

# Matt Withers Australian Music Composition Competition 2020

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## Guitar & Piano

### Matt Withers & Sally Whitwell

**With over \$10,000 in cash and prizes  
including  
\$3,000 cash First Place**

**PLUS\***

**multiple performances, flights and accommodation to  
participate in a Composer Workshop at the Australian National  
University School of Music and a commercial CD recording  
released on ABC Classic. Winning works will also be considered  
for publication by the Australian Music Centre.**

Open age competition to Australian residents with an  
Under 25 Emerging Artist Award

Applicants are invited to submit an original musical composition *based on the  
inspiration artwork 'Outback' by Sue Needham* for the duo ensemble of  
classical guitar and piano of 4 - 6 minutes in duration.

**Entries close COB Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020**

**[www.MattWithers.com.au/CompositionCompetition](http://www.MattWithers.com.au/CompositionCompetition)**

Enquiries: [info@mattwithers.com.au](mailto:info@mattwithers.com.au)

# General Information

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Applicants are invited to enter the *Matt Withers Australian Music Composition Competition 2020* by submitting an original musical composition **based on the artwork 'Outback' by Sue Needham** of between **4 - 6 minutes** in duration for a duo ensemble with instrumentation of Piano & Classical Guitar (6-string, nylon, 19 frets) and additional materials according to the Submission Materials on page 5.

The submitted work for Piano & Guitar will be judged on its effectiveness, quality of writing for each individual instrument as well as for the duo ensemble as a whole and the score presentation.

No prepared piano will be accepted but extended techniques are permissible.

Works must be based on the inspiration image but can be in a single or in multiple movements provided the total length of the work is within the time limit of 4 - 6 minutes.

The score must be clearly notated with computer software. No handwritten scores will be accepted.

The Competition is open to any current Australian citizen or resident of Australia.

A playlist of various repertoire previously recorded by Matt Withers & Sally Whitwell (in different ensemble configurations) has been created on Spotify for listening research. Search '*Australian Music Composition Competition 2020 Inspiration*' or find the link at [www.MattWithers.com.au/CompositionCompetition](http://www.MattWithers.com.au/CompositionCompetition)

## About Matt Withers – Australian Guitarist (Performer & Adjudicator)



Matt Withers is an internationally acclaimed classical guitarist and member of Australia's premier guitar quartet, Guitar Trek. He has released a number of highly successful albums including, Guitar Trek's *Serene Nights* on ABC Classics and his 2017 solo release of *Songs of Yesterday* which debuted in the Top 10 iTunes Classical Charts. His interests include helping to continue the growth of Australian music and bring it to wider audiences.

Matt has performed around the globe including being featured as a *Rising Star* at the World Expo in Shanghai (China). He has given showcase performances across Australia, New Zealand and Europe with highlights at embassies, universities, festivals and for community organisations. Matt has been invited to be an adjudicator for major guitar competitions including the *Melbourne International Guitar Festival* (Australia) and the *Uppsala Guitar Festival* (Sweden).

[www.MattWithers.com.au](http://www.MattWithers.com.au)

## About Sally Whitwell – (Performer & Adjudicator)



Multi-ARIA Award winning musician Sally Whitwell maintains a busy freelance career as a pianist, performer, conductor, composer and educator. She has toured throughout Europe, Asia and the Americas. Her work has been performed and recorded by the likes of Gondwana Voices, Ensemble Offspring, Acacia Quartet and many more.

Sally's recordings have received ARIA Awards for Best Classical Album, enjoyed multiple weeks in the top ten ARIA Core Classical Charts and are regularly heard on ABC Classic.

[www.SillyWhatwell.weebly.com](http://www.SillyWhatwell.weebly.com)

## About Tim Kain – (Adjudicator)

Tim's performing and teaching activities have taken him all over the world, building an international reputation both as a soloist and chamber musician. In 1992 he was invited to join John Williams' seven-piece group "Attacca" and subsequently formed a duo with John, touring extensively in the UK and Australia and releasing internationally their award-winning CD, "The Mantis and the Moon" on Sony Classics.

