

# KENDALL NATIONAL VIOLIN COMPETITION



## Winner's Repertoire

J.S.Bach, *Allemande* and *Chaconne* from Partita No.2 in D minor BWV 1004

M. Ravel, Sonata for Violin and Piano, G major

*Allegretto*

*Blues: Moderato*

*Perpetuum mobile: Allegro*

W. Lehmann, *Soliloquy*; a fragment from String Quartet No.2

P. de Sarasate, *Caprice Basque* for Violin and Piano, Op.24

## 2013 Finalists



### GRACE CLIFFORD (winner)

Grace Clifford is quickly gaining a reputation as one of Australia's finest young violinists. In the 2018 season Grace will return to the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra to perform Mendelssohn concerto with Mark Wigglesworth as part of her role as Emerging Artist in Association for the 2018 and 2019 seasons. She will also perform concertos with the Western Australian Symphony Orchestra and the Canberra Symphony Orchestra and give recitals in Adelaide and Canberra. In July she performs at the Australian Festival of Chamber Music in Townsville, the youngest invited musician in the festival's history at 19. Grace was a fellow at Ravinia's Steans Music Institute in 2017 and 2018, with performances including the world premiere of Timo Andres' piano trio, written in honour of the 30th anniversary of RSMI. She will tour with Musicians from Ravinia's Steans Music Institute in 2019 alongside Miriam Fried, performing in Boston, Chicago and New York.

In May 2019 Grace will complete her Bachelor of Music at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, where she studied with Joseph Silverstein, Ida Kavafian and Pamela Frank. She continues to be mentored by Dr Robin Wilson, her teacher during her studies in the pre-college program of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music from 2009-2014.

In 2016, Grace performed concertos with the Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide Symphony Orchestras and the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra. Grace won the Australian Young Performer of the Year Award in 2014 with her performance of Beethoven's Violin Concerto with the Adelaide Symphony, and also received prizes for the best Recital, best Chamber Music round, and the Audience Choice Award. She was the winner of the 2013 Australian Concerto and Vocal Competition playing the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto and also received the John Hopkins Performance Fellowship and the Audience Choice Award. Grace was the winner of both the 2013 Kendall National Violin Competition and the 2013 National MBSFM Young Performer Awards.

In June 2013, Grace was one of ten students internationally chosen to study with Professor Ana Chumachenco at the Kronberg Academy Masterclasses in Germany. In 2012 Grace was awarded 4th prize in the Junior Section of the Yehudi Menuhin International Violin Competition in Beijing.

**AUGUST 2018**



### **BEN ADLER**

Benjamin Adler is the Artist in Residence at St Andrew's College, within the University of Sydney.

Ben holds a Bachelor of Music from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, where he was leader of the Chamber Orchestra for two years, concertmaster of the Symphony Orchestra, and performed as soloist with the Wind Symphony and Chamber Orchestra. He was awarded the Frank Hutchens Student of the Year Prize for 2014. The previous year, Ben won the prize for Best Performance of an Australian Piece at the Kendall National Violin Competition, and was a semi-finalist in the Gisborne International Music Competition.

Ben was a 2016 Australian Chamber Orchestra Emerging Artist, and has since performed as both section member and soloist with the ACO and the ACO Collective, having toured nationally with both ensembles.

A keen chamber musician, Ben was first violinist of the Hillel String Quartet from 2012 to 2016, with whom he toured Australia and Europe. In 2017, he toured Europe with pianist Will Cesta, performing in London and at the Kuhmo Chamber Music Festival, Finland. He has since played with the Australia Piano Quartet, the Sydney Art Quartet and the Opus Now Quartet. Ben also relishes improvised music; he is a longtime member of the Emanuel Synagogue band and recently formed his own klezmer band.

Beyond the violin, Ben debated for the University of Sydney, was published in the Sydney Undergraduate Journal for Musicology, and still considers himself an enthusiastic if uncommitted long-distance runner.

**AUGUST 2019**



### **YE JIN MIN**

Violin virtuoso and multiple competition prize winner Ye Jin Min is currently a Doctoral candidate at Yale University in the US. Ye Jin completed her undergraduate studies in Australia at the Sydney Conservatorium and a Masters Degree at Yale where she held the Stephen & Denise Adams Scholar- and Fellowship for the duration of her studies and received the Yale Alumni award.

Ye Jin has performed extensively as soloist and chamber musician and was a member of the Sydney Symphony's Sinfonia Orchestra from 2012 until 2015. She is a first prize winner of the Kendall National Violin Competition, the Animato International Violin Competition, a prize winner of the Dorcas McClean traveling scholarship and a semifinalist of the Gisborne international music competition.

Ye Jin has extensive teaching experience and has worked as teaching assistant at Yale and as an assistant for students of Professor Goetz Richter at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. In addition to her performances as a soloist, chamber musician and recitalist she has participated in a number of international music festivals including the Bowdoin International Music Festival in the US and the Estivo Festival at the Conservatorio di Verona in Italy.

**AUGUST 2019**



### **TONY ZHAI**

Tony Zhai, studied Bachelor of Music Performance with Honours at the Conservatorium of Sydney under Ole Böhn. Prior to studying in Sydney, Tony lived in Auckland where he studied with William Hanfling and Mary O'Brien.

He has won a number of scholarships and awards in NZ as well as Australia. He was awarded the Most Promising Player at the 2009 Gisborne International Music Competition, and was also invited to play at Prof. Jack Richards' Tiromoana summer concert series in Gisborne. He received financial sponsorship from Prof. Richards to study in Sydney.

In the summer of 2014 Tony travelled to Brazil with his teacher Ole to attend the FEMUSC international music festival where he received masterclasses and played in chamber ensembles. Tony is also a frequent performer at the Olso Vigeland Museum Summer Concert Series, and has given a full-length recital there in July 2015.

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**Kendall National Violin Competition**

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[www.kendallviolin.org.au](http://www.kendallviolin.org.au)

Tony enjoys playing in small and large ensembles, and was selected as concertmaster for the Australian International Symphony Orchestra Institute program in 2012. He has now completed his masters of music in Rostock Germany with Prof. Stefan Hempel. In 2017 he was offered a fellowship position with Te Hamburger Symphony, which lasted for one year.

In summer 2017 he participated in masterclasses with Judith Ingolfsson and Ida Bieler.

Tony has acquired a new violin from the Freiburger Luthier Marc de Sterke.

Since March 2018 Tony has been a full time tutti player with Orchestra Victoria in Melbourne.

**AUGUST 2019**