Instrumental Rules

All participants in the Maryborough Eisteddfod do so in a spirit of friendly competition and enhancement of performance abilities in a forum where stage experience can be gained and learned. The event is staged with mutual respect amongst organisers, adjudicators, competitors and supporters, maintaining the spirit and integrity of the Eisteddfod tradition.

Please read the following rules and regulations carefully to ensure competitors are not disadvantaged. A breach of any rule may lead to disqualification.

TERMINOLOGY:
Session: Three per day (Morning Session, Afternoon Session, Evening Session).
Discipline:
The 5 Disciplines are 1) Vocal & Choral; 2) Speech & Drama; 3) Instrumental; 4) Literary; 5) Dance.
Section: e.g. 199 – Musical Theatre

1. GENERAL RULES FOR ALL DISCIPLINES:

1.1 Entries are received via www.stardom.com.au. This can also be accessed via the Maryborough Eisteddfod website http://www.maryborougheisteddfod.com and under the 'Enter' tab.

1.2 Section numbers and colour codes (for administration purposes) are as follows:

(i) Section numbers starting with 1 (RED) - Vocal & Choral Disciplines

(ii) Section numbers starting with 2 (BLUE) - Speech & Drama Disciplines

(iii) Section numbers starting with 3 (GREEN) - Instrumental Discipline

(iv) Section numbers starting with 4 (YELLOW/ORANGE) - Literary Discipline

(v) Section numbers starting with 5 (PURPLE) - Dance Discipline

1.3 Performances are to be limited to the discipline type unless otherwise stated (for example, no Vocal performance in the Instrumental discipline, unless specifically stated in the section description).

1.4 An accompanist is required for the appropriate sections.

1.5 Recorded backing tracks are only allowed in Vocal sections Modern Ballad and Contemporary Commercial Music (CCM). Please note that the backing track must be without backing vocals.

1.6 Entry dates need to be observed. Only under exceptional circumstances and at the discretion of the executive committee will any late entries be accepted.

1.7 Contact the convenor for assistance if required. Contact details are on the Maryborough Eisteddfod website.

1.8 Entry and payment is via the Stardom Competition Online Entry System. Payment is required at time of entry. Secure payment is offered online via credit card. Direct deposit is also available. Entries are not confirmed until payment is received.

1.9 If competitors are entering individually, ensure that duos/trios are only recorded on one entry.

1.10 The section description is to be considered part of the Rules and Regulations.

1.11 The committee reserves the right to refuse an entry.

1.12 All eisteddfod participants do so at their own risk.

1.13 The age section of the eisteddfod is for amateur competitors only. All 'Open' sections may have competitors of any age and ability.

1.14 **Age Rule**

Dance:

Competitors must be within the specified age limits **as at 1 January** in the year of competition.

Vocal & Choral, Speech & Drama, Instrumental, Literary:

Competitors must be within the specified age limits **as at 1 July** in the year of competition.

Competitors in groups may be younger than the age range but must not be older.
The committee reserves the right to request proof of age from competitors.

1.15 All Sections are not gender specific, unless otherwise stated.

Order of performance for competitors will be drawn before the programme is printed and competitors will appear in the order shown. However, the executive committee reserves the right to make any alterations to the programme if it becomes necessary.
There will be minimal change to the program and program order. The executive may:

i) cancel a section
ii) vary the prizes
iii) combine sections
iv) change the running order or timing of Sections and/or competitors

1.16 Refunds of entry fees will only be granted when a section is cancelled by the executive committee.

1.17 A competitor may only enter a section once, except where stated and as qualified in certain sections. e.g. a member of two choirs entered in the same section.

1.18 All competitors must be named (groups of 4 or above are required to provide a collective name and do not need to provide the individual names). "And Partner" may be used on the entry form but a name must be provided to the convenor at least 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the session.

1.19 No competitor may use the same selection in more than one section.

1.20 A competitor may not perform a selection that has previously been awarded first place at the Maryborough Eisteddfod within the last five years.

1.21 It is the responsibility of the competitor to ensure that repertoire, including Own Choice Pieces are within the guidelines of the section. If a piece is deemed by the adjudicator to be outside of the guidelines the entrant may not be placed.

1.22 Competitors acknowledge that they own an original copy of the sheet music used for their performance. A copy must be available on request.

1.23 Time limits, where stated, should be adhered to. The adjudicator may conclude a performance by ringing the bell if a decision has been made regarding the merit of the performance. At their discretion, the adjudicator may penalise competitors that exceed the time limit.

1.24 Competitors are to be dressed appropriately, i.e. no thongs or revealing clothing. Competition pieces must not contain excessive use of foul or blasphemous language or actions. Consideration should be given to age-appropriateness.

