

MUSICUS MEDICUS

Serenading a Cause



JUNE 2010



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BRAVO

The 2010 Sydney Eisteddfod began with a magnificent curtain raiser on May 30, when the NSW Doctors Orchestra, serenaded its cause for the second time in six months, with a benefit concert in the hallowed Verbrugghen Hall at the Sydney Conservatorium.

Conducted by Dr. David Banney, with pianist Kathryn Selby, herself a former Sydney Eisteddfod champion, as soloist, the program included Mozart's *Piano Concerto (K488)* and Dvorák's *New World Symphony*, along with the premiere performance of Dr. Banney's exciting new work *Luminescence*. With the auditorium packed to the rafters, it was a happy occasion

The audience rewarded the players with thunderous applause and Dr. Banney and the Musical Medicos received an unexpected bonus, when Maestro Vladimir Ashkenazy, Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, stopped by to listen and commended their efforts.

Members of this orchestra practice in medical fields, play for pleasure and, once or twice a year, gather under the banner of Musicus Medicus to give concerts for charity. They usually support medical causes, but last year, they veered from the health scene to play for Sydney Eisteddfod. Proceeds will support prizes for the NSW Doctors Orchestra Instrumentalist Scholarship.

2011 SUMMER SCHOOL FOR BOYS

Ever since dance bowed into the Sydney Eisteddfod syllabus in 1934, its organisers have been promoting it as a suitable activity for boys. Last year, Sydney Eisteddfod took a bold step by introducing two dance championships for males only into its syllabus and next year, in a tie-in with Shore School, they are going one step further by presenting a summer school for boys.

Under the direction of Adam Bull, Principal Artist of The Australian Ballet and winner of the 1998 McDonald's Ballet Scholarship for boys, The National Boys Summer School will cater for students aged between seven and twenty years across junior, intermediate and senior levels with a curriculum

that includes everything from classical technique to modern, jazz and contemporary dance.

A leading Sydney college for boys, Shore School is situated on the northern foreshores of Sydney Harbour. It is close to Luna Park and other major tourist attractions and facilities include modern accommodation, a 500-seat theatre, dance studios with sprung floors and mirrors, as well as excellent on site recreational facilities

The course begins on January 3 and will end with a display, presentation and family barbeque on January 9. The cost of \$495 includes accommodation, and an Early Bird discount of \$45 will apply on bookings made before August 31.



ADAM BULL Photo: James Braund

After winning the initial McDonald's Ballet Scholarships for boys in 1998, Adam began studying at The Australian Ballet School. He graduated with honours in 2001, joined the Company in 2002 and in 2008 attained the rank of Principal Artist.

McDONALD'S BALLETSCHOLARSHIPS

McDonalds Ballet Scholarships have hit an all time high this year. Entrants come from all States and unconfirmed reports suggest the event has secured a place in history as the largest classical dance competition ever held in Australia.

One hundred and thirty-three girls and twenty-four boys have entered the contest. All are aged between sixteen and nineteen years and dream of becoming professional dancers.

Since McDonald's Australia began sponsoring these dual scholarships in 1998, a generation of brilliant dancers has risen from its platform. Claudia Dean, the 2008 winner, and Lachlan Monaghan, who triumphed last year, are excelling in their studies at the Royal Ballet School in London, while many earlier winners and finalists are enjoying successful careers with leading ballet companies throughout the world.

The McDonald's Ballet Scholarships have become so highly respected in international ballet circles that qualifying for the final round at Sydney Opera House must be considered a prize.

The 2010 final will take place in the Concert Hall on 8 August, a



2009 McDonald's Ballet Scholarship's Winners

Lachlan Monaghan outright winner of 2009 McDonald's Ballet Scholarship, began his course at Royal Ballet School in January

Serena Green, winner of the second 2009 McDonald's Ballet Scholarship, will begin studying at the English National Ballet School in August. She recently graced the stage at Sydney Opera House as an 'extra' in The Australian Ballet production of Coppelia.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR ASPIRING MUSICIANS



Through two exciting new initiatives, Sydney Eisteddfod will be providing valuable learning opportunities for novice music students outside the competition zone.

Children born into non-music making families, invariably discover its magic through their experiences in primary school bands and choirs. Imaginative and caring teachers have awakened many latent talents and enriched thousands, if not millions of lives, with a love of music. With these factors firmly in mind, Sydney Eisteddfod is now busily planning a 2011 Music Festival for Primary Schools.

Designed as a learning experience, the Festival will shape as a series of one-day events in different regions of the Sydney Metropolitan area. It will cater for primary students from all school sectors, especially novice groups formed in the calendar year.

The Festival will be professionally adjudicated and as it will be 'Standards Based,' performances will be graded, instead of ranked and band and choral conductors will be encouraged to participate in 'end of day discussions' with the guest adjudicators.

Dates have yet to be confirmed, but the Festival will probably take place during the first two weeks of Term 4 (w/c October 10). Both The King's School Parramatta and Pymble Ladies College have already offered their support and venues and other schools have expressed interest in the project.

At the top end of the scale, Sydney Eisteddfod is delighted to advise that the Sydney Conservatorium Orchestra will be playing under the baton of Professor Imre Palló at the finals of the McDonald's Operatic Aria this year. The players will accompany the eight finalists in their second arias, and also perform in the guest spot while the judging takes place.

By combining the talents of its finest singers with Conservatorium Orchestra at this gala occasion at Sydney Opera House, Sydney Eisteddfod is providing an opportunity that will benefit all in a dazzling showcase of Australian musical talent.

The 2010 Finals take place on Sunday, August 15, 6.30 p.m. Opera Theatre, Sydney Opera House. Bookings until June 30 @ Sydney Eisteddfod 02 9261 8366. From July 1 @ Sydney Opera House 02 9250 7777. Adults: \$52 Concessions: \$45 or book online www.sydneyeisteddfod.com.au

2010 PROGRAM



Order your program online
www.sydneyeisteddfod.com.au



WINKIPOP MEDIA

Winkipop Media will be returning to Sydney Eisteddfod this year as official photographers. Last year, Winkipop team did a great job keeping Sydney Eisteddfod in the picture.

Winkipop Media offers a dynamic range of professional digital photography services. It specialises in sports action, studio and performance shots.

Phone: 1300 843 664

Email:
shaun@winkipopmedia.com.au



PRINCIPAL FINALS



| DATE | VENUE | EVENT |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Sunday July 18 - 2.00 pm | Petersham RSL Club | Contemporary Singer of the Year |
| Saturday July 24 - 6.30 pm | Sydney Conservatorium | John Allison Sydney Eisteddfod Piano Scholarship |
| Sunday August 8 - 6.30 pm | Concert Hall Sydney Opera House | McDonalds Ballet Scholarships & Open Jazz Dance Groups |
| Sunday August 15 - 6.30 pm | Opera Theatre Sydney Opera House | McDonald's Operatic Aria |
| Sunday August 29 - 5.00 pm | Smith Auditorium Shore School | NSW Drs. Orchestra Instrumentalist Scholarship |
| Sunday September 5.00 pm | Smith Auditorium Shore School | Musica Viva Award for Chamber Music |

Bookings: Sydney Eisteddfod 02 9261 8366 or online www.sydneyeisteddfod.com.au



Sydney Eisteddfod
 Level 12, St Martins Tower, 31 Market Street
 Sydney, NSW 2000
www.sydneyeisteddfod.com.au



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