



NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT – 12 FINALISTS ANNOUNCED – August 2016

Hottest Piano Contest in Australia – A music competition – Like no other

The Australian National Piano Award is a world-class competition, where the best young pianists in Australia make beautiful classical music over a week, striving to win \$65,000 in cash and prizes.

“We are thrilled to announce the top 12 pianists selected to perform during 5 to 10 September this year, in front of live audiences and three prominent international judges”, said President of the Australian National Piano Award, Mr Darryl Coote.

The 21-28 year old artists competing in this fast-paced and inspirational series are:

Victoria

Berta Brozgul (26yrs)
Timothy Chiang (28yrs)
Kathy Chow (22yrs)
Joshua Hooke (23yrs)
Michael Li (22yrs)

New South Wales

Peter de Jager (26yrs)

Tony Lee (24yrs)
Nicholas Young (25yrs – residing in Melbourne)

Tasmania

Ben Austin (25yrs –residing in Melbourne)

South Australia

Mekhla Kumar (27yrs)

Queensland

Aaron Liu (23yrs)
Oliver She (25yrs – residing in U.K. + QLD)

The three adjudicators listening intently to every performance and taking score are: Rolfe Plagge from Austria, Diana Weekes and Clemens Leske from Australia.

Set in regional Victoria at the Eastbank Centre, Shepparton – the musicians *battle it out* day and night, covering masterworks by Chopin, Beethoven, Bach, Schubert, Debussy and many others. Their repertoire is filled with variety as they approach with the pinnacles of the Baroque, Classical, 19th Century Romantic French Impressionist eras, as well as music written after 1950.

The performers have their hearts set on winning the massive prize money, applause and international recognition – performing 33 recitals (Rounds one, two and semi-finals) leading up to the Grand Finals on Saturday 10 September.

“The 2016 Australian National Piano Award showcases the pianists’ passion, talent and charisma on stage. The audiences are engaged and can get involved by voting for their favourite pianist leading up to the Grand Finals, and it is recorded by ABC Classic FM and aired nationally”, added Mr Coote.



The Australian National Piano Award (ANPA) started in 1992 with a Steinway, a stage and a small, but passionate arts community in Shepparton (regional Victoria) who believed in showcasing and supporting the careers of rising musicians. Held every two years, the Award has grown in stature and is now considered one of the nation's premier classical piano competition. It is like no other in this country, attracting young musicians of the highest calibre, the services of international judges and a dedicated group of high profile patrons and supporters, including the Greater Shepparton City Council and the Governor of Victoria.

“ANPA is proud that recent winners Alex Raineri (2014), Daniel de Borah (2012), Jocelyn Ho (2010) and Jayson Gilham (2008) continue to enjoy sold out concerts – solo recitals, chamber music and in concerto appearances here and overseas, including releasing their own C.D.'s. The philosophy of ANPA is to provide Australian pianists with a professional platform to help propel their careers and become world-class artists”, said Mr Darryl Coote.

From start to finish, the musicians are given a warm country welcome, synonymous with the people of Shepparton, who are very proud to host this hot contest and major event every two years.

Recitals at the Eastbank Centre, Shepparton – 5 to 10 September, 2016

When:

Monday 5 Sept	1pm – 3.30pm & 7.30pm – 10.30pm
Tuesday 6 Sept	1pm – 3.30pm & 7.30pm – 10.30pm
Wednesday 7 Sept	1pm – 3.30pm & 7.30pm – 10.30pm
Thursday 8 Sept	1pm – 3.30pm & 7.30pm – 10.30pm
Friday SEMI FINALS	12noon – 5pm (5 finalists perform)
Sat. GRAND FINALS	8pm – 11pm (3 finalists perform)

Tickets: Monday - Friday: \$10 per session
Saturday Grand Final \$30 Adults, \$20 concession, \$10 students

Book: Tickets and packages at Riverlinks reservations: 03 5832 9511

Visit: www.australianpianoaward.com.au to read the news about the musicians who they are, what times they 'battle' it out and more!
[Facebook.com/australianpianoaward](https://www.facebook.com/australianpianoaward); [Twitter.com@AustPianoAward](https://twitter.com/AustPianoAward)

For media interviews with the pianists, the judges and the people behind the scenes - please contact: Nicola Archer, Nicola Archer Communications on 0419 002 769 or nicola@nicolaarcher.com