

2009 CLASSICAL MUSIC AWARDS

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Stars of Australian New Music Shine! *Winners of the 2009 Classical Music Awards*

The Australian music industry tonight celebrated the success of this year's most outstanding Australian classical music achievements at the 2009 Classical Music Awards. The Awards were presented by the Australasian Performing Right Association (APRA) and the Australian Music Centre (AMC), at Playhouse Theatre at the Sydney Opera House.

Australian-based pianist, **Michael Kieran Harvey**, received the award for **Distinguished Services to Australian Music**. This prestigious award recognises his enormous contribution to Australian new music. Michael has promoted the works of Australian composers, internationally and within Australia and his distinctive pianism has been recognised all over the world.

In 2005 the estate of the late Susan Remington established the Michael Kieran Harvey Scholarship in honour of his contribution to Australian music, and to encourage future directions in keyboard art music. An amazing musician, his career is notable for its diversity and wide repertoire.

Gwen Bennett's dedication to Australian music was recognised with the presentation of the **Long Term Contribution to the Advancement of Australian Music**. Founder of the ABC's Australian Music Unit, one of the most significant institutions supporting the production and dissemination of Australian performance and composition, Gwen has achieved visionary and long-term results for Australian music in a career spanning over 50 years.

Georges Lentz received the award for **Best Composition by an Australian Composer** for his richly conceived piece *Monh*, a work with intricate orchestration incorporating violas, electronics and an extreme division of the string section. *Monh* conveys the subtlety of Lentz's very personal sound world, creating a moving work.

The finalists for **Best Performance of an Australian Composition** were all standout achievements; however the **West Australian Symphony Orchestra** won the award for the exquisitely well-crafted *Symphony No.7 Scenes from a Daily Life* by Carl Vine. This compelling performance captured the multiplicity of mood of a major mature work by Carl Vine at the height of his creative career.

Outstanding Contribution by an Individual was awarded to **Riley Lee** for his artistic direction of the 2008 World Shakuhachi Festival. He was commended not only for the success of the festival but also for his thoughtful and courageous programming and the artistic calibre of the performances.

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Tura New Music and the **Australian Art Orchestra** received the award for **Outstanding Contribution to Australian Music in a Regional Area**, for the 2008 Crossing Roper Bar Tour. **Tura New Music** presented The 2008 *Crossing Roper Bar* Tour with Paul Grabowsky, the **Australian Art Orchestra**, and the Young Wagilak Group from Ngukurr, Arnhem Land. Crossing Roper Bar is an electrifying marriage of the very old with the very new. The tour consisted of visiting regional centres and remote communities from Darwin to One Arm Point for public concerts as well as schools presentations and workshops.

All finalists for **Outstanding Contribution by an Organisation** were commended for their remarkable achievement in promoting Australian music. The judges however, were unanimous on the exceptional nature of **Topology's 2008 Brisbane Powerhouse Series**. The **2008 Brisbane Powerhouse Series** stood out with its impressive and innovative array of performances and collaborations that showcased and built new audiences for Australian music. The series brought together a range of international artists and many nationally recognised Australian composers and performers.

The **Southern Cross Soloists** proudly took home the award for **Outstanding Contribution to Australian Music in Education** for the **Sunwater and Stanwell Winter Music School**. The Southern Cross Soloists were recognised by the judging panel for the considerable time and effort spent in educational activities, particularly for emerging music artists in regional areas of the state.

Tony Gould, David Jones and Imogen Manins were awarded the prestigious **Instrumental Work of the Year** for their piece *The River meets the Sea*. **Graeme Koehne** won **Orchestral Work of the Year** for *Tivoli Dances* and **Vocal/Choral Work of the Year** was presented to **Lyn Williams** for *A Flock of Stars*.

Hosted by renowned ABC Sunday Arts presenter **Fenella Kernebone**, the 2009 Awards also featured performances by **Sydney Children's Choir, Riley Lee and Marshall McGuire, Michael Keiran Harvey, the Young Wagilak Group and Australian Art Orchestra**. Eleven national awards and several state awards were presented by industry luminaries such as **The Hon. Peter Garrett, Tony Gould**; the winner of the Australia Council for the Arts' Don Banks Music Award, **Tony Grybowski, Richard Letts, Peter Thompson and Nigel Westlake**.

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Winners of the 2009 Classical Music Awards

2009 CLASSICAL MUSIC AWARDS

Outstanding Contribution to Australian Music in Education

Presented to

Southern Cross Soloists

for

Sunwater and Stanwell Winter Music School

Outstanding Contribution to Australian Music in a Regional Area

Presented to

Tura New Music and Australia Art Orchestra

for

2008 *Crossing Roper Bar* Tour

Outstanding Contribution by an Individual

Presented to

Riley Lee

for

2008 World Shakuhachi Festival

Outstanding Contribution by an Organisation

Presented to

Topology

for

2008 Brisbane Powerhouse Series

Long-Term Contribution to the Advancement of Australian Music

Presented to

Gwen Bennett

Instrumental Work of the Year

Presented to

Tony Gould, David Jones and Imogen Manins

For

The River Meets the Sea

Orchestral Work of the Year

Presented to

Graeme Koehne

For

Tivoli Dances

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Vocal or Choral Work of the Year

Presented to
Lyn Williams
For
A Flock of Stars

Best Performance of an Australian Composition

Presented to
West Australian Symphony Orchestra
Symphony No. 7 *Scenes from Daily Life*
by Carl Vine

Best Composition by an Australian Composer

Presented to
Georges Lentz
For
Monh

Distinguished Services to Australian Music

Presented to
Michael Kieran Harvey.

STATE AWARDS

New South Wales State Award

Presented to
Georges Lentz
For
Best Composition by an Australian Composer
Monh

Queensland State Award

Presented to
Sunwater and Stanwell Music School by Southern Cross Soloists
For
Outstanding Contribution in Education

Tasmania State Award

Presented to
Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra for TSO Australian Composers' School

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For
Outstanding Contribution to Australian Music in Education

Victoria State Award

Presented to
Richard Mills

For
Best Composition by an Australian Composer
String Quartet No. 3

Western Australia State Award

Presented to
West Australian Symphony Orchestra
For
Best Performance of an Australian Work
The Madness and Death of King Ludwig
by James Ledger