



PROFILE, Pianist Benjamin Austin (25yrs)

Ben Austin competing in 2016 Australian National Piano Award
5 – 10 September

Ben is currently a Doctoral Candidate in Music Performance at the Melbourne Conservatorium studying with Professor Ian Holtham, receiving an Australian Postgraduate Award Scholarship. He graduated in 2012 from the Queensland Conservatorium with a Bachelor of Music with First Class Honours, studying under Natasha Vlassenko.

In 2014, Ben was guest soloist at the Cairns Winter Music School under the direction of UK conductor Mark Eager. In 2012 he won first Prize in the Australian Society of Keyboard Music competition and the Brisbane Club Award. In the third year of his degree, Ben was runner-up in the 2011 Lev Vlassenko Piano Competition, also winning prizes for best performance of a Russian Work, Prelude and Fugue, and Virtuoso Study. Ben was a State Representative at the MBS Young Performers Award 2011 and was a guest artist at the 25th Tyalgum Festival of Classical Music.

Ben has appeared as a soloist with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra with Maestro Edvard Tchivzel, and the Queensland Conservatorium Symphony Orchestra. During his time at the Queensland Conservatorium, he received masterclasses from Sergio Tiempo, Piers Lane, and Boris Berman.

The fourth of six children, Ben was born and raised in Launceston, Tasmania