

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ADELAIDE GUITAR FESTIVAL'S WINTER SCHOOL

1. What is the Adelaide Guitar Festival's Winter School (AGFWS)?

The Adelaide Guitar Festival's Winter School are week-long guitar intensives, held during the July school holidays, which provide an opportunity for participants to learn from some of Australia's finest guitarists in a small, immersive, guitar playing and skills development intensive. The Adelaide Guitar Festival Winter School is held in two streams:

1. **'Adelaide Guitar Festival Orchestra (AGFO)'** – focusing on classical guitar playing and ensemble techniques
2. **'Blues and Roots'** – incorporating acoustic guitar playing, traversing a range of roots and blues techniques.

AGFWS is open to all ages and participants are invited to register for their preferred stream at www.adelaideguitarfestival.com.au

2. Key Dates

- Registrations open: Thursday, 27 March 2025
- Registrations close: Monday, 16 June 2025 (or earlier if all spaces are filled)
- Blues and Roots Winter School: Monday, 7 – Friday 11 July 2025, 9am – 4:00pm daily
- Blues and Roots Performance: 11 July 2025
- AGFO Winter School: Monday, 7 – Friday 11 July 2025, 9am – 4:00pm daily
- AGFO Performance: TBC between 11 – 13 July 2025

3. Registrations

Registrations open on Thursday, 27 March 2025 and close on Friday, 16 June 2025 or earlier if all spaces are filled.

All bookings are to be made online at www.adelaideguitarfestival.com.au

Numbers are strictly limited so we encourage you to book early.

4. Cost

The program cost is \$250.00 per participant, per program stream, for the full 5 days and must be paid in full by Monday 16th June 2025. Participants must attend for the full 5 days. Individual day bookings are not permitted. All transactions incur an \$9.55 Ticketek transaction fee, if booking for multiple participants we encourage you to book them all in a single transaction.

Limited centrED equity subsidies are available to primary and secondary students who otherwise may not be able to attend due to financial hardship or distance. Email centrED@adelaidefestivalcentre.com.au for more information on how your student can receive this support. Please note that funding is limited and will be approved on a case-by-case basis until exhausted.

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5. Eligibility

There are different skill-level and age group requirements for the two streams. Participants in both streams are required to bring their own instruments:

a) Adelaide Guitar Festival Orchestra (AGFO)

The AGFO stream is aimed at participants who have some classical guitar playing experience and can play at equivalent to **AMEB Grade 3 level** or higher and have a good understanding of the fingerboard. Guitarists of all ages are welcome to register provided they meet the minimum AMEB level. Participants will join one of three sectionals to create the Adelaide Guitar Festival Orchestra.

b) Blues & Roots

This stream is aimed at players from beginner to intermediate level, **aged 14 and older** and will include both playing and songwriting techniques. Participants will create their own songs in a group/band setting with special guest tutors.

6. Venue

ADELAIDE GUITAR FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA (AGFO)

Prince Alfred College

23 Dequetteville Terrace, Kent Town SA 5067

Details of where to meet and a map will be provided to all participants after registration.

BLUES & ROOTS

Nexus Arts

Lion Arts Centre, 68 North Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000

Details of where to meet and a map will be provided to all participants after registration.

7. Schedule

The Blues and Roots Winter School runs from Monday 7 July to Friday 11 July 2025 inclusive. Each session will run from 9am – 4:00pm daily.

The performance date and venue is TBC but will be between 11 – 13 July 2025
Exact performance schedule to be sent to all participants in June 2025

The AGFO Winter School runs from Monday 7 July to Friday 11 July 2025 inclusive. Each session will run from 9am – 4:00pm daily.

The performance date and venue is TBC but will be between 11 – 13 July 2025
Exact performance schedule to be sent to all participants in June 2025

8. Transport

- All participants over 18 years must arrange their own transport to and from the Winter School venues
- Participants aged 15 – 17 will need signed permission from the guardian to arrive and depart alone
- Participants under 15 years must be delivered, collected, and signed in/out by a guardian unless otherwise negotiated with Adelaide Guitar Festival

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9. Meals

NO meals or snacks are provided. Participants must bring their own snacks and lunch and water.

