WAAPA 2008 Classical Music Awards announced

On 25 September, the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts celebrated the achievements of its most outstanding classical music students at a presentation ceremony for the 2008 Classical Music Awards.

“The music program at WAAPA continues to go from strength to strength as evidenced by the exceptional performances the audience was treated to last Thursday evening,” says Director of WAAPA, Julie Warn. “And I know the competition was fierce!”

Postgraduate opera student Harriet Marshall of Mosman Park was the winner of the Barbara MacLeod Scholarship. Worth $12,000, this prestigious scholarship will enable the talented soprano to further develop her vocal skills and artistry by undertaking intensive tuition with world-class experts.

Marshall is planning to use her prize money to attend masterclasses in Germany with internationally renowned vocal coach, Neil Semer, and in Italy with acclaimed singer and bel canto specialist, Mirella Freni. Marshall also plans to enrol in an intensive German course at the Goethe Institut in Berlin.

Melville resident Aidan Boase was awarded two prizes at last week’s presentation ceremony: the Cecilia Daff Award for the most outstanding first year pianist, worth $2000, and the inaugural Warana Music Award for the best concerto performer, worth $500. The Warana Music Award was judged in early September at the Warana Music Award competition.

Boase, who began playing the piano at five years of age, was Dux of TEE Music at Perth Modern Senior High School last year for his studies in both piano and clarinet, was a joint recipient of the Top Instrumental Student award, and was awarded the Associate Diploma in Music Australia (AMusA) on piano. He was also awarded the Dettman Scholarship in both 2005 and 2007. Boase plans to use the prize monies from his most recent awards towards music scores and further music studies.

Flautist Therése Löwdin of East Fremantle and harpist Catherine Ashley of Scarborough were the joint winners of the EKCO Investments Chamber Music Award, worth $2000, for their outstanding work as the duo ‘Therése and Catherine’. This award specifically aims to encourage students to engage in student-driven chamber music.

Löwdin, an international student from Sweden currently in her final year of a Bachelor of Music at WAAPA, was also the recipient of the EKCO Investments Award in 2006. Ashley is a first year Bachelor of Music student studying under Anthony Maydwell.

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Martin resident Adam Brockway was awarded the Faith Court Award, worth $2000, for the most outstanding first year violin student, and Rachael Hardie of Como won the Michelle Robinson Award for Voice, worth $2000, for the most outstanding first year vocal student.

Brockway graduated from Perth Modern Senior High School in 2006, taking with him the award for Most Outstanding Instrumental Student and the Dettman Scholarship. In addition to his violin studies, Brockway is a passionate singer, having formed and performed in several vocal ensembles. Although only just finishing his first year of study at the Academy, Brockway is already planning future studies at the Kodály Institute in Hungary with a view to becoming a choral conductor.

Rachael Hardie's win follows on from a vocal scholarship at Penrhos College from 2004-2007, and experience singing lead roles in many musicals and in the children’s chorus for the West Australian Opera’s production of Carmen.

Cellist Emma Hayes of Willetton was the recipient of the Helen Court Award, worth $2000, for the most outstanding final year student in the Classical Music program. Hayes, who began playing the cello at the age of eight, was the winner of the Faith Court Award in 2006 and is a founding member of the chamber ensemble, The Goldsmith Collective.

Chris de Groot, who is investigating the relationship between film sound effects and music for his Masters of Music in Screen Composition, won the inaugural Tura New Music Commissioning Prize for Composition. This award, presented to a final year WAAPA Composition student, involves a cash prize of $1500 to be used as a commission for a new work. Currently residing in Tuart Hill, de Groot plans to use his commissioning prize to compose a film score.

WAAPA congratulates these outstanding musicians, and is indebted to its very generous sponsors who generously support the student scholarship program.

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