

For immediate release
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MEDIA RELEASE

Nicholas Russoniello is the winner of the Stage III Other Instruments Final in the prestigious 2011 ABC Symphony Australia Young Performers Awards.

The Other Instruments Final of the 2011 Young Performers Awards was held on Friday 24 June at Adelaide Town Hall. The four contestants performed their concertos brilliantly, accompanied by the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, led by maestro conductor Arvo Volmer.

With his **outstanding performance of the concerto for saxophone and orchestra 'Cyber-bird' by Takashi Yoshimatsu**, Nicholas was announced the **winner of the Other Instruments Category** securing him a **cash prize of \$5,000 and a place in the Grand Final**. The other contestants were Matthew Hinchliffe (VIC), performing the Tomasi Concerto for alto saxophone, Andrew Wiering (SA), performing the Ifukube Lauda concertata for marimba and David Rowden (NSW), performing the Copland Clarinet Concerto. Nicholas Russoniello is the second performer to advance to the Grand Final which will be held **on Saturday 3 September in Brisbane**.

Originally from Wollongong NSW, 26 yr old Nicholas began his studies in saxophone at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, from which he graduated with a Bachelor of Music (Performance) with first class honours.

As a student, Nicholas' distinguishing talent earned him numerous awards and scholarships which enabled him to pursue international study. Between 2004 and 2007, Nicholas travelled extensively to the UK and France to attend the European Summer Saxophone University as well as take lessons for renowned teachers, including Marie-Bernadette Charrier and John Harle. In 2010, Nicholas completed his postgraduate diploma at the Milan Conservatory.

Nicholas is a celebrated performer and regularly plays with the ensemble Duo Histoire in concerts around Australia. His merits also include performing as a soloist with the Orchestra Dell'Accademia Musicale di Schio, Vicenza and the Syrinx Quartet, for the Società Dei Concerti Milan. In 2011 Nicholas became a member of the saxophone quartet Continuum Sax, with whom he will perform at the Melbourne International Festival of Single Reeds and for the Australian New Music Network.

The next exciting step for Nicholas is to compete against the winners of the Keyboard and Strings categories in the Grand Final on Saturday 3 September at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre, for the highly coveted title of ABC Symphony Australia Young Performer of the Year.

The Young Performer of the Year receives a further \$20,000 cash prize, multiple CD recordings of their winning performance and opportunities for future concert performances with major Australian symphony orchestras.

MEDIA: For interviews & images please contact Linda Overstrom, Vim & Zest Communications, 02 6865 6762, 0432 497 806, linda@vimandzest.com.au, www.vimandzest.com.au

