



Forte.

For family and friends of the | AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL **PIANO** AWARD |

Volume 13 – Issue 2

Spring - August 2014

Melbourne Launch of ANPA

On July 15th, approximately 100 people, many of them Shepparton supporters of ANPA, attended Government House in Melbourne for the launch of the 2014 Award by the Lieutenant Governor of Victoria, The Honourable Chief Justice Marilyn Warren AC, on behalf of the Governor of Victoria.

The announcement of the 13 finalists, aged between 21 and 35 years, who hail from NSW, Victoria and Queensland in this year's biennial Award, followed a short recital of works by Schubert, Gluck and Prokofiev by the 2012 ANPA Winner, Daniel de Borah.



2012 Award Winner Daniel de Borah performing at the Melbourne Launch.



Audience enjoying the performance.



Daniel Liu, Natalie Lin, the Honourable Marilyn Warren AC, Daniel de Borah, Yiyun Gu and Daniel Le.

DATES for your DIARY

Tuesday 19th August
ANPA Shepparton Launch – Eastbank Centre

Wednesday - Friday 20th – 22nd August
11.30am – 1.30pm
Latrobe University -
Performances to promote the Award

ANPA Award Week – Eastbank Centre

Sunday 7th September
Welcome function
Ballot for Order of Performance is drawn.

Daily Recitals
Monday 8th – Thursday 11th September
1pm – 3.30pm and 7.30pm – 9.30pm
Entry: Adults \$10, Secondary Students \$5 or free with accompanying teachers

Semi-final recitals
Friday 12th September 12 noon-5pm
Entry: Adults \$10, Secondary Students \$5 or free with accompanying teachers

Gala Dinner
Friday 12th September
Guest Speaker: The Honourable Barry Jones AC

Grand Final Concert
Saturday 13th September 8pm
Patrons are asked to be seated by 7.45pm
Entry: Adults \$30, Concession \$25, Students \$10
Special: Weekly package \$100 per person including the Grand Final

The ABC Classic FM broadcast of the Grand Final Concert will be scheduled for Sunday afternoon, 14th September.

Sunday 12th October 2pm
Playing for Pleasure – Eastbank Centre
Contact: Carolyn Leslie 0417 529 514

President's report

We are now in those frenetic, though exciting weeks, leading up to this year's presentation of ANPA. As always, we have a very exciting field of brilliant young pianists, including some who have played in previous years.

Just recently (July 15), the winner of ANPA in 2012, Daniel de Borah, gave us a spell-binding performance at the Melbourne launch of ANPA, hosted by the Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Chief Justice Marilyn Warren. We are privileged that the Governor, Dr Alex Chernov and his wife, joint Patrons-in-Chief of ANPA, will attend the Grand-final recital on Saturday, September 13.

A cocktail party to launch ANPA in Shepparton will be held on the evening of Tuesday, August 19, with representatives of the Greater Shepparton City Council and the Mayor, Councillor Jenny Houlihan present. The evening's entertainment will feature a dancer, accompanied by Julie Tracy (piano), and piano solos performed by a third-year Monash University piano student, Thomas Hill.

We welcome heartily the Finalists for ANPA 2014 and the Adjudicators, Wendy Lorenz (Australia), Murray McLachlan (United Kingdom) and Paul Badura-Skoda (Austria), to Shepparton. ANPA is proud to have such renowned and respected adjudicators.

The Gala Dinner at Eastbank on Friday evening is always an exciting event. This year's guest speaker will be The Honourable Barry Jones AC.

The contact for the Gala Dinner is Barbara Brown on 0409 178 091.

As always, the Board appreciates the sponsors and all who billet performers and assist ANPA. If you want to hear some of the best piano playing in this country, don't miss ANPA 2014!

Darryl G. Coote,
President of the Board – Australian National Piano Award

Imogen Cooper is coming to Melbourne!

Musica Viva is delighted to present Imogen Cooper in two concerts: **Tuesday 26 August 7pm and Saturday 30 August 8pm at Elisabeth Murdoch Hall, Melbourne Recital Centre.**

One of the greatest pianists of her generation, Imogen Cooper makes a long overdue return to Australia for this special program highlighting her poetic, insightful interpretations of the composers closest to her heart: Brahms, Schubert and Schumann.

For further information, including concert details, please visit www.musicaviva.com.au/imogen-cooper

Musica Viva Victoria would like to offer members of the Australian National Piano Award a 10% discount on tickets for these two concerts in Melbourne. To take advantage of this offer please either ring Musica Viva box office on 1800 688 482 or go online at www.musicaviva.com.au/imogen-cooper and quote PIANO at the promotion code prompt.



