2014 ABC Symphony Australia Young Performers Awards
with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, Adelaide, 19-28 August 2014

Grand Finalists, 2013 ABC Symphony Australia Young Performers Awards

Media kit
Media interviews and images
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MEDIA RELEASE

Who will be the 70th ABC Symphony Australia Young Performer of the Year? Between 19 - 28 August, 12 of Australia’s finest talents battle it out in the 2014 ABC Symphony Australia Young Performer of the Year Awards, with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra. These Awards have launched many glittering international music careers in their 70 year history.

For 10 days this winter Adelaide concert-goers are in for a treat, with Australia’s brightest young classical musicians competing for the title of the 2014 ABC Symphony Australia Young Performer of the Year Award.

1944 was the year that Casablanca won an Academy Award, the World Bank and IMF were created and the Allies invaded Normandy. It was at least 12 years before TV hit Australia and long before the hundreds of television music talent shows we see today. It was also the year that Australia’s most prestigious classical music award was launched. Many talented Australian performers catapulted onto the world stage after winning this Award.

"Winning the Young Performer of the Year split my life in two - before and after! Before YPA, I was a competitor,” says pianist Simon Tedeschi. “After YPA, I was a performer and musician.”

“It fermented my ability to learn repertoire, to assimilate many styles and also to feel confident in my own body as a performer. I will forever be indebted to Symphony Australia and the ABC for continuing - despite society's relegation of classical music to the fringes of the fringe - to support this amazing institution.”

“Symphony Australia is delighted to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the ABC Symphony Australia Young Performers Awards this year. The roll-call of winners reads like a who’s who of the Australian music world and it’s very gratifying to see how past winners have enjoyed such success from having their talents recognized and nurtured,” says Kate Lidbetter, CEO of Symphony Australia. “These Awards have made such a long-standing contribution to the Australian cultural landscape.”

In a ‘mini-festival’ format that includes 7 public concerts in 10 days over 3 competition rounds - recital, chamber music and concerto - the 12 Finalists in the 2014 ABC Symphony Australia Young Performers Awards compete for the grand prize of $25,000, three performance opportunities with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, the ABC Sir Charles Moses Young Performer’s Trophy, a professional CD recording, media training and photo shoot and a feature interview in Limelight magazine. It is an extraordinary career boost for any young musician.

Additionally, the prize pool for the Awards includes 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.

After the hotly contested Preliminary Auditions earlier this year, the names of the 12 Finalists have been announced, and this includes 4 Finalists from the 2013 Awards who are returning to compete. Ranging in age from 15 to 27 years, and playing instruments including violin, piano, oboe, and flute (see details below), the 12 finalists are all exceptional performers.
There will be four concerts in the Recital Round that takes place in Studio 520 at the ABC Centre in Collinswood on Tuesday 19 and Wednesday 20 August. After the Recital Round, the six selected finalists proceed to the next stage of the finals – the Chamber Music Round - on Friday 22 August in the ABC Centre. After the Chamber Music Round, three of these Finalists proceed to the Grand Final – the Concerto Round and perform their nominated concerto with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra conducted by Christopher Seaman in the Adelaide Town Hall on Thursday 28 August. All concerts in each stage of the Finals are open to the public and broadcast live on ABC Classic FM.

“The musician who claims the title of Young Performer of the Year will have proved themselves outstanding in all areas of musical performance – solo recital, chamber music and concerto performance - demonstrating high technical proficiency, an understanding of the repertoire and an appreciation of musical style,” says Ms Lidbetter.

2014 ABC Symphony Australia Young Performers Awards

Finalists:
Andrew Kawai, 15 (Oboe – VIC)
Anna Da Silva Chen, 17 (Violin – NSW)
Anne-Marie Johnson, 23 (Violin – VIC)
Catherine Gregory, 27 (Flute – QLD)
David Soo, 21 (Piano – VIC)
Glenn Christensen, 24 (Violin – QLD)
Grace Clifford, 15 (Violin – NSW)
James Jae-Won Moon, 27 (Piano – NSW)
Kiran Phatak, 24 (Flute – WA)
Michael Li, 20 (Piano – VIC)
Sujin Park, 25 (Violin – NSW)
Zoe Freisberg, 21 (Violin – QLD)

Live concerts and broadcasts:
Tuesday 19 August, 1pm, ABC Adelaide, Studio 520 – Recital Round concert 1
Tuesday 19 August, 7pm ABC Adelaide, Studio 520 – Recital Round concert 2
Wednesday 20 August, 1pm, ABC Adelaide, Studio 520 – Recital Round concert 3
Wednesday 20 August, 7pm, ABC Adelaide, Studio 520 – Recital Round Concert 4
Friday 22 August, 1pm, ABC Adelaide, Studio 520 – Chamber Music Round concert 1
Friday 22 August, 7pm, ABC Adelaide, Studio 520 – Chamber Music Round concert 2
Thursday 28 August, 7pm, Adelaide Town Hall – Grand Final and Concerto Round 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

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 Trudy Johnston, 0402 485 902, trudy@vimandzest.com.au
ABOUT the 2014 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 70 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 was introduced, with the introduction of a chamber music round and the presentation of all finals rounds in a festival format. These finals include recital programs, chamber music and concertos with one of Australia’s state Symphony Orchestras, with numbers of contestants reducing as each round is performed.

The 2014 Young Performer of the Year will receive a cash prize of $25,000 and will perform their concerto with the ASO in the Grand Final and twice more in two Masters Series concerts on 29 and 30 August, as well as a CD recording and media training and opportunities.

There is also a wide range of prizes, including prizes for Best Recital, Best Chamber Music Performance, Best Performance of an Australian work and the People’s Choice prize.

Recognising the variety of skills required by musicians in today’s multitude of performance opportunities, the competition has been broadened whilst 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.

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