

MEDIA INFORMATION

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TENOR AND PIANIST WIN SA FINALS OF THE 2009 MBS YOUNG PERFORMER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The winners of the SA State final of the MBS Young Performer of the Year Award were tenor, **Robert Macfarlane**, and pianist, **Jonathan Heng**. The competition, hosted by Radio 5mbs, was held on Saturday 26 September in Pilgrim Church.

Robert Macfarlane was the major prize winner taking out both the John Davis Music Vocal Award and the 5MBS Award for the South Australian Representative in the National Final giving him total prize money of \$1000. Robert will compete with State winners from Queensland, NSW and Victoria in the National MBS Young Performer of the Year Award to be held in Adelaide in Pilgrim Church, on 28 November. The \$10,000 MBS Young Performer of the Year Travelling Scholarship is sponsored annually by the Elizabethan Theatre Trust.

Robert Macfarlane's program included works by Schubert, Donizetti and Britten. Upon announcing Robert the winner judge, Richard Chew, congratulated him on the diversity exhibited in his program which showed his outstanding artistry in the three very different genres of art song, lyric opera and British opera. Richard even suggested Robert was the total embodiment of Britten's Albert Herring.

Jonathan Heng won the Silver Keys and Strings Instrumental Award of \$500. His program consisted of the Ravel Toccata from "Le Tombeau de Couperin" and Liszt's Mephisto Waltz Nr 1. Co-judge, Diana Harris, reported that she and Richard Chew were dazzled by Jonathan's extraordinary virtuosity and sensitivity in these two brilliant works.

All the competitors were highly praised by both judges. Diana Harris, who has judged the competition for the past 5 years, said choosing the State representative was the most difficult to date.

Over the past four years there have been three young South Australians who have won the National Final: Michael Ierace, 2005, Sky Ingram, 2006 and Stephen van der Hoek 2008. It is hoped that Robert Macfarlane will become number 4 this year and receive a substantial financial boost to aid his future professional ambitions.

**MBS National Young Performer of the Year Award will be held:
September 28 November, 2009, at 2.30
Pilgrim Church 12 Flinders Street, Adelaide
Tickets: \$10, \$5 Concession, Students,
& 5MBS Members,
All available at the door**