1.25 Use of recording devices of any kind is strictly prohibited in the Auditorium and Federation Room, dressing rooms and backstage. Any person found to be recording video or sound may be ejected from the theatre and further action may be taken (see Code of Conduct 3.2, 3.3 & 3.4) at the discretion of the executive committee. Official photographers and videographers appointed by the eisteddfod committee excepted.

1.26 Competitors must report to the relevant marshal and be in readiness backstage (or as otherwise directed by an official) prior to the commencement of the section in which they are competing.

1.27 Competitors wishing to withdraw are reminded that it is a courtesy to inform the convenor or marshal before commencement of the session and should enter the title of their performance as 'Withdrawn' on Stardom.

1.28 The adjudicator's decision will be final.

1.29 No prize will be awarded in any contest unless there is sufficient merit. All awards in every section will be at the adjudicator's discretion. Certificates and prizes may be awarded for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Highly Commended in each Section.

1.30 To be eligible for a major eisteddfod award, competitors must compete in three or more sections in the relevant discipline, with the exception of the Literary discipline.

1.31 No public protest will be entered into during the sessions. Written protests will be accepted by the convenor or executive within 30 minutes of the protest issue arising, accompanied by a $50.00 fee. Decisions regarding protests will be notified in writing within 7 days of the close of the eisteddfod.

1.32 No person, other than the entrant(s), will be permitted to enter the stage. No parents or friends to be backstage (Exceptions: Accompanist or where the competitor requires physical assistance to get to the stage). Teachers may be permitted backstage in consultation with the convenor. Student/teacher positive reinforcement should be saved for the end of the session. Competitors will be supported by volunteer staff.

1.33 The adjudicator must not be addressed during a session except via an eisteddfod official. All enquiries or requests are to be made to the convenor.

1.34 Prompting by the adjudicator only.

1.35 Entry and exit to the Auditorium or Federation Room during performances is restricted.

1.36 The Brolga Theatre has workplace safety guidelines in place for all stage and backstage activities. If these guidelines are deemed by the theatre to have been breached, perpetrators may be asked to leave the premises. A competitor asked to leave the theatre may be disqualified.

1.37 Group numbers: Small Group – 4 to 12 members; Large Group – 13 members or above.

1.38 Some discretion regarding numbers may be given based on extenuating circumstances, such as illness or injury. It is the responsibility of the competitor to ensure that the convenor is informed immediately of any extenuating circumstances. A decision will be made in consultation with relevant members of the committee and the adjudicator.

1.39 Adjudication sheets will be available after the session has been completed.

1.40 Volunteers and committee members are to be treated with the utmost respect. Abuse of any kind will not be tolerated. Any concerns or complaints must be to the convenor and not any volunteers.

2. INSTRUMENTAL

2.1 By entering the eisteddfod the competitor agrees to the Maryborough Eisteddfod rules. The competitor enters at their own risk and will satisfy themself as to the safety of the competition area to be used. All competitors will follow all directions and rules stated by the competition organiser and waives any claims for liability against any organiser (whether an association or individual), participant, official, steward, judge, visitor, employee or invitee (the "participants"). By entering, the competitor releases the participants from all liability that may arise out of the competition to the competitors. Such liability may include any personal injury, property loss or damage.

2.2 Only the teacher and up to two assistants are permitted in dressing rooms during group competition days. Under certain circumstances special considerations can be considered by the committee; however, these must be discussed prior to the start of the eisteddfod.

2.3 The Backstage door and adjacent carpark is out of bounds. Teachers are to make arrangements with parents/caregivers to meet students at the front foyer of the theatre.

2.4 Sheet music is required to be uploaded to Stardom for each entry. The file must be in pdf format and named the title of the piece.

2.5 Pianos will be tuned at A440. These instruments will not be retuned during the event unless deemed necessary by the executive.

2.6 Accompaniment is permissible unless otherwise stated.

2.7 Competitors provide an accompanist at their own expense.

2.8 Competitors may have only one accompanist on stage.

2.9 For duos, trios, quartets and small groups, an individual may only appear once per section unless the individual plays a different instrument.

2.10 For large groups, an individual must be a legitimate member of the group they are performing with and may only appear once for that section, unless the individual plays a different instrument. School students must be currently enrolled students of the particular school and under the age of 19 years.

2.11 If equipment is required on stage then a stage plan must be submitted via email to the Instrumental convenor, instrumental@maryborougheisteddfod.com.
Stage plans are to be submitted by 9 July.

2.12 Piano only may be used to accompany instrumental ensembles and will not form part of the ensemble unless otherwise stated.

2.13 Audio backings are not permitted in the instrumental section except the Drums and Guitar Contemporary section. Competitors must supply the backing track to the instrumental convenor prior the commencement of the eisteddfod. All other accompaniments must be live performances except for the Special Needs Section.