Playing for Pleasure Concert

The "Playing for Pleasure" concert was conceived when the Eastbank Steinway grand piano was purchased in Germany in 2004 and an initiative was made by Greater Shepparton City Council to help utilise the community's new magnificent grand piano by holding concerts for Shepparton audiences. By choosing a Sunday afternoon, an opportunity was provided for all music lovers, young families and our senior community members to attend.

In past years, successful concerts attended by large audiences have been held, not only to help celebrate local talent in our area, but also to find a way of giving something back to the generous ANPA sponsors we have in our community. Local performing artists, music teachers and students

have been involved in past years, including local medical students who share an interest and passion in pianoforte performance. Such concerts, held in a relaxed atmosphere, with performers playing for enjoyment, assure all of a varied and pleasurable program of music.

Apart from the enjoyment of playing pianoforte, players need to be proficient at performance to allow the pleasure of performing to be shared amongst both performers and audience. Quality and accomplished musical performances are therefore expected. ANPA proudly supports local musical talent, but must preserve its connection with the Piano Award and the promotion of excellence in musicianship in the best way it can.

Performances at Latrobe University, Shepparton Campus

Following the acquisition of a Grand Piano by Latrobe University at its Shepparton Campus, Shepparton pianists will perform on Wednesday to Friday, 20th – 22nd August from 11.30am – 1.30pm to promote the Australian National Piano Award in September.

Profiles of 2014 ANPA Finalists

The biographies and achievements of the 13 talented finalists in the 2014 ANPA Award indicate that the competition this year will be very keenly contested indeed. Five performers have appeared at previous ANPAs and all participants are actively engaged in a wide range of performance activities and have experienced success, both nationally and internationally: as soloists, concerto performers and musicians in chamber music ensembles; as winners of prestigious scholarships and awards; taking Masterclasses with pre-eminent teachers; and recording live performances and CDs. For more particular details, please do check the ANPA website: www.australianpianoaward.com.au

Ben Austin (23 yrs)



Originally from Tasmania, Ben's advanced piano studies were taken at the Queensland Conservatorium, where he graduated in 2012 with a Bachelor of Music with First Class Honours under Natasha Vlassenko.

Currently, he is studying a Masters in Music Performance at the Melbourne Conservatorium under Professor Ian Holtham.

Berta Brozgul (24 yrs)



Berta's life as a soloist and chamber musician is truly international: South African-born, she moved to Australia when 11 and studied at the VCA specialist music school. She graduated from the Mozarteum in Salzburg and has

recorded Bach Keyboard Concerti with the Mozarteum Orchestra. Berta completed the Mastercourse at the international Euro Arts Festival in Klosterneuberg in 2010, and in 2014, performed the complete Chopin Preludes in Florence and Salzburg and took part in the Horowitz Centenary celebrations.

John Fisher (29 yrs)



John's early piano studies began with his mother in Brisbane and later, at the Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University, with Natasha Vlassenko and Oleg Stepanov. Later, he studied with Oxana Yablonskaya and

Boris Berman at the Hartt School, University of Hartford, USA. John is currently studying with Vanessa Latache for an Artist Diploma at the Royal College of Music, London, where he won the Chappell Medal for Piano in February this year. John participates in a variety of chamber music ensembles and is active as an accompanist.

Yiyun Gu (28 yrs)



Born in Shanghai, Yiyun Gu loves playing piano as a soloist and chamber musician. She completed a Master of Music at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music under Stephen McIntyre AM and performed in the 6th

China International Piano Competition and the Lev Vlassenko Piano Competition in Australia in 2013. Besides her musical attributes, Yiyun also holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics and a Master's degree in Commerce.

Adam Gordon Herd (29 yrs)



Adam has graduated with a Bachelor of Music with First-Class Honours from the Queensland Conservatorium and a Master's Degree from the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, Finland. His debut solo CD, *From Shadows*,

received great praise and 5 stars from Fine Music Magazine. His acceptance into the Artistic Doctoral program at the Sibelius Academy in 2015 will permit him to focus on jazz-influenced piano repertoire of the Twentieth Century, particularly the performance of music by Nikolai Kapustin, and to pursue his passion for teaching, as he investigates the impact of imitative teaching strategies in both jazz and classical piano pedagogy.

