



**2011 ABC Symphony Australia Young Performers Awards
Young Performer of the Year:
Saturday 3 September, QPAC, Brisbane**



MEDIA KIT

Media interviews and images

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For immediate release

MEDIA RELEASE

Nicholas Russoniello has won the prestigious Grand Final of the ABC Symphony Australia Young Performers Awards, in a stunning performance with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra conducted by Edvard Tchivzhel on Saturday 3 September at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre.

Nicholas Russoniello tackled the monumental Yoshimatsu Concerto for Saxophone and Orchestra *Cyber-bird* in a compelling performance for the 2011 ABC Symphony Australia Young Performers Awards on Saturday 3 September.

Nicholas receives a \$20,000 cash prize, multiple CD recordings of his winning performance and opportunities for future concert performances with major Australian symphony orchestras.

Originally from Wollongong, Nicholas has performed in various settings in Australia and abroad. After initial studies at the Wollongong Conservatorium of Music, Nicholas undertook the Bachelor of Music (Performance) at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music where he graduated with First Class Honours. As a student, Nicholas' distinguishing talent earned him numerous awards and scholarships which enabled him to pursue international study in the UK and France

Kate Lidbetter, CEO of Symphony Services International, says that such dedication pays off.

"This year's Grand Finalists were all extremely talented, with the three musicians all having won many prizes and scholarships previously. But with competitions there can only be one winner and Nicholas Russoniello's performance was truly outstanding," she says.

"Many of the previous Awards winners are now household names in the classical music world, both in Australia and overseas. The Awards give musicians a career launching pad as well as the opportunity of playing with a major symphony orchestra."

"For the past 66 years the ABC Symphony Australia Young Performers Awards has been the preeminent competition for emerging performers in Australia," says Lidbetter.

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 Synchron Quartet, for the Società Dei Concerti Milan. In 2011 Nicholas became a member of the saxophone quartet Continuum Sax.

The Grand Final will be also telecast on ABC TV1 at 4pm on Sunday 16 October.

MEDIA: For interviews & images, please contact Georgina Bible, 0431 452 609, Georgina@vimandzest.com.au

About Symphony Services International (formerly Symphony Australia)

Symphony Services International orchestrates musical excellence world-wide.

We assist orchestras and classical musicians to perform at their best. All members of the global orchestral community can benefit from our products and services.

Formerly Symphony Services Australia, we present the ABC Symphony Australia Young Performers Awards and have set international benchmarks with our Conductor Development program. We also hold the southern hemisphere's largest classical print music library, offer over 3,500 program notes and take the headache out of tour management for visiting international artists.

Our cost-effective services are of the highest quality. These include:

- Goodear Acoustic Shield
- Goodear Editions
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- Program Notes
- Surtitles
- Artist Development and the ABC Symphony Australia Young Performers Awards
- International tour co-ordination for conductors and musicians performing in Australia
- Consultancy Brokering Service

These specialised services are available to any organisation or individual, and are offered at a significant discount to our Associates and Subscribers.

With a passionate, expert and dedicated staff, Symphony Services International has the know-how and experience to service your needs efficiently and with a personal touch.

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About the ABC Symphony Australia Young Performers Awards

The Grand Final of the prestigious 2011 ABC Symphony Australia Young Performers Awards was held at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre in Brisbane on Saturday 3 September with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra.

Grand Finalists were saxophonist **Nicholas Russoniello** (26 yrs), violinist **Emily Sun** (20 yrs) and pianist **Nicholas Young** (20 yrs), who performed their concertos with the **Queensland Symphony Orchestra**, under the baton of **Edvard Tchivzhel**.

Since 1944, the ABC Symphony Australia Young Performers Awards has provided aspiring young musicians the opportunity to perform with Australia's major orchestras in the quest to be named ABC Symphony Australia Young Performer of the Year. The competition has unearthed an extraordinary number of talents and been an important catalyst to the career of many successful musicians including Simon Tedeschi, Diana Doherty, Adele Anthony, Roger Woodward, Ian Munro and more.

www.symphonyminternational.net