

Matt Withers Australian Music Composition Competition 2022

Classical Guitar Duo

Matt Withers & Callum Henshaw

**Cash Prizes, Mentorship
PLUS
Recording & Performance Opportunities
valued at over \$10,000**

Open age competition to Australian residents with an
Under 30 Emerging Artist Award

Applicants are invited to submit a written response to the inspiration artwork
'*Threads of Australia*' by Sue Needham along with a portfolio of previous
compositions.

The winning applicants will have the opportunity to work directly with the
ensemble with mentorship to write a new work of between 3-5 minutes in length
for classical guitar duo.

Submissions due C.O.B. Monday 28th February 2022

www.MattWithers.com.au/CompositionCompetition

Enquiries: info@mattwithers.com.au

General Information

Applicants are invited to enter the *Matt Withers Australian Music Composition Competition 2022* by submitting a portfolio of up to three previous, original musical compositions and a written response to Sue Needham's inspiration artwork '*Threads of Australia*' describing how you might put this artwork to music (400 words max).

Winners will be commissioned to compose a work for guitar duo of **3 - 5 minutes** in duration based on the artwork '*Threads of Australia*'. Duo partners Matt Withers and Callum Henshaw will work directly with the winners over a five month period of mentorship.

The winners' eventual submitted work for classical guitar duo 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 3 - 5 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 and Callum Henshaw (in different ensemble configurations) has been created on Spotify for listening research. Search '*Australian Music Composition Competition 2022 Inspiration*' or find the link at www.MattWithers.com.au/CompositionCompetition

About Matt Withers – Australian Guitarist (Performer and 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 on the ABC Classic and Naxos labels 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

About Callum Henshaw – (Performer and Adjudicator)



Callum Henshaw is well-known as one of Australia's leading young guitarists. He is the newest member of the long-standing Australian guitar quartet, Guitar Trek. As a concert artist he has performed around the world in music festivals, including the Tirana International Guitar Festival, the Saigon International Guitar Festival and the Melbourne Guitar Festival. A passionate advocate of the guitar, he has won three major international competitions and released three solo albums to critical acclaim.

www.CallumHenshaw.com

Sue Needham – Creator of the inspiration work, ‘Threads of Australia’.

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.

‘Threads of Australia’

A digital copy of the artwork is available from www.MattWithers.com.au

Sue Needham acknowledges our indigenous culture in colour, and the Australian military in one single symbolic button. The artwork is created from many materials; threads, twine, cord, watercolour paper, linen, fabric, handmade and pastel papers, acrylics, watercolours, plastic and metal buttons.

Yachting, the outback, beaches, anchorages, and forests have inspired this work and there are hints of cities which are rapidly altered by the impact of Covid19.

Then there's variety, which are many themes in our island nation.

www.SueNeedhamArtist.com

Prizes

First Prize - \$3,000 cash

Sponsored by Matt Withers, Australian Guitarist
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



Emerging Composer Prize (Under 30) \$1,000 cash

Sponsored by Callum Henshaw
www.CallumHenshaw.com

Each of the above three prizes also includes*:

- Exclusive mentorship with the ensemble for insights into guitar writing.
- Winning works to be featured in recitals by Matt Withers and Callum Henshaw.
 - Winning works included on a commercial digital recording.
 - Publicity opportunities.

*Please see Terms and Conditions on pages 6 – 7 for full details of prizes.

Submission Materials

ENTRY FEE

Each composition is subject to a non-refundable **Entry Fee of \$40.00** payable to Matt Withers by the entry deadline of Monday, February 28th 2022.

This must be made via www.MattWithers.com.au/product/amcc2022

Please do not send cash or cheques, they will not be accepted.

Submission Materials to be submitted via www.MattWithers.com.au/product/amcc2022

- Written response to Sue Needham's inspiration artwork '*Threads of Australia*' describing how you might put this artwork to music (400 words max) (PDF) A digital copy of the artwork is available from www.MattWithers.com.au
- Portfolio of up to 3 previous original compositions showcasing your musical style (any instrumentation accepted) (PDF)
- MP3/MIDI of portfolio works
- Artist Biography (300 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]*

ENTRY DEADLINE - Entries will only be accepted if received no later than C.O.B. **Monday 28th February 2022.**

If successful, winners agree to submit a new, commissioned composition for guitar duo of between 3-5 minutes with following score specifications by September 30th 2022:

- Scores and individual parts are to be supplied computer-generated via music notation software and supplied in PDF format.
- MIDI file.
- Score page size A4 portrait. Ensure the staff size remains legible.

Please direct enquires to: info@mattwithers.com.au

RESULTS ANNOUNCED BEFORE March 31st 2022. All applicants will be notified of results via email.

Terms and Conditions page 1/2

ENTRY

The *Matt Withers Australian Music Composition Competition 2022* is open to any Australian resident or citizen.

The submitted portfolio of compositions must be past original works by the applicant. Any instrumentation is accepted.

A written response to '*Threads of Australia*', by Sue Needham should describe how you would write your work for guitar duo if successful in winning a place in the competition. A digital copy of the artwork is available from 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.

Incomplete or late entries will not be considered.

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

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, February 28th 2022.

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 March 31st 2022. All entrants will be advised of the results by email. Winners may be contacted by telephone.

The adjudication panel will consist of Matt Withers and Callum Henshaw.

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.

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

The Emerging Composer (Under 30 years of age) prize may be awarded to a prize winner if they are 30 years or under as of the closing date of entries; 28th February 2022.

In the event that a 1st or 2nd place prize winner is under 30 years of age, they do not automatically also win the Emerging Composer (3rd 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 1st or 2nd place prize winner, if they are under 30 years of age.

Terms and Conditions page 2/2

PRIZES

Should the applicant be successful in being awarded a prize by the judging panel, the applicant agrees to:

- Complete a new commissioned composition for classical guitar duo by September 30th 2022, submitting sketches and drafts regularly for mentorship and feedback.

No handwritten scores will be accepted for the final submission. Scores must be clear and professionally presented using musical notation software.

Total duration of the commissioned work is to be 3-5 minutes. Metronome markings must be clearly marked.

Commercial Recording

A commercial recording of the works will be made on a date TBA. They will appear on a digital album of all Australian works.

The ensemble (Matt Withers and Callum Henshaw) 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 the ensemble to choose to use the provided Artist Biography, Program Notes & Artist Photograph in the CD liner notes or relevant publicity material at their discretion.

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

Cash Prizes

The cash prizes will be awarded to the prize winners following the delivery of their final composition. Funds will be electronically transferred to the winners by the prize sponsor upon receiving the final work and a complete invoice from the prize winner.

Late delivery or incomplete, sub-standard work will result in non-payment of the commission fee/prize money.

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 and Callum Henshaw prior to and after the album recording.

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.

Marketing

Prize winners may be offered, without guarantee, interview possibilities. The results of the Australian Music Composition Competition 2022 will be made available to journalists and media outlets to promote the album, concerts and competition. No guarantee can be made that particular promoters will mention each prize winner by name or the title of the work.