



KENDALL NATIONAL VIOLIN COMPETITION

2017 Finalists

Winner's Repertoire

- J. S. Bach Solo Sonata No.2, a minor BWV 1003
Grave, Allegro
- E. Greenhill Paper Boats
- R. Strauss Sonata in E flat major Op.18 for Violin and Piano
I. Allegro, ma non troppo II. Improvisation: Andante cantabile III. Finale: Andante – Allegro
- H. Wieniawski *Polonaise de Concert* in D major No.1, Op.4



RILEY SKEVINGTON

Building on an undergraduate degree from the University of Western Australia, I have spent the last four years in the Advanced Performance Program at the Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM), predominantly studying under Dr Robin Wilson. ANAM has provided incredible experiences to broaden my performance skills across solo, chamber and orchestral music. Along with Robin Wilson, Howard Penny and Timothy Young provide ongoing tuition for my piano trio, the *Clarendon Trio*. As the recipients of the ANAM Chamber Music Prize in 2017, we look forward to performing in the Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition later this year.

I have performed in a number of other national and international music festivals through the Australian Chamber Orchestra (ACO), Musica Viva, ANAM or the Australian Youth Orchestra (AYO). Examples include the Huntington Estate Festival, TarraWarra Festival, Melbourne International Music Festival, Perth International Arts Festival, Meuhin Festival and the BBC Proms, in addition to the opportunity to perform in amazing international concert venues throughout China and Europe. Concerts in Germany have included Berlin, Wiesbaden, Kassel, Mecklenberg-Vorpommern and Ulrichshusen.

In my most recent performance with the ACO, I shared the first desk with Richard Tognetti OA for the orchestral arrangement of the Brahms sextet in the ACO 2018 opening concert tour across Australia. A tour of regional Western Australia followed as a member of the ACO Collective, under Artistic Director Pekka Kuusisto. These experiences were invaluable, building on my earlier time as an Emerging Artist with the ACO.

I was also honoured to share the first desk with Daniel Dodds in the 2017 Australian World Orchestra performance of Messiaen's *Turangalila-Symphonie* under the baton of Simone Young. Other notable performances in 2017 include being soloist with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, performing the Brahms Violin Concerto (mvt III) live for the Melbourne Film Festival screening of Paul Thomas Anderson's *There Will be Blood*; winning the Kendall National Violin Competition and the Bach, Sonata and Audience Choice prizes; and also winning the National category of the Australian Youth Classical Music Competition, inclusive of a travel scholarship for international study.

I hold a Bachelor of Arts (double major in music) from the University of Western Australia (UWA), where I studied under Winthrop Professor Paul Wright. While at UWA, I was the recipient of the Tunley Music Scholarship for the duration of my studies. On graduation I was awarded the Lyn Kan Prize for the highest performing music student, adding to previous Concerto and chamber music prizes. My quartet was selected as one of two quartets nationwide to be mentored by the Australian String Quartet throughout 2013.

Attending Christ Church Grammar School as a music scholar, I graduated as the top secondary school music student in Western Australia (WA). I was awarded the WA Curriculum Council Music Exhibition and a Certificate of Distinction in Music, in addition to a Certificate of Excellence in recognition of academic achievement across all subjects. During my time at school I was also awarded my Licentiate of Music (LMusA) with Distinction by the

Australian Music Examination Board (AMEB), in addition to the AMEB J B Vincent Memorial Award as the most outstanding LMusA candidate.

I have performed in public master classes with Noah Bendix-Balgley, Richard Tognetti, Maxim Vengerov, Stefan Jackiw, William Coleman, Simone Lamsma, Henning Kraggerud, Anthony Marwood and Kurt Nikkanen. Quartet or trio master classes have included the Australian String Quartet, Mischa Maisky, Professor Robert Hill and the Doric, Borodin, London Haydn, Goldner, Takács and Elias string quartets. I held Concertmaster positions with ANAM, UWA, AYO and the Western Australian Youth Orchestra and have played in casual positions in a number of professional orchestras around Australia including the Tasmanian and Western Australian Symphony orchestras.

My trio, the Clarendon trio made it to the top 5 in the world for the Melbourne International Chamber Competition and I was also a semi finalist in this years ABC Young Performer Awards. I'm also moving to Berlin to take up a spot at the Karajan Academy and play with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra.

I currently play a 1849 Pressenda violin made available to ANAM via the generosity of Janet Holmes à Court AC.
AUGUST 2018



MITZI GARDNER

Australian violinist Mitzi Gardner is currently in her second year of study as a scholarship recipient at The Royal Academy of Music in London, under the tutelage of violinist Levon Chilingirian. She has previously studied with Professor Goetz Richter and Janet Davies at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music in the Rising Stars Program.

Some of Mitzi's performance highlights have been performing as a soloist in the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall for "Encore", performing Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No.1 in D Major with the Queensland Youth Orchestra, under the baton of John Curro, performing as a soloist with the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra in their Last Night at the Proms Concert, recitals at St Stephen's lunchtime concert series, and as a soloist with the New Virtuosi Orchestra in The UK.

