

2026 Accelerando Application and Audition Guidelines

The Program

Now in its 12th year, Melbourne Recital Centre's Accelerando Program is dedicated to exceptional young musicians who wish to accelerate their music studies and pursue a career in the industry. The year-long program includes music workshops, mentor sessions, private lessons with leaders in their field, concert tickets, and a performance opportunity in Melbourne Recital Centre's Primrose Potter Salon.

Eligibility

Applications for Melbourne Recital Centre's Accelerando Program are open to students:

- enrolled in years 11 and 12 at a Victorian Government school in 2026
- who are solo instrumentalist, vocalist or electronic musicians, of any genre, including non-western, with a performance level of AMEB Grade 5 minimum/or equivalent
- with demonstrated commitment and passion to study music at tertiary level and pursue a creative career
- with a demonstrated barrier to access music experiences (e.g. geographic location, financial hardship or other)
- who are permanent residents or citizens of Australia, or New Zealand citizens who are permanent residents of Australia

Key Dates

- Application Closing Date: Friday 12 September 2025 at midnight (late applications will not be accepted)
- Auditionees contacted: Friday 10 October 2025
- Audition Date: Saturday 22 November 2025
- 2025 Accelerando Participant Announcement: Friday 5 December 2025

Program Inclusions

The program includes:

- Up to four private consultation lessons per year with instrumental leaders in the student's field
- Five Professional Development workshops with industry professionals, hosted at Melbourne Recital Centre on Saturdays 1.00pm – 3.00pm
- Up to \$800 of in-kind funding for concert tickets at Melbourne Recital Centre or external organisations as nominated by participants
- Up to four sessions with a personal industry mentor
- End of year recital in the Primrose Potter Salon

Commitment

Participants will be expected to commit to the full annual program. Each participant's learning plan will be tailored to suit the student's respective school commitments. Some evenings, weekend and school holiday hours may be required.

Subsequent Years

Once selected, participants may remain in the program until the completion of their secondary school studies. Participants are not required to re-audition but will be asked to re-commit at the conclusion of each year. MRC reserves the right to limit participation in the program to one year only, subject to mutual agreement.

Applications

Applications consist of completing the online registration form and uploading the application items.

Registration

Interested students must complete the online application available on the Melbourne Recital Centre website.

Submission of Application Items

You will be required to submit the following items through the online application. If you have issues with uploading any of these items, please email learning@melbournerecital.com.au

- Link to unedited video recording of the applicant playing/performing (preferably solo or featured in a group). Recording should be no longer than 10 minutes in duration. Acceptable format is YouTube or Vimeo link only.
- Biography or written description of the applicant's musical training, teacher(s), achievements, and musical interests (up to 250 words)
- Short letter of recommendation from the applicant's instrumental or classroom music teacher

Auditions

The audition will consist of the student's own choice of music no longer than 3 minutes in duration. Shortlisted applicants who are unable to attend, will, in exceptional circumstances be eligible to submit a video application. Parents of shortlisted applicants will be expected to attend the interview and audition on November 22.

Audition Panel

The audition panel will include the Director of Programming at Melbourne Recital Centre, and the Accelerando Program Manager.

Funding

Please note this program is fully funded by the Peggy and Leslie Cranbourne Foundation and there will be no cost to participants. Travel reimbursements may also be available for applicants from regional locations or with financial barriers.

Media Consent

By applying and accepting a position in the Accelerando program, students consent to photography and/or videography and use of their image for the evaluation and promotion of the program.