WAAPA 2009 Classical Music Awards announced

On 2 September, the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts celebrated the achievements of its most outstanding classical music students at a presentation ceremony for the 2009 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 Wednesday evening,” says Director of WAAPA, Julie Warn. “And I know the competition was fierce!”

Morgan Cowling of South Perth, who recently graduated with a Bachelor of Classical Music (Voice), was the winner of the prestigious Barbara MacLeod Scholarship. Worth $12,000, the scholarship will enable the talented soprano to further develop her vocal skills and artistry by undertaking intensive tuition with world-class experts.

Cowling is planning to use her prize money to fly to New York for a self-devised study period with singing teachers and coaches, and for acting and movement classes. Perth audiences will get the opportunity to see Cowling on stage from October 10-17, when she will sing the role of Blanche in WAAPA’s upcoming production of *The Dialogues of the Carmelites*.

Melville resident Aidan Boase was awarded the Warana Music Award for the best concerto performer, worth $500.

The 19-year-old pianist, who is in his second year of WAAPA’s Classical Music program, competed in the annual Warana Music Award competition in early August against three other students who each performed a concerto of their choice with the Faith Court Orchestra. This is the second year in a row that Boase has won the Warana, having also taken out the prize at last year’s inaugural competition. In addition, Boase was the 2008 recipient of the Cecilia Daff Award.

This year, the $2000 Cecilia Daff Award for the most outstanding first year pianist was awarded to Dianella resident, Lucien Crotty. Kyla Allan, also of Dianella, won the $2000 Michelle Robinson Award for Voice, for the most outstanding first year vocal student. Kathryn Shinnick, who resides in Mundaring, was awarded the Faith Court Award, worth $2000, for the most outstanding first year violin student.

Shinnick, with violinist Madeleine Antoine, viola player Cheralyn Simpson and cellist Sacha McCulloch, is a member of the Villette String Quartet, which was awarded the EKCO Investments Chamber Music Award, worth $2000. This award specifically aims to encourage students to engage in student-driven chamber music. In addition to performing at WAAPA, Villette String Quartet have performed concerts for the Shire of Roebouerne’s Cossack Art Awards and the City of Perth’s Winter Arts Festival.

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Baritone Ryan Sharp of Hocking was the recipient of the Helen Court Award, worth $2000, for the most outstanding final year student in the Classical Music program. While completing his studies at WAAPA, Sharp also sings in the Western Australian Opera Chorus. Sharp intends to use his prize money towards travelling overseas next year for auditions.

Alice Humphries won the 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 Cottesloe, Humphries plans to use her commissioning prize to compose a new work for chamber jazz ensemble that combines a contemporary jazz writing style with contemporary and experimental classical ideas.

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

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For further information, interviews or photo opportunities, please contact:
Anton Maz,
Marketing Manager
Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts
Phone: (08) 9370 6817  Mob: 0404 699 772  Email: a.maz@ecu.edu.au