

MELBA OPERA TRUST



2026 Alumni Grant Program

melbaoperatrust.com.au





*‘Once a Melba,
always a Melba’*

Cover: Xenia Puskarz Thomas (2025 recipient) in *Das Jagdgewehr*
image: Geoffroy Schied

Above: Nathan Bryon (2025 recipient), Nürnberger Symphoniker
image: Markus Rebamm

About the Alumni Grant Program

At the heart of Melba Opera Trust is a commitment to artistic excellence and the pursuit of long and sustainable careers. We recognise that this takes time and resourcing, and we want to continue supporting our alumni after the Melba Program.

The Alumni Grant Program offers grants to support professional career development exclusively for Melba alumni. We hope that providing continuity of support and access to funding will help alumni during any chapter of their careers.

The program will be funded by a growing endowment. As the endowment builds, so too will the size and number of grants we are able to award annually.

Who is eligible?

Any alumni of the Melba Program may apply for an alumni grant.

There is no restriction on the number of times that you can apply. However, if you are successful, you will need to wait another three years before re-applying.

Performance Program

In 2026 we are inviting applications for funding of up to \$10,000 AUD.

Areas of support are wide-ranging: study, auditions, recordings, specific artistic projects, industry-related initiatives, purchase of industry materials etc.

In general, grants will not fund ordinary cost-of-living, but travel expenses can be incorporated.

Projects may be undertaken in Australia or abroad, and funding is to be used within a 12-month period.



Important Information for Applicants

Samantha Hargreaves (2025 recipient), Spring Opera Scenes at Guildhall School of Music & Drama, image: David Monteith

Successful Grant recipients will demonstrate:

- A sustained pursuit of artistic development.
- Interaction with Melba Opera Trust within the last five years. This could include a performance, contributing to The Melba magazine, participating in the Mentor Program, engaging with Melba's social media or remaining connected through phone or email.
- How the proposed case for support will contribute to their artistic and career development.

The Selection Process

Alumni Grant applications are assessed in coordination with auditions for the Melba Program.

Following your application, you should be prepared for a short interview (via Zoom) with the panel if deemed necessary. Alumni Grants will be awarded in late November 2026.

The Application Process

Applications are open until 11.59pm AEST, Monday 31 August 2026.

To apply for an Alumni Grant, you will need to provide the following:

1. Case for support

Your plan should include:

- A description of the activity the grant will be supporting.
- Who is involved?
- The estimated cost budget and timeline for the project.

2. Impact statement

A paragraph (200 words) explaining why the project is needed and how it will impact your career development.

3. Personal career update

A paragraph (200 words) outlining your recent artistic activity and your career plan for the next 12 months.

Complete your written application via the online form at
<https://www.melbaoperatrust.com.au/2026-alumni-grant-application/>

Should you require any further information, please contact Melba CEO Amy Black
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