
Announcement of Melbourne Prize for Music 2007 Finalists

The Melbourne Prize Trust, in conjunction with the Committee for Melbourne, today announced 20 finalists in the Melbourne Prize for Music 2007.

The Melbourne Prize for Music 2007 consists of three prize categories and is the most valuable prize of its kind in Australia.

The \$60,000 **Melbourne Prize for Music 2007** will be awarded to a Victorian professional musician, or group of musicians, whose body of work has made an outstanding contribution to Australian music and has enriched our cultural and public life.

This prize includes an international travel scholarship, valued at \$30,000, supported by the City of Melbourne and \$30,000 cash, supported by the Sidney Myer Fund and the Melbourne Prize Trust. The prize also includes an Italian language and cultural course, provided by the Italian Institute of Culture.

The finalists for the **Melbourne Prize for Music 2007** are:

- Brenton Broadstock
- Paul Grabowsky
- David Jones
- Paul Kelly
- Richard Mills

The \$30,000 **Outstanding Musicians Award** will recognise the recent work of a Victorian professional musician, or group of musicians, which is an outstanding example of creativity and skill. The award is supported equally by the Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund and the Sidney Myer Fund.

The finalists for the **Outstanding Musicians Award** are:

- Clare Bowditch
- David Chisholm
- The Cat Empire
- Luke Howard and Leonard Grigoryan
- Cameron Hill
- Andrea Keller
- Genevieve Lacey
- Stephen Magnussen
- Geoffrey Morris
- Flinders Quartet

The **Development Award** will recognise an emerging individual Victorian musician, or group of musicians, who demonstrate outstanding musical talent with the potential to further develop their professional career. Valued at \$12,000, the award comprises a \$5,000 music instrument or equipment grant, supported by Yamaha Music Australia and \$7,000 cash, supported by Yamaha Music Australia, Readings and the Melbourne Prize Trust.

The finalists for the **Development Award** are:

- Sam Anning
- Sophie Brous
- Aura Go
- Julian Langdon
- Tristram Williams

A three-month residency at the School of Music, Victorian College of the Arts, Faculty of The University of Melbourne, will be awarded to a finalist in either the Outstanding Musicians Award or Development Award.

A free public display of finalists' achievements will be held at Federation Square; the home of the annual Melbourne Prize and exhibition partner, between 12 and 26 November 2007. Visitors to the exhibition at Federation Square will be able to read about each finalist and listen to their music.

The Melbourne Prize for Music 2007 winners will be announced on www.melbourneprizetrust.org on 13 November.

The Prize's Awarding Committee includes Trevor Green - Managing Director, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Nicolette Fraillon – Music Director and Chief Conductor, the Australian Ballet, Dr. Tony Gould AM, Professor Jonty Stockdale – Head, School of Music, VCA, Faculty of The University of Melbourne and Chong Lim – Composer, Producer, and Musical Director.

The Advisory Group, consisting of Huw Humphreys – Director of Artistic Planning, MSO, Lyndall Metzke – Concerts Administrator, VCA and Slava Grigoryan, assisted the judges.

More than 130 entries were reviewed before choosing the list of finalists.

Melbourne Prize Trust Executive Director and Founder, Mr Simon Warrender, said "our list of finalists is as diverse as the music tastes of the community and represents the immense musical talent we have in Victoria".

"The Melbourne Prize for Music 2007 is unique in that it is open to performers and composers across all musical genres - we want to recognise and reward talent, regardless of genre," said Mr Warrender.

"We are particularly pleased at the number of entries for our Development Award. The three Prize categories are broad, rewarding an outstanding contribution to Australian music and to cultural and public life, whilst also recognising mid career and emerging musical talent.

"This year's Prize importantly makes a contribution to the development of our local music talent and has been made possible by the support of our many partners and patrons", said Mr Warrender

All prize announcements will be available at www.melbourneprizetrust.org

About the Melbourne Prize

The annual Melbourne Prize is the prize of the city for the city and focuses on Melbourne's position as an arts and culture hub. Run over a three-year cycle for Victorian entrants, it commenced with the Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture in 2005, the Melbourne Prize for Literature in 2006 and the Melbourne Prize for Music in 2007. The three-year cycle will start again with the Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2008. A main prize of \$60,000 is planned for each year, plus other award categories tailored specifically to benefit each sector.

Listed on the Australian Federal Government's Register of Cultural Organisations, the Melbourne Prize Trust is an initiative of the Committee for Melbourne and coordinates the annual Melbourne Prize. The generous support of partners and patrons has made the annual Melbourne Prize possible.

For further information please visit www.melbourneprizetrust.org

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Interviews with Mr Simon Warrender are available upon request.

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