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MEDIA RELEASE

EISTEDDFOD SEASON STARTS ON MANY HIGH NOTE(S)

The Australian National Eisteddfod's 2024 season will commence with its Bands & Orchestras event from Thursday May 30 to Sunday June 2.

Over the four days over 2,600 people will perform in 80 groups, showcasing a variety of musical levels and styles including School, Concert, Jazz and Brass Bands, Orchestras and Instrumental Ensembles. The event is one of the largest musical happenings in the Canberra musical year, in particular from the perspective of community involvement.

Performances will take place in Llewellyn Hall (Australian National University) and Lyneham High School Performing Arts Centre. Canberra groups will be joined by school-aged bands and orchestras from the Hunter Valley and Sydney.

A highlight of Bands & Orchestras is the Friday night (31 May) *Open Sections* for Concert and Brass Bands. Local community bands taking part include Canberra City Band, Ginninderra Wind Orchestra, Canberra Brass, Victoria Street Brass, John Agnew Band, South Canberra Wind Orchestra and Newbery Brass, along with 3 high-level Concert Bands from the Hunter Valley. It is always a fascinating night of high-quality music.

Each session will conclude with comments by a specialist adjudicator (Dr Joanne Heaton) and presentation of awards. All sections are non-competitive, with each group receiving a gold, silver or bronze attainment award based on their performance. A handful of platinum awards to recognise outstanding performances gives groups something in particular to aim for. Dr Heaton has extensive experience adjudicating Eisteddfods and other competitions and youth music festivals.

The Eisteddfod's mission is to promote participation in the performing arts. It actively encourages an inclusive environment that fosters the growth of confidence and self-esteem in performers of all levels and ages. The majority of participants are children and young adults. Each year over 4,000 individuals perform at Australian National Eisteddfod events. Bands & Orchestras is the first event to be run this year – others for Singing, Piano, and Speech and Drama will take place in August and September.

The Australian National Eisteddfod presents Bands and Orchestras from Thursday 30 May to Sunday 2 June 2024. A detailed timetable will be available from: <http://www.nationaleisteddfod.org.au>. Tickets are available at each venue on the day, and online through the above website; prices range from \$20 (concession day) to \$60 (family season).

For further information, photo opportunities and interviews please contact: Simon Best (Event Director); 0403 827303; simon@nationaleisteddfod.org.au



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Canberra City Band received a Platinum award for its performance in Open A Grade Concert Bands in 2023.

Photo: Peter Hislop



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