Nadezhda (Nadia) Koudasheva (21 yrs)



Nadia, a Russian-born pianist, graduated from Sydney Conservatorium High School in 2010 and is currently an Honours performance student studying with Phillip Shovk at the Sydney Conservatorium.

Nadia has performed in Russia, Europe and Australia and was a prize-winner at the XVI Moscow International Festival of Young Soloists and attended the International Piano Academy Freiburg (Germany). An active chamber musician and accompanist and student of early keyboard courses, her Honours thesis will investigate transcriptions of works by J.S.Bach by Russian/ Soviet pianists.

Daniel Le (21 yrs)



Daniel achieved his Licentiate Diploma of Music at 14 and has won many scholarships and awards since. In 2007, he joined the ANAM Young Academy Program under Rita Reichman.

He won the 'Most Promising Pianist' award at the Australian Concerto Competition and has performed Saint-Saens' Piano Concerto in Tokyo and Gamigori in Japan. He won a Premier's award with his perfect score of 50 for Music Performance in VCE. Daniel is currently on a full scholarship to the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music in Singapore, where he studies with Professor Thomas Hecht.

Natasha Lin (29 yrs)



Natasha is known for her passionate and energetic piano recitals around Melbourne and her performances with larger ensembles such as the Hopkins Sinfonia. Following piano studies at the Sydney Conservatorium of

Music, the Australian Institute of Music and the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, she completed her Master of Music in Piano Performance in 2013.

Natasha is a strong advocate for new Australian music and regularly collaborates with Australian composers and the promotion of new Australian works locally and internationally.

Aaron Liu (21 yrs)



Born in Melbourne, Aaron completed his Bachelor of Music in Advanced Performance (Honours) in 2013 at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, Griffith University, and received the Griffith

Award for Academic Excellence for his studies from 2010-2013.

Over the years, Aaron has been successful in notable music competitions and, in addition to 2014 ANPA, he has been selected to perform in the Hamamatsu, and Sydney, International Piano Competitions.

Alex Raineri (21 yrs)



Alex, from Queensland, recently graduated with a Bachelor of Music (Honours) and a University Medal from the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, Griffith University, under Leah Horwitz OAM and Timothy Young.

He is currently undertaking a Master of Music Research through ANAM and the Queensland Conservatorium. He is an active soloist and chamber musician in contemporary ensembles and New Music, and is co-artistic director and pianist in the ensemble *Kupka's Piano*, which has an ongoing residency at the Judith Wright Centre (Brisbane). Alex has just returned from performances in the International Summer Courses for New Music in Darmstadt, Germany.

William Schmidt (27 yrs)



William studied with Glenn Riddle at the Melbourne University Conservatorium of Music and with Dr Johannes Kropfitch in Vienna at the Konservatorium Wien, where he completed his Master of Music in 2011. As a soloist,

chamber musician and associate artist for singers, William has recorded live for major radio stations in Australia and California and was the featured composer for the Camberwell Music Society's 2011 concert series. William has been awarded an impressive range of scholarships, awards and prizes for Recitals, Concerto performance and Composition.

David Soo (21 yrs)



Melbourne pianist David Soo is studying with Glenn Riddle at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music and has performed internationally in France, Malaysia, Indonesia and New Zealand. He has won

many significant national and international scholarships and his recent solo debut was a sell-out at the Melbourne Recital Centre. David's impressive range of concertos in his repertoire includes Arensky, Bach, Chopin, Mozart, Liszt, Prokofiev and Shostakovich. In November, David will perform the Melbourne premier of John Carmichael's *Conciérto Folklorico* with the Melbourne Musicians.

Anne Veinberg (27 yrs)



Anne Veinberg studied at Conservatorium High School and the University of Melbourne, Faculty of Music, before moving to the Netherlands, where she completed her Masters at the Conservatorium of Amsterdam. Anne's

performances in Australia and Europe are as recitalist, concerto soloist, improviser, and chamber music and larger ensemble player. She has a keen interest in contemporary music and collaborates with composers in solo and ensemble new works. Anne was a finalist with *de Linkprijs* and a prize-winner at the Stockhausen Courses in 2013.

The address of **The Honourable Barry Jones AC** as Guest Speaker at the Gala Award Dinner will be greatly anticipated. An Australian polymath, writer, lawyer, social activist and former politician, he is popularly recognized as a quiz champion and one who campaigned against capital punishment and the execution of Ronald Ryan throughout the 1960s. He has three Doctorates and is on the National Trust's list of Australian Treasures.