Please note participants aged 15 or younger will not be permitted to leave the premises during lunch breaks and must bring their own lunch rather than expect to buy lunch. Unless negotiated with the Adelaide Guitar Festival

There are strictly no products containing nuts allowed.

10. Who are the tutors?

CLASSICAL TUTORS:

Dr. Paul Svoboda (Director) - Paul is an in-demand guitar ensemble specialist composer and teacher. Holding a Doctorate of Musical Arts from the Sibelius Academy of Music, 2025 marks his 11th year directing at the Adelaide Guitar Festival Winter School.

+ special guest tutors from the Festival to be announced

BLUES & ROOTS TUTORS:

Cal Williams Jr (Director) – Multi-award-winning Blues singer/songwriter, Cal Williams Jr, combines the gentle fingerpicking of British Folk with the raw intensity of Delta Slide Blues to create a sound that is both intricate and powerful. Cal is the director of the Guitar Academy and has written series of guitar, ukulele, banjo, mandolin & kids books. His approach simplifies complex theories into easy-to-understand concepts that are accessible to players of all ages.

Special guest tutors from the Festival to be announced

11. What to wear

Clean and comfortable clothing that is conducive to playing guitar.

12. What to bring

Classical Guitar Stream

- Clip-on tuner
- Footstool/thigh support
- Guitar (classical guitars are preferred, acoustic guitars permitted but must have nylon strings)

Blues & Roots Stream

- Tuner
- Guitar – acoustic only. No electric guitars. Steel strings welcome.
- Guitar strap

Everyone:

- Strings should be as new as possible
- Spare strings
- Pencil
- Water bottle
- Snacks
- Lunch

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Please put your name on all your belongings including clothing, water bottles, guitar cases, and music

13. Rules and Expectations

Please refer to the Terms & Conditions available on our website.

14. Phone policy

During sessions and tutorials, use of phones, cameras and other electronic devices will not be permitted.

15. Adelaide Guitar Festival Performances

The culmination of the work created during the Winter School will be performed in a concert following the school. Exact date is to be confirmed but will fall between 7 – 11 July 2025.

A reprise performance will be presented during the Adelaide Guitar Festival (12-15 September). The school participants will not be required to purchase a ticket however any parents/friends/relatives wishing to watch the concert will need to purchase a ticket at a limited release of heavily discounted tickets. Details to be offered in June 2024.

All participants are encouraged to participate.

16. What if I can't attend one day?

Participants are expected to attend every day of Adelaide Guitar Festival Winter School. If you cannot attend for any reason (eg ill-health or family emergency) please let the Adelaide Guitar Festival team know as soon as possible. Missing any part of Winter School may mean you are unable to participate in the closing performance for your course. (see 20. For COVID)

17. What if a participant is running late to Winter School?

Participants are expected to be punctual to Winter School to ensure all participants get the most out of the session. However, if you are delayed for any reason please let the Adelaide Guitar Festival team know as soon as possible with an expected time of arrival.

18. If a parent/guardian is running late to collect a participant from Winter School

Parents/guardians of participants being picked up will be charged \$1.00 per minute for late pick up without prior arrangement or notification, so please do contact us immediately.

Please also notify absences by 9am on the day of the due absence.

19. Media/photos

As part of the registration process participants or parents/guardians are requested to give permission for photography and videography of the participant. This may be used for marketing and promotion of the Adelaide Festival Centre, Adelaide Guitar Festival, and Adelaide Guitar Festival Winter School including online. Media may also be invited to photograph/film/ and interview participants.

For full details please refer to the PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEO section of the AGFWS Terms and Conditions document on our website.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding media or photography please contact AGFWS Staff prior to the commencement of AGFWS.

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Please note due to privacy regulations, taking photos or videos by participants will not be permitted.

20. COVID-19

All Participants are expected to abide by any COVID response measures of government, including, but not limited to, checking in to the venue each day, hygiene protocols, the wearing of masks and any required social distancing.

If you present with any symptoms or are ill you are required to stay home, present for a COVID test and alert the AGFWS of the results. This may result in your inability to continue with the course as per point 16. Refunds will only be considered if a majority of the course is remaining.

Masks will not be provided.

Hand sanitiser is supplied at the entrance to the venues.

ADELAIDE GUITAR FESTIVAL

Guitar.Festival@Adelaidefestivalcentre.com.au

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