2.14 Where amplification is permitted, a 30-60 second sound level check is allowed.

2.15 Band and Ensemble definitions:

(i) Concert Band: A balanced ensemble of woodwind brass and percussion instruments, usually a large group.

(ii) Orchestra: A full string section plus a proportional number of woodwind, brass and percussion instruments. This ensemble might also include keyboards.

(iii) String Orchestra: An ensemble consisting of strings. This ensemble might also include piano and/or percussion.

(iv) Stage Band: A small group of saxophones, trumpets, trombones and a rhythm section. The rhythm section may include any keyboard, an electric or an acoustic guitar, an electric or an acoustic bass and a drum kit. A vocalist may be included in the group.

(v) Wind Ensemble: A balanced ensemble of woodwind instruments with or without brass and percussion, usually a group smaller than a concert band.

(vi) Brass Ensemble: A balanced ensemble of brass instruments with or without percussion.

(vii) Percussion Ensemble: A combination of tuned and/or untuned percussion instruments.

2.16 For Improvisation section Competitors must improvise based on a melody supplied by the adjudicator (5 min max). Competitors will not see the melody until on stage; they will have 20 seconds to start playing once they have sighted the melody. Other competitors waiting to perform will not be permitted in the performance room until the previous competitor has completed their performance.

2.17 Competitors in the sections Piano Championships will be required to perform sight-reading, an own choice piece and a set piece by J.S Bach. The set piece will be available on the Maryborough Eisteddfod website for download. Ensure to have the current piece before learning it. The order of the section will be determined by the adjudicator; however, may be as follows: Own Choice, Set Piece, Sightreading. Competitors will not be able to listen to others performing the sight reading so as to not receive any type of advantage. The sight-reading

task will be given to performers prior to walking on stage. They will have 20 seconds to look at the sight-reading on stage and then commence playing. The level of sight-reading will be as follows:

- 12 Years and Under Piano Championship: approximate Grade 2 AMEB Standard Sight-Reading
- 15 Years and Under Piano Championship: approximate Grade 4 AMEB Standard Sight-Reading
- 18 Years and Under Piano Championship: approximate Grade 6 AMEB Standard Sight-Reading
- Open Piano Championship: approximately Grade 8 AMEB Standard Sight-Reading

2.18 CHAMPIONSHIPS:
Piano Junior – 12 Years & Under
Piano Intermediate – 15 Years & Under
Piano Senior – 18 Years & Under
Piano Masters – 19 Years and Over

2.19 All entrants in the Primary School String Ensemble sections will be required to stand when performing.

2.20 Entrants in Open and High School String Ensemble sections will be given the option to sit or stand.

2.21 **Contemporary Instrument Section:** Competitors for the Contemporary Instrumental section can perform on either: drum kit, bass guitar, electric guitar or any other electric instrument except keyboard/piano. A copy of all music must be submitted as standard western notation. Backing tracks must be provided via email as MP3 format to the instrumental convenor 2 weeks prior to the section. Students will not be able to change songs once tracks have been submitted. All songs must be within the required time limit and not exceed time limit. All electric equipment must be supplied by competitor such as required amplifier and must be tagged and tested. Vocals will not be permitted in this section. It is expected that volume is tested prior to commencement of performance and the volume level is set to **medium-low.** Drummers should also not be hard-hitting.

2.22 Composition and Perform section: Compositions may be notated using traditional or graphic notation. Time limit 4 minutes.

2.23 Accepted Music Period Definitions:
(i) Baroque ..... 1600 to 1760
(ii) Classical ..... 1730 to 1820
(iii) Romantic ..... 1815 to 1910
(iv) 20th Century ..... 1900 to 2000
(v) Contemporary ..... 1970 to present day

Accepted music definitions may also include contemporary composers composing in the style of.
Performers should choose repertoire that best reflects stylistic characteristics of the time period.

3. CODE OF CONDUCT

3.1 A copy of the Code of Conduct will be available Backstage and will be enforced by the committee. The Code of Conduct applies to all participants and attendees of the Maryborough Eisteddfod.

3.2 Zero tolerance: The Maryborough Eisteddfod will not tolerate any unacceptable conduct (including, but not limited to, verbal abuse of any person, obscene language, loud or boisterous conduct), which is deemed unacceptable by the committee. This includes all individuals attending at any venue of the Maryborough Eisteddfod.

3.3 Refusal of a directive: Any member of the committee or designated official, may give a directive at any time, to any person to whom this code applies to ensure the smooth and efficient running of the eisteddfod. Any person who refuses to obey such directive may be asked to leave the venue, and failure to do so may result in the committee taking action including the calling of police to ensure the eisteddfod's unimpeded operation.

3.4 Individual behaviour: Any individual behaving in a manner that is unacceptable will be removed if it be deemed appropriate by any member of the committee or designated official. If that individual is a competitor, they may be disqualified from competing in that section and other sections.