



--Embargoed until 06:00 AEDT Monday 13 November 2017--

## **ENTRIES OPEN FOR THE RE-LAUNCHED ABC YOUNG PERFORMERS AWARDS**

Entries open today for the ABC Young Performers Awards, Australia's most prestigious competition for young classical instrumentalists.

The awards, long recognised for their reputation for launching international careers, are hosted by ABC Classic FM and the Music & Opera Singers Trust (MOST).

The Awards have provided aspiring young musicians the opportunity to perform with Australia's major orchestras for more than 70 years. Since their inception they have been a launchpad onto the international stage for acclaimed international musicians such as Roger Woodward, Simon Tedeschi, Claire Edwards, Amy Dickson and Tamara-Anna Cislowska.

The 2018 awards offer significant prize value\*, including cash awards, performance opportunities and the chance to become ABC Classic FM's inaugural Artist in Residence.

Entrants are invited to upload video entries to [youngperformersawards.org](http://youngperformersawards.org) before March 6th, 2018, when a judging panel, led by Dene Olding AM, will select 12 semi-finalists.

Digital video entry, included in the awards for the first time, will enable musicians from all around Australia to participate, and will allow Australian musicians studying overseas to enter the awards.

Semi-finalists will perform in public concerts at Sydney's City Recital Hall on July 16-17<sup>th</sup>. Three finalists will then go on to perform at the Sydney Opera House with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra on July 24<sup>th</sup>, with all concerts broadcast by ABC Classic FM.

"The ABC Young Performers Awards play a crucial role in developing and supporting the careers of the next generation of Australia's finest musical talent," said Richard Buckham, ABC Classic FM's Content Manager. "We are pleased that we can once more bring this competition to a national audience."

"These Awards have a unique ability to shine a light on the classical performers of tomorrow" added Roland Gridiger, Chairman of MOST. "We know that opening the competition to digital entry will enable young performers from all over Australia to enter and we look forward to the range and quality of entries."

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For more information please contact Louise Alley at ABC Classic FM on 02 8333 2711 or 0422 348 652, email [alley.louise@abc.net.au](mailto:alley.louise@abc.net.au)

\*Full prize list as follows:

**Awarded to the Young Performer of the Year:**

**Australian Elizabeth Theatre Trust Scholarship**

A scholarship to study overseas sponsored by the Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust. Funds are available in two tranches over two years and are distributed as a draw-down facility of \$25,000 per annum.

**Sheila Walker Scholarship**

Cash grant of \$30,000 to help an aspiring musician.

**ABC Classic FM Artist-in-Residence Prize**

An opportunity for recording and broadcast opportunities with Australia's only national classical music network

Young Performer of the Year also receives a limited-edition work by renowned sculptor, Drago Marin Cherina.

**Prizes & opportunities for finalists:**

**Triffitt Bequest**

Cash Grant of \$15,000 for each of the runners-up to pursue further study.

**YMF Award**

A total award of \$25,000 paid over two years \$10,000 per year with an additional \$5,000 following a performance for the sponsor in Melbourne.

**Allen Evans Scholarship**

Cash grant of up to \$10,000 for a cellist with a programme of study and career development. Winner also receives The Allen-Evans, limited edition, Drago Marin Cherina bronze sculpture.

**Sydney Symphony Orchestra Prize**

A performance opportunity with the SSO.

**Adelaide Symphony Orchestra (ASO) Prize**

A performance opportunity with the ASO.

**Melbourne Symphony Orchestra (MSO) Prize**

A performance opportunity with the MSO.

**City Recital Hall Prize**

An opportunity to perform as part of the 2018 lunchtime concert series at the City Recital Hall, Sydney.

**Melbourne Recital Hall Prize**

A performance opportunity at the Melbourne Recital Hall.

**UKARIA Recital Prize**

A performance opportunity at UKARIA Cultural Centre.

**Australian Festival of Chamber Music Recital Prize**

A performance opportunity as a festival artist at the 2020 AFCM.

**Nelly Apt Scholarship**

Up to \$7,500 cash grant to assist with a programme of study in Israel.

Recipient (if a string player) entitled to 50% reduction in fees for Keshet Eilon Summer Mastercourse.

