



## **PROFILE, Pianist Mekhla Kumar (27yrs)**

Mekhla Kumar is competing in 2016 Australian National Piano Award  
5-10 September

Adelaide-born pianist Mekhla Kumar is a prize winning solo artist and chamber musician. In 2007 Mekhla gained a place at the Elder Conservatorium of Music in the class of Professor Stefan Ammer, where she completed her Bachelor of Music with Honours, achieving first class. In 2013, under the tutelage of Dr. Tibor Szasz Mekhla achieved a rare 100 percent for her Master's degree at the Hochschule für Musik in Freiburg, Germany.

Mekhla has been a recipient of several scholarships including the EMR travelling Scholarship and was awarded the Rotary Club's "Carpe Diem" Trust. In 2012 Mekhla received the "Emerging Artist Award" from the Elder Conservatorium and the Helpmann Academy and was awarded a grant from the Ian Potter Cultural Trust. She is currently receiving an Australian Postgraduate Award for her performance PhD on the Liszt Sonata in b minor.

Mekhla has participated in master classes with Roy Howat, Bart van Oort, Leslie Howard, Imogen Cooper, Bernd Glemser, Claudio Martinez Mahner, Robert Hill and played alongside Marc-André Hamelin.

Mekhla performs throughout Germany and Australia and has broadcast live for German radio stations. Recent highlights include the premiere of an arrangement made especially for Mekhla's chamber music ensemble of Igor Stravinsky's "The Rite of Spring" for two pianos and percussion, collaborating with Grammy nominated bassoon virtuoso, Martin Kuuskmann, the Langbein Quartet premiering "Invocation" by Jakub Jankowski, and performing the Scriabin Sonatas at the Port Fairy Spring Music Festival in commemoration of the centenary of Aleksander Scriabin.

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For media interviews or photos please contact: Nicola Archer, Nicola Archer Communications on 0419 002 769 or [nicola@nicolaarcher.com](mailto:nicola@nicolaarcher.com)