A major focus of Tim's musical activities has been a long-standing interest and involvement in Australian music. This has seen many fruitful collaborations with some of Australia's leading composers, and commissions and performances of a large number of solo, chamber and concerto works for the guitar. Many of these have been recorded on the Sony, ABC Classics, Tall Poppies and CSM labels. His solo release, "Mirrors of Fire", a CD of almost entirely specially commissioned pieces, forms an especially important addition to the catalogue.

[www.TimKain.net](http://www.TimKain.net)

## Sue Needham – Creator of the inspiration work, 'Outback'.

**Sue Needham**      Upon retirement from the workforce Sue realised her long-term dream and undertook study in watercolour. James Fearnley, a watercolour painting specialist,  
**Visual Artist**      taught Sue the basics. From there imagination, perseverance and innovation joined forces and Sue's works took on a unique identity. Most of her work is termed "mixed media", and ranges in size from miniatures (100mm x 100mm) to 1.2m x 1m.

Drawing inspiration and painting from memory of places visited on travels and bushwalking, Sue's work is more abstract than realism. Her paintings are held in private collections around the world from London, France, the U.S. and of course across Australia. Today, Sue continues to paint expressive abstracts of the forest, outback and ocean.

*There are many similarities in the creative arts, which in turn influence the others.*

*Often a visual artist is inspired by the magnificence of sound.*

*Some of my art has been the main inspirational factor in creation or practice of music.*

*Many family members have followed their musical talents in piano, clarinet and guitar. However, I was born, and remain, rather bereft of those skills.*

*Fortunately, I paint. Often, mostly in fact, music is my studio friend.*

*In this particular outback rendering of an aerial landscape I've depicted variations of what's on earth. Seen from above one's imagination takes over. Colour changes tempo? Directional lines guide one into collective areas, (a town?).*

*The randomness of water flowing across country can be rapids or slow creep as in sheet flooding. What can a musician interpret from the abstraction of country from high above I wonder?*

[www.SueNeedhamArtist.com](http://www.SueNeedhamArtist.com)

# Prizes

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## First Prize - 3,000 cash

Sponsored by Matt Withers, Australian Guitarist  
[www.MattWithers.com.au](http://www.MattWithers.com.au)



## Second Prize - \$1,000 cash

Sponsored by Ecotopia



*Ecotopia Australia was born from a love of practical and ethical items for everyday use.*  
[www.EcoTopia.com.au](http://www.EcoTopia.com.au)

## Emerging Composer Prize (Under 25) \$750 cash

Sponsored by Guitars Online



*Selecting the best guitars worldwide to bring superb tone and pleasure.*  
[www.GuitarsOnline.com.au](http://www.GuitarsOnline.com.au)

### Each of the above three prizes also includes\*:

- The winning works to be featured in recitals by Matt Withers & Sally Whitwell.
  - Work included on a commercial recording released by ABC Classic.
- A public workshop to be held at the Australian National University School of Music.
- Domestic, economy flights from your nearest Australian capital city to Canberra, return.
- Two nights Queen Superior accommodation at University House incl. buffet breakfast.
  - Works will be considered for publication by the Australian Music Centre
  - EcoTopia gift pack hamper

\*Please see Terms and Conditions on pages 7 - 9 for full details of prizes.



**Sue Needham**  
**Visual Artist**

# Submission Materials

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## ENTRY FEE

Each composition is subject to a non-refundable **Entry Fee of \$40.00** payable to Matt Withers by the Entry Deadline of Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup> 2020. This must be made by direct deposit. Please do not send cash or cheques, it will not be accepted.

ANU School of Music Composition students in second year or beyond are eligible for a sponsored entry. Please contact your course convenor for full details.

