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MEDIA RELEASE

Hoang Pham announced the 2013 ABC Symphony Australia Young Performer of the Year at last night's Grand Final at the Melbourne Town Hall with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Christopher Seaman.

"From fleeing Vietnam as a baby with his refugee family to being awarded the 2013 ABC Symphony Australia Young Performer of the Year Award, Hoang Pham's journey is truly inspirational on many levels, and is testament to his tremendous dedication and talent," says Kate Lidbetter, CEO of Symphony Australia.

"His performance of Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No.1 Op.23 was outstanding. Judging at this level of elite performance is never easy. All three Grand Finalists were exceptional but there can only ever be one winner."

As the **2013 ABC Symphony Australia Young Performer of the Year**, Hoang Pham 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 and other professional development opportunities.

"We warmly congratulate Hoang Pham on his win and extraordinary performance," she adds. "The other Finalists - 15 year old oboist Andrew Kawai and pianist Stefan Cassomenos (28) - also performed brilliantly and they each receive a runners-up prize of \$7500.

In addition to the new 'mini festival' format of the 2013 ABC Symphony Australia Young Performers Awards, more prizes are now awarded at the end of the competition, with each new Award category conferring additional prize money of \$5000.

Also announced last night were the winners of the Best Recital – Andrew Kawai; Best Chamber Music Performance - Hoang Pham and Best Performance of an Australian Work – Grace Clifford. The winner of the People's Choice Prize will be announced on ABC Classic FM on Monday 14 October.

"We are thrilled to acknowledge the exceptional talents of these musicians with these extra prizes. Not only will Hoang receive a significant career boost by winning this prestigious Award – a paid performance with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra to start with – but we are delighted that his brilliant musicianship also sees him taking out the additional prize of the Best Chamber Music performance," adds Lidbetter.

Hoang Pham adds this Award to his long list of awards, including Best Australian Pianist at the Sydney International Piano Competition in 2008, the inaugural Melbourne Recital Centre Great Romantics Competition (2010) and first place the Lev Vlassenko Piano Competition in 2005. He has appeared as a soloist with the Melbourne, Queensland and Tasmanian Symphony Orchestras.

"We would like to congratulate all of the Finalists in the ABC Symphony Australia Young Performers Awards. It's been a wonderful nine days where we have witnessed Australia's most exceptional young classical musicians demonstrating the musical excellence this country produces," says Lidbetter.

Next year's 70th anniversary ABC Symphony Australia Young Performers Awards will take place in Adelaide with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra. Applications are now open, with information on www.symphonyminternational.net and all talented young performers are encouraged to apply.

MEDIA: for interviews and images please contact Trudy Johnston 0402 485 902, trudy@vimandzest.com.au

For more information, please visit
www.symphonyminternational.net
www.abc.net.au/classic/events/ypa/

ABOUT THE WINNER

HOANG PHAM



Melbourne-based pianist **Hoang Pham** has appeared as a soloist with the Melbourne, Queensland and Tasmanian Symphony Orchestras. He won the Lev Vlassenko Piano Competition in 2005; was awarded Best Australian Pianist at the Sydney International Piano Competition in 2008; and in 2010 won the inaugural Melbourne Recital Centre Great Romantics Competition. His live performance of Chopin, Bach, Liszt and Paderewski was commercially released on the Melbourne Recital Centre's Master Performers CD series.

He has made regular recital appearances in England, the United States, France and New Zealand, and performs both internationally and in Australia as a member of the Melbourne Piano Trio. In addition to his performance engagements, he has served as a jury member of the Piano/Ohio competition in Cleveland. Plans for 2013 include solo recitals at Melba Hall and for the Musical Society of Geelong, as well as performances with violinist Ji Won Kim at the MSO's Stravinsky Festival in August.

Born in Vietnam, Hoang Pham moved to Australia at an early age and studied privately with Rita Reichman at the Australian National Academy of Music. He subsequently studied with Marc Silverman at the Manhattan School of Music, where he completed a Master of Music degree.