Next Australian National Piano Awards 8th - 13th September 2014

Interview with Mary Stewart, ANPA host

Why did you decide to host contestants?

We were happy to help with what was the first Piano Award and have hosted a finalist for every Award but two. We were in our mid-thirties, with two young children, and both working fulltime. We had recently moved into our new home, with bare cement, a garden of Paterson's Curse, couch grass and piles of sand, and lived 10 kms out of town. Despite Judy's (Longley) concerns, we coped and revelled in it.

How would you describe the experience?

Fabulous. We have had hilarity, tension, frustration, exhilaration and sadness – sometimes all in the one day! Coming from large families, the more in our home the merrier. Although my husband, Tim, is a bit shy and was not brought up listening to classical music, he has found the experience as much fun as I have.

Do you keep in touch with former contestants you've hosted?

We have made some good friends and have kept in touch with many of them - and sometimes with their families and friends. We are very excited to hear one of "our" finalists playing a concert on radio and reports of where they have been and what they have done.

What do you get from the experience of hosting?

Most exciting is the insight into what makes a person with such exceptional talent tick.

Most have been in their early twenties and are relatively unformed. We have the amazing experience of watching them grow into their talent and it is an honour to be involved in a small way in their development as a person, if not as a professional musician.

Would you recommend hosting to others?

We would definitely recommend it, so long as you enjoy company and caring for others. It also helps to be flexible and easy-going, because, although we expect guests to fit in with us to some extent, we also adapt to their needs. During the stressful period of the Award, the finalists need to be comfortable, secure and happy. It can be very demanding but we all need to work together.

What about any issues a contestant may have?

We've had lovelorn hearts to mend, angry heads to soothe and every other type of drama you can imagine; car accidents, clothes lost or requiring urgent repairs, parents to keep at bay, spirits to lift and anxieties to quell.

We have never had an unhappy experience as hosts and there have been many funny times. Mark Kruger was unflappable, when our children Alice (3) and William (4) kept creeping into the room and sitting on the piano stool with him when he was practising. Another guest realised he had left his suit pants at home and we had to find another pair of dinner suit pants to fit.

Should Shepparton retain the ANPA?

ANPA is a fabulous event for us to have. It has been incredibly enriching to be hosts and to be a part of the ANPA "family". We are able to hear piano playing of such high standard live in our own homes; to meet and become part of the life of some exceptional young pianists; and to enjoy the experience with other families and members of the community.

Is there anything you would have liked me to ask that I didn't?

Yes, I want to say that being a good host isn't about being fussy and waiting hand and foot on a guest. It's about being relaxed and supporting the finalist, emotionally as well as physically, and making them feel comfortable.

We also encourage them to make the most of the opportunity to listen to and mix with other finalists. They may be competing with them but that doesn't mean they are enemies. Their lives are somewhat isolated and unreal and this is a great opportunity for them to have contact with their peers.

Jayson Gillham's success at Montréal

Barbara Brown's interview with 2008 ANPA Winner, Jayson Gillham, in the last edition of Forte, was particularly prescient. News arrived by email from a previous ANPA Adjudicator, Mr Roger Lord, from Canada, and from an article in the June edition of the ABC magazine, Limelight,

that Jayson had taken out the first prize of \$30,000 in the Montréal Piano Concerto competition over 24 contestants from 15 countries. Praised for his playing that exhibited "streamlined, patrician elegance", Mr Lord said Jayson set himself apart from the other 4 finalists by his "excellent" ("Wow!")

playing of a non-Russian concerto, Beethoven's Fourth Piano Concerto, against concertos by Russian composers, Rachmaninov, Prokofiev and Tchaikovsky. We congratulate Jayson on his success and the string of important engagements and career development opportunities it brings.

We seek your email address

Receiving your newsletter and ANPA information by email is such a speedy and economical way to acquaint you with the latest news. Please forward your name and email details to: info@australianpianoaward.com.au

Our website is now live... www.australianpianoaward.com.au

SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS



Mrs Gaye & Mr John Gaylard
Anonymus
M J Renehan Pty Ltd

Dr Ron Speechley
The Andreadis Family
The Horton Family

Mrs Naomi Loughhead
Dr Bruce Sterling & Mrs Leona Sterling
Mrs Pam Wells

Mrs Wilma and Mr Lance Woodhouse
Mrs Cindy & Mr David Abbey
Mrs Barbara and Mr Ian Brown