**PRINTED (Posted to be received by C.O.B. Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020):**

- Signed Entry Form
- One bound copy of the score (*without* applicants' name) on A4 paper.

**ON USB each as a separate file:**

- Clearly titled score *without* applicants' name (PDF)
- Clearly titled score *with* applicants' name (PDF)
- Individual Parts *with* applicants' name (PDF)
- An MP3/MIDI of the submitted work
- Program Notes *without* applicants' name (200 words max. PDF) [*for use in concert & CD program notes, if successful*]
- Artist Biography (200 words max. PDF) [*for use in concert & CD program notes, if successful*]
- Full Resolution Artist Photograph (JPG) [*for use in concert & CD program notes, if successful*]

## Score Specifications:

- Scores are to be computer-generated and supplied in PDF format
- Score page size A4. Ensure the staff size remains legible.
- A margin of 1.5cm to be on all 4 sides of each page
- Be mindful of page turns in the parts.

**ENTRY DEADLINE** - *Please allow time for delivery.* Entries will only be accepted if received no later than C.O.B. **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020.**

## SEND ENTRIES TO

Matt Withers - PO Box 121 Dickson, ACT 2602

## DIRECT DEPOSIT

Account Name: M L Withers

BSB: 105-152

Account Number: 033 244 140

Ref: (First initial) + (Last name) + Comp

Please direct enquires to: [info@mattwithers.com.au](mailto:info@mattwithers.com.au)

**RESULTS ANNOUNCED BEFORE** 29<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020. All applicants will be notified of results via email.

# Entry Form

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PERSONAL DETAILS
Name
Email
Phone Number
DOB
Current City
COMPOSITION DETAILS
Name of Work
Duration (based on marked tempo)

(Please tick) I am an Australian citizen/resident

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby declare that I have read the attached Terms and Conditions on pages 7 - 9 and that the submitted work is my own.

I have completed the check list and submitted all the required Submission Materials on page 5.

By signing, and upon payment of the entry fee, I acknowledge that I have read, understood and agree to the Terms and Conditions outlined in this document.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

If under the age of 18, the signature of a parent or guardian is required.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relation to applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

# Terms and Conditions pg 1/3

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## ENTRY

The *Matt Withers Australian Music Composition Competition 2020* is open to any Australian resident or citizen.

The submitted composition must be an original work by the applicant inspired by the artwork 'Outback', by Sue Needham. A digital copy of the artwork is available from [www.MattWithers.com.au](http://www.MattWithers.com.au). This artwork is copyright protected and is not to be reproduced in any form other than single use for the competition.

No handwritten scores will be accepted. Scores must be presented using clearly notated computer software.

Physical scores must be bound (comb or spiral).

Adequate notes must be provided for any extended techniques.

Total duration of the submitted work is to be between 4-6 minutes. Metronome markings must be clearly marked.

Incomplete or late entries will not be considered or followed up on. Allow time for postage.

Winners from the 2018 round of the Australian Music Composition Competition are ineligible to enter the 2020 round.

## FEE

There is no limit to the number of entries by an individual though each entry requires a separate entry form to be submitted and a separate entry fee of \$40 to be paid by close of business, Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020.

If submitting more than one entry, an entrant will only be eligible to win one prize. Multiple entries will not give entrants a chance to win multiple prizes.

The entry fee is non-refundable under any circumstance.

## JUDGING

Results will be announced by February 29<sup>th</sup> 2020. All entrants will be advised of the results by email. Winners may be contacted by telephone.

The adjudication panel will consist of Sally Whitwell, Tim Kain & Matt Withers.

The adjudicators reserve the right to withhold awarding the prizes, or any part thereof, if no entry is deemed of adequate merit.

The adjudicators' decision is final and no correspondence whatsoever will be entered into.

Submitted scores will not be returned except in the case of the winning entrants requesting feedback. In this case, a scan of the marked score will be returned by email with markings.