Mitzi was awarded her A. Mus. A. and L. Mus. A. from the Australian Music Examinations Board both with High Distinction. She has recorded performances for Radio 2MBS FM's Young Virtuosi Program over several years, and has performed in festivals such as the Crossroads Music Festival, the Festival of Sydney and the Festival of Sacred and Classical Music. Mitzi has been invited to perform at various Musica Viva Masterclasses, with mentors including Benjamin Beilman, Alexander Sitkovetsky, Clancy Newman and Susan Collins.

Mitzi has been concertmaster of The Arts Unit Orchestra and the Sydney Youth Orchestra, and has participated as a scholarship recipient in the Australian Chamber Orchestra Academy. She has toured Europe and China with the Australian Youth Orchestra in 2016 and 2019. Mitzi won first prize in The National Youth Concerto Competition and has been a finalist in the Kendall National Violin Competition. In 2018 Mitzi was a prizewinner in the Sydney Eisteddfod Instrumental Scholarship and also received a Big Brother Youth Support Award for Music, allowing travel to London to pursue further musical opportunities and study. Mitzi is looking forward to performing in the finals of the Australian Music Foundation competition in London later this year.

AUGUST 2019



EMMALENA HUNING

Emmalena, now 18, graduated from St Hilda's Anglican School for Girls and has just recently, this September, begun her studies at the Royal Academy of Music, in London, on full tuition and residential scholarships for the duration of her 4 year Bachelor's Degree. She has been selected to be under the tutelage of Professor György Pauk in his Performers' Class.

Emmalena began learning the violin at the age of 4, and attained her AMusA Diploma at 11, and LMusA Diploma at 15, and was awarded the Best LMusA Candidate in 2016 by the Australian Music Examination Board. She has won many first prizes and awards in local competitions since the age of 6, and has since also competed in national and international competitions. In 2017, she was a finalist at the National Youth Concerto Competition and the Kendall National Violin Competition, where she was awarded the Best Performance of an Australian Competition Prize, as well as winning 2nd prize in the Open Concerto category of the Osaka International Music Competition.

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In 2019, she was one of 16 semi-finalists in the Michael Hill International Violin Competition. These most recent accomplishments were achieved under the tutelage of Emeritus Professor Paul Wright and Doctor Semyon Kobets.

Emmalena has played in Masterclasses/classes with Pinchas Zukerman, Ning Feng, Mauricio Fuks, Karen Gomyo, and Igor Ozim. Her notable performances include Max Bruch Scottish Fantasy with Fremantle Symphony Orchestra (2017), Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto with Perth Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra (2018), Korngold Violin Concerto with the West Australian Youth Orchestra (2018), Sibelius Violin Concerto with the Taranaki Symphony Orchestra (2019), and Ziegeunerweisen in the Vienna Pops Gala New Year's Eve Concert in Perth (2018). She is also booked to perform as a soloist with the West Australian Symphony Orchestra in their Last Night at the Proms Concert in July 2020.

AUGUST 2019



JOHNNY VAN GEND

Johnny started learning violin at age five with Mary Nemet in his hometown of Toowoomba, Queensland. He achieved AMusA at age eleven and LMusA (with Distinction) at age twelve. The following year, 2010, he and his brother Robert added LMusA in Ensemble Performance. Another early performance highlight was playing the Barber Concerto with orchestra in 2014 as a finalist in the National Youth Concerto Competition.

In 2013 Johnny commenced study with Michele Walsh in Brisbane, with whom he then began tertiary studies in 2015 as a Sir Samuel Griffith scholar at the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University. While at the Conservatorium, Johnny received the Paganini Prize, the Vada Jefferies Bach Prize, the Ronald Clifford Davis Violin Prize, the 4MBS Chamber Prize, the QCGU Postgraduate Award, and the prestigious Brisbane Club

Award. In 2017 he was selected to perform the Mendelssohn Concerto with the Queensland Conservatorium Orchestra. He graduated with a Bachelor of Music with Distinction in 2017, and in 2018 entered the Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM) under Dr Robin Wilson.

During his two years at ANAM, Johnny advanced to the finals of the ANAM Concerto Competition, to perform the Bartok Violin Concerto No. 2 with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra. He was also a finalist in the ANAM Chamber Competition, concertmaster of the ANAM orchestra on numerous occasions, and performed alongside members of the Australian Chamber Orchestra, Australian String Quartet and many prominent international artists. He was twice a finalist in the Kendall National Violin Competition, in 2018 taking out the prizes for the best performance of Bach, best sonata performance, and the audience prize. Johnny was twice selected to perform in public masterclasses at the Melbourne Recital Centre, for international superstar Anne-Sophie Mutter and ACO Principal Violin, Satu Vänskä.

A keen orchestral player, Johnny has participated in Australian Youth Orchestra programs since 2012, leading the Alexander Orchestra at the 2016 National Music Camp and performing throughout Europe and China on the 2016 and 219 AYO International Tours; for the latter he was Associate Concertmaster.

In July 2019 Johnny was selected for the newly established position at the Bavarian State Opera Academy in Munich, commencing in October 2019. At the same time he will pursue a Masters degree with Professor Esther Hoppe at the Mozarteum University in Salzburg.

AUGUST 2019