

## Young Performer of the Year Award

### SA State Final 2008

An impressive field of nine talented young South Australian musicians competed in the SA finals of the MBS Young Performer of the Year Award on 28 September 2008.

Stephen van der Hoek, piano, was winner of the Instrumentalist section and also chosen as the overall winner. Stephen will be the State representative at the National Awards, to be held in Sydney on November 22.

Stephen performed a program of works by Ligeti, Liszt and Rachmaninov. As winner of the Instrumental section, he was presented with a cheque for \$300 from sponsor Silver Keys and Strings. As state representative in the national final, he has the opportunity of winning the \$10,000 Travelling Scholarship sponsored by The Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust.

Soprano, Daniela Jedrzejczak, won the Vocal Award and received a cheque for \$300 sponsored by John Davis Music. Daniela, accompanied by Mark Sandon, performed works by Mozart, Ravel and Heggie.

The judges for the South Australian Award were two prominent names in South Australian music: Diana Harris, OAM and Carl Crossin, OAM.

In announcing the Instrumental winner, Diana Harris said..."I have been co-judging this award for four years and 2009 has been by far the most competitive for both voice and instrument. Of the five instrumentalists the two wind players, who are still at school, have extremely bright futures, the two pianists both gave dynamic performances and the cellist performed with great maturity and sensitivity."

Carl Crossin congratulated the four singers, 3 sopranos and a contralto, on the '... overall excellence of their stage presentation, choice of programs and their facility with the range of languages performed...' and reiterated how difficult it had been to select a winner from these excellent performances.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES



Stephen van der Hoek is 24 years old, and lives in North Adelaide with his wife Mary-Ann, and daughters Teresa and Esther. He is student of theology at the Australian Lutheran College (formerly Luther Seminary), preparing for the office of the ministry in the Lutheran Church of Australia, and is currently in his sixth year of his studies.

Stephen is also a well-known Adelaide musician. He has played the piano from a very early age, studying mostly under Irina Lioubimova. In 1998, he won the Junior Piano Concerto competition in the Adelaide Eisteddfod for his performance of Saint-Saëns' *Piano Concerto No 2*, and also was the South Australian state finalist in the National Yamaha Piano Competition in 1999 held in Sydney. He also holds a Licentiate Diploma in Piano from the AMEB, and was awarded the State prize for

Associate Diploma candidates in 1999. In 2002, he performed in a concert of newly composed music in the Barossa Music Festival. In August 2008, he won first prize in the Adelaide Eisteddfod Senior Piano Concerto Competition, playing Medtner's *Piano Concerto No 2*.

Stephen is well known as an accompanist and has played for many of Adelaide's theatre groups and choirs. He has also won prizes for composition in both Adelaide and Sydney, and has composed many works for instruments, solo voice and choir. In the last two years, the Kapelle Singers of Adelaide have performed two of his compositions in their annual Christmas concerts.



Soprano Daniela Jedrzejczak (Bella) is studying at the Elder Conservatorium of Music (ECM) under the guidance of Mezzo Soprano, Guila Tiver. In her final year of a Bachelor of Music, majoring in Classical Voice, Bella will be the Sorceress in Purcell's *Dido & Aeneas* (ECM 2008).

She is the 2008 recipient of The Christ Church Scholarship for a final year student at The ECM and the Frederick Bevan Scholarship from The ECM. She is also the Junior Vocal Champion in the 2008 Adelaide Eisteddfods. This year, Bella has workshopped extensively with acclaimed pianist, Malcolm Martineau, also with soprano, Jacqueline Forster and bass, Ralf Ernst.

In 2007, Bella was awarded the Adelaide Choral Society's Scholarship for a student at The ECM. In the same year, she was Despina in Mozart's *Così fan tutte* (ECM), and received Equal Second Prize in The Australian Music Teachers' Association 2007 Miriam Hyde Open Award. In the 2007 Adelaide Eisteddfods, Bella won the Lady Anne Miller Award for the competitor with the highest aggregate in the Vocal Division.

In 2006, Bella gained Third Prize and Best Vocalist Award in the Sydney Rada Naczelna Polonii Australijskiej, Australian Musicians of Polish Descent Scholarship.

Bella was awarded a Male Metropolitan Choir of South Australia Music Scholarship in 2002 for Cello and Voice.

In 2009, Bella will be touring Australia and overseas with Co-Opera, performing Mozart's *The Magic Flute*.