



Friday 12 September, 2014

Even the Steinway's 'ivory keys' have felt the heat of this contest leading up to The Semi-Final of the Australian National Piano Award

Since Monday 8 September, the rich tunes of classical music (works from Romantic, Baroque, French Impressionists and Australian contemporary) have been performed on one of the best Steinway's in Australia by 13 of the nation's top, rising pianists (age 21-30).

The Australian National Piano Award (8-13 September) has secured centre stage in the arts precinct of Shepparton, providing the platform for 13 rising stars to shine under the spotlight and the scrutiny of three international judges and hundreds of passionate music lovers, daily.

The 13 musicians have played two recitals each and today – Friday 12 September, the top five have been selected by adjudicators – Paul Badura-Skoda (Austria), Murray McLachlin (United Kingdom) and Wendy Lorenz (Australia).

Order of Performance from midday to 5pm at the Eastbank Centre, Shepparton: 4.15 pm
Ends recitals and Jury discussion and then Three Grand Finalists will be announced by 5pm:

Order of performance:

- Daniel Le from Victoria
- David Soo from Victoria
- Alex Raineri from Queensland
- Ben Austin from Tasmania
- John Fisher from Queensland

Audiences will witness these talented musicians telling their stories; interpreting the music during the five recitals all afternoon and into the balmy night in the massive auditorium. Some of the audience have travelled from Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney just to listen; and to acknowledge Australia's top pianists of their generation.

This is the biggest piano competition of its kind in this country and is full of suspense, musical brilliance and entertainment and today will be no exception; as the five pianists have their chance to perform 45 minute recitals each in the hope that they will be selected for the Grand final on Saturday night.

Saturday September 13 marks the final round and will determine the ultimate winner as the final three musicians (announced at a gala dinner the night before) battle it out for serious prize money, prizes and concert engagements (\$65,000 in total), but most importantly the coveted title, "Winner of the 2014 Australian National Piano Award".



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL **PIANO** AWARD

The grand final on Saturday starts at 8pm to a packed auditorium (800 seats) and will also be broadcast on Sunday 14 September around Australia by ABC Classic FM.

Who will be performing beautiful music live on stage in the relaxed country atmosphere, synonymous with Shepparton? Come and find out.

What: Semi-finals on Friday 12 September, 2014 – starting at midday to 5pm

Where: Eastbank Centre, Greater City of Shepparton (Victoria)

Tickets: \$10 per person, Students Free

(Grand Final Saturday 13 September: Start: 8pm – Adults \$30, concession \$25, Students \$10)

Book tickets through Riverlinks reservations: 03 5832 9511

Artists must perform masterworks by the likes of Beethoven, Bach, Schubert and Debussy, covering Baroque, Classical, 19th Century Romantic and French Impressionist music and music written after 1950. Plus they choose an Australian work to complete their repertoire, in order to win. They must memorise their entire program, without sheet music whilst they extract the maximum artistry from each work.

The 2014 finalists hail from NSW, Victoria, Tasmania and Queensland:

Visit: www.australianpianoaward.com.au to find out more about the above pianists.

For further media information please contact: Nicola Archer, Nicola Archer Communications on 0419 002 769 or nicola@nicolaarcher.com