The adjudicators will not provide feedback for entrants who are not successful in winning one of the three places.

The Emerging Composer (Under 25 years of age) prize may be awarded to a prize winner if they are 25 years or under as of the closing date of entries; 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020.

In the event that a 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> place prize winner is under 25 years of age, they do not automatically also win the Emerging Composer (3<sup>rd</sup> place) prize. If the judges do not deem a third winner warrants a prize in this age category, they may then choose to award or split the Emerging Composer prize money to a 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> place prize winner, if they are under 25 years of age.

# Terms and Conditions pg 2/3

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## PRIZES

Should the applicant be successful in being awarded a prize by the judging panel the prizes include:

### *ABC Classic Recording*

The studio recording is due to be made prior to the tour however dates may change due to unforeseen circumstances.

The Ensemble (Matt Withers & Sally Whitwell) reserves the right to add or remove recordings, change the recording date or venue without notice if any unforeseen circumstances arise.

The applicant gives permission for ABC Classic to choose to use the provided Artist Biography, Program Notes & Artist Photograph in the CD liner notes or relevant publicity material at the discretion of ABC Classic team.

The musical interpretation of the winning works in the recording ultimately lies with the performers Matt Withers & Sally Whitwell.

### *Cash Prizes*

The cash prizes will be awarded following the judges' final decision. Funds will be electronically transferred to the winners by the Prize Sponsor upon receiving a complete invoice from the Prize Winner.

Non-cash prizes are not redeemable for cash or transferable in any circumstance.

### *Performances*

The winning works will aim to be performed at concerts by Matt Withers & Sally Whitwell depending on programming restrictions by presenters.

The Ensemble reserves the right to perform additional entrants' works in performance without awarding a prize.

The Ensemble reserve the right to perform the winning works in future concerts.

No minimum number of performances can be guaranteed.

The Ensemble reserves the right to add or remove performances, change the concert dates or venues without notice if any unforeseen circumstances arise.

### *Workshop*

The winning compositions will be workshopped in a public class held at the Australian National University School of Music at a Date to be Confirmed. Winning composers will be invited to attend.

The Ensemble reserves the right to add or remove workshops, change the workshop date or venue without notice if any unforeseen circumstances arise.

### *Flights*

Should the winning composers choose to attend the workshop at the ANU School of Music, return economy domestic flights will be booked for the Prize Winner to travel from their nearest Australian Capital City to Canberra, Australia to participate in the workshop. Once booked, any costs incurred by changes or cancellations will be the responsibility of the prize winner.

*(Continued next page)*



# Terms and Conditions pg 3/3

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Local transport, meals, travel insurance, per diems or other costs will not be covered for the prize winner should they chose to attend the workshop and will be the responsibility of the Prize Winner.

## *Accommodation*

Should the composer be traveling to Canberra for the Workshop, accommodation will be offered to the Prize Winner in Canberra at University House for one night either side of the workshop for two consecutive nights in total in a Queen Superior Room including buffet breakfast for one person per night.

Accommodation cannot be transferred to another person or another hotel. The value of the sponsored accommodation cannot be redeemed for cash.

## *Publication*

The Australian Music Centre (AMC) will consider the winning works for publication. It is recommended to meet all of the AMCs criteria for full consideration.

In the event of future publication through the AMC or other publishing bodies, the winning works' notes must include the text: *written for Matt Withers & Sally Whitwell for the 2020 Matt Withers Australian Music Composition Competition.*

## *EcoTopia*

EcoTopia is responsible for providing a Gift Pack of their choosing to the Prize Winner. This is not redeemable for cash.

## *Marketing*

Prize winners may be offered, without guarantee, interview possibilities. The results of the Australian Music Composition Competition will be made available to journalists and media outlets to promote the album, tour and competition. No guarantee can be made that particular promotors will mention each prize winner by name or the title of the work.