



**2013 ABC Symphony Australia Young Performers Awards  
with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Melbourne 4 - 12 October**



**2012 Grand Finalists: Young Kwon Choi, Katerina Nazarova (winner), Som Howie**

## Media kit

Media interviews and images

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For immediate release

## MEDIA RELEASE

**Symphony Australia announces a brand new 'mini-festival' format, more prizes and the 12 finalists for the 2013 ABC Symphony Australia Young Performers Awards. The winner receives \$25,000, a CD recording, performance opportunities - an extraordinary career boost. Melbourne, 4 – 12 October with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra.**

Australia's brilliant up and coming classical music talents now have a greater opportunity than ever to win big prizes and boost their careers. The **2013 ABC Symphony Australia Young Performers Awards** takes the form of a new 'mini-festival', occurring between 4 – 12 October, with 7 public concerts in 10 days and 3 competition rounds including recital, chamber music and concerto performances. The **2013 ABC Symphony Australia Young Performer of the Year** wins a cash prize of \$25,000, the ABC Sir Charles Moses Young Performer's Trophy, a professional CD recording, a paid performance with the MSO, media training and photo shoot and a feature interview in *Limelight* magazine.

New additions to the prize pool for the ABC Symphony Australia Young Performers Awards **include four prizes of \$5000 each - People's Choice Award, Best Recital Performance, Best Chamber Music Performance, Best Performance of an Australian Work** as well as two **Concerto Finalist Prizes of \$7500 for each of the runners-up**. In this new format of the competition, all 12 finalists will be eligible to win prizes, which will no longer be awarded according to instrumental categories.

"Symphony Australia is excited about the changes taking place in the ABC Symphony Australia Young Performers Awards this year. Performers will be able to showcase their skills to a greater degree than in the past, and audiences will have more opportunity to hear outstanding performances, and get involved through voting for the People's Choice award!" says Kate Lidbetter, CEO of Symphony Services International.

"With the final stages including concerto, chamber music and solo recital components, the musician who claims the title of **Young Performer of the Year will have proved themselves outstanding in all areas of musical performance**, demonstrating high technical proficiency, an understanding of the repertoire and an appreciation of musical style."

After the hotly contested Preliminary Auditions earlier this year, the names of the **12 Finalists have been announced. Ranging in age from 14 to 27 years**, and playing instruments including cello, violin, piano, oboe, euphonium and flute (see details below), the 12 finalists are all exceptional performers.

The **Finals format includes: The Recitals round**, in which all **12 finalists** will compete across **four concerts** in the **Iwaki auditorium at the ABC Southbank Centre on 4 and 5 October**.

Six finalists will be selected to proceed to the next stage of the finals – the **Chamber Music** round, where they will **collaborate with musicians from the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra** to perform a chamber music work, across two concerts on **9 October in the Iwaki Auditorium**.

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The final **three performers selected** will perform their nominated **Concerto** in the final round, where the winner is awarded title of the 2013 ABC Symphony Australia Young Performer of the Year, with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Christopher Seaman, in the Melbourne Town Hall on **Saturday 12 October**. All concerts in each stage of the Finals are open to the public, broadcast live on ABC Classic FM and some concerts will be filmed by ABC TV for future broadcast.

### **2013 ABC Symphony Australia Young Performers Awards**

#### **Finalists:**

Sarah Kim, 23 (VIC – Cello)  
Anne-Marie Johnson, 22 (VIC – Violin)  
Hoang Pham, 28 (VIC – Piano)  
Andrew Kawai, 14 (VIC – Oboe)  
Stefan Cassomenos, 28 (VIC – Piano)  
Jonathon Ramsay, 19 (NSW – Euphonium)  
Harry Ward, 17 (NSW – Violin)  
Grace Clifford, 14 (NSW – Violin)  
Anna Da Silva Chen, 16 (NSW – Violin)  
Robbin Reza, 18 (NSW – Piano)  
Alex Raineri, 20 (QLD – Piano)  
Brijette Tubb, 24 (QLD – Flute)

#### **Live concerts and broadcasts:**

Friday 4 October, 1pm, Iwaki Auditorium – Recital concert 1  
Friday 4 October, 7pm, Iwaki Auditorium – Recital concert 2  
Saturday 5 October, 1pm, Iwaki Auditorium – Recital concert 3  
Saturday 5 October, 7pm, Iwaki Auditorium – Recital Concert 4  
Wednesday 9 October, 1pm, Iwaki Auditorium – Chamber concert 1  
Wednesday 9 October, 7pm, Iwaki Auditorium – Chamber concert 2  
Saturday 12 October, 7pm, Melbourne Town Hall – Concerto concert

#### **Prizes awarded at end of the competition:**

Young Performer of the Year	\$25,000
Concerto Finalist Prize x 2 (runners-up)	\$7,500
Best Recital	\$5000
Best Chamber Music	\$5000
Performance People's Choice Prize	\$5000
Best Performance of an Australian Work	\$5000 (awarded for a performance in any of the Finals rounds)

**ABC Sir Charles Moses Trophy:** This perpetual trophy is presented to the ABC Symphony Australia Young Performer of the Year by the ABC in honour of Sir Charles Moses, Managing Director of the ABC, 1935-1965.

**MEDIA:** For interviews & images please contact  
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## **ABOUT the new ABC Symphony Australia Young Performers Awards**

Symphony Australia is proud to collaborate with the ABC in presenting the ABC Symphony Australia Young Performers Awards. Throughout its 69 year history, the competition has been renowned for its ability to identify and nurture talented young Australian musicians.

In 2013, a new format for the competition is being introduced. Key changes include the introduction of a chamber music round, the removal of instrument categories with a set number of finalists, and the presentation of all finals rounds in a festival format. These finals include recital programs, chamber music and concertos with orchestra, with numbers of contestants reducing as each round is performed.

On offer is a wide range of prizes, including new prizes for Best Recital, Best Chamber Music Performance, Best Performance of an Australian work and the People's Choice prize.

The Young Performer of the Year will receive an increased cash prize of \$25,000 as well as the chance to perform with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, a CD recording and media training and opportunities.

Recognising the variety of skills required by musicians in today's multitude of performance opportunities, we have carefully sought to broaden the requirements of the competition while still honouring the long history of the event.

Symphony Australia has also responded to audience demand to hear more from these fine young players, and to have the opportunity to cast their own vote on the outcomes.

The new format will allow concert-goers to attend seven public performances over the period of 10 days, and all public concerts will be broadcast on ABC Classic FM.

Presented as a mini-festival, audiences both in the concert hall and listening around the country will be able to learn more about their favourite finalists as the week progresses. Culminating in a concert with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, the last three performers will battle for the title of 2013 ABC Symphony Australia Young Performer of the Year.