or altered in any way. MICMC reserves the right to disqualify studio enhanced or modified recordings, or recordings which are not of professional quality. Physical DVDs or CDs, or digital audio recordings will not be accepted. All videos must be uploaded to the Acceptd online application platform.

8. An electronic copy of the full score of each work performed, for use by Jurors.

COMPETITION REPERTOIRE & FORMAT

Applications will be reviewed by a panel selected by MICMC. Successful Applicants will be invited to travel to Melbourne to compete in Live Rounds One and Two.

Up to eight string quartets and eight piano trios will be invited to Melbourne to perform in Rounds One and Two, and if selected, will perform for a third and fourth time during the Semi-Final Round and Final Round respectively.

The competition format and required repertoire is as follows:

ROUND 1 – Maximum stage time of 60 minutes

In addition to the following specified repertoire, all competitors may perform a work of their own choice as long as this does not exceed the total maximum stage time of 60 minutes. The Own Choice work may be performed in *either* Round One *or* Round Two.

String Quartets:

1. Complete quartet by Haydn, Mozart or Beethoven Op.18
2. Complete 20th century quartet by Bartok, Janacek, Berg, Schoenberg, Britten, Ligeti, Shostakovich, or 20th century work of similar stature. Cannot be Romantic 20th century repertoire such as Ravel, Sibelius, Elgar or similar.

Piano Trios:

1. Complete trio by Haydn, Mozart or Beethoven Op.1
2. Complete 20th century trio. Cannot be Romantic 20th century repertoire such as Ravel or similar.

ROUND 2 – Maximum stage time of 60 minutes

In addition to the following specified repertoire, all competitors may perform a work of their own choice as long as this does not exceed the total maximum stage time of 60 minutes. The Own Choice work may be performed in *either* Round One *or* Round Two.

String Quartets:

1. MICMC Commissioned string quartet (approximately 10 to 13 minutes)
2. Complete 19th century Romantic quartet (cannot be Beethoven or Schubert) or similar Romantic 20th century work eg Ravel, Sibelius, Elgar or similar.

Piano Trios:

1. MICMC Commissioned piano trio (approx. 10 to 13 minutes)
2. Complete 19th century Romantic trio (cannot be Beethoven or Schubert), or Ravel or similar Romantic 20th century work.

Following Round Two, the jury will select five (5) string quartets and five (5) piano trios to proceed to the Semi-Final Round.

SEMI-FINAL ROUND – Maximum stage time of 45 minutes

String Quartets

Complete quartet by Beethoven (not Op.18) or Schubert

Piano Trios

Complete trio by Beethoven (not Op.1) or Schubert

Following the Semi-Final Round, the jury will select three (3) string quartets and three (3) piano trios to proceed to the Final Round.

FINAL ROUND – No time limit

String Quartets:

One complete work of the quartet's own choice. Cannot be repertoire performed in any previous round.

Piano Trios:

One complete work of the trio's own choice. Cannot be repertoire performed in any previous round.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

MICMC will provide the following to all invited string quartets and piano trios participating in the live rounds:

- Travel compensation up to a maximum of AUD2,100 for each person and cello.
- Ground transport to and from Melbourne International Airport, and around Melbourne as necessary to participate in the Competition.
- Single or shared-room accommodation and breakfast at Scotch College Boarding House or similar throughout the Competition (Scotch College will host Rounds One and Two and the Semi-Final Round).
- Rehearsal space for the duration of the Competition.

A visa is required for every visitor to Australia who is not an Australian or New Zealand citizen. MICMC will confirm visa procedures with groups selected to travel to Australia for the Live Rounds. Obtaining appropriate travel documents and travel and/or musical instrument insurance is the sole responsibility of each competitor. MICMC accepts no liability of any kind whatsoever for any personal illness or injury sustained by the competitor or for loss or damage to a competitor's belongings, including instrument, during transit or while at the competition.

MICMC has the right, without payment of any fee, to record, videotape, film, broadcast, or photograph any competition concerts or events for any purpose. All rights, including copyright in such media, shall vest in and be owned by MICMC in perpetuity.

MICMC has the right to produce and distribute without limit or payment of any fee, audio and/or video recordings or all competition concerts or events in whole or in part, including any prize-winners' concerts.

The official language of the Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition is English.

PRIZES

The following prizes shall be awarded.

All prizes are in Australian dollars, and are subject to relevant Australian government withholding taxes.

Grand Prize

Awarded to either the winning ensemble from the string quartet category or the winning ensemble from the piano trio category:

- Additional $30,000 cash
- Performance engagement/s in Australia arranged by MICMC
- Career-enhancing professional development support

String Quartet Division

First Prize	$30,000 cash
Second Prize	$20,000 cash
Third Prize	$10,000 cash
Best performance of the Commissioned work	$4,000 cash
Audience Prize	$6,000 cash

Piano Trio Division

First Prize	$22,500 cash
Second Prize	$15,000 cash
Third Prize	$7,500 cash
Best performance of the Commissioned work	$3,000 cash
Audience Prize	$4,500 cash

KEY DATES

- Applications open 13 July 2026
- Applications close 30 September 2026
- Applicants notified of the outcome 6 November 2026
- Due date for participating ensemble confirmations 20 November 2026
- Ensembles arrive in Melbourne no later than morning of 1 July 2027
- MICMC Secondary Schools/Community Education Program Thursday 29 June to Friday 30 June 2023 for participating groups (all groups should be prepared to participate if possible).
- Round One and Round Two: 2 July to 6 July 2027
- Semi-Final Round 7 July 2027
- Music In The City Saturday 8 July 2027 (free concert series in the city for non-finalist semi-finalists)
- Final Round 9 July 2027
- Grand Prize Winners must be available for travel and performances within Australia from 10 July to 12 July inclusive.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please contact MICMC with any questions or concerns:

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w: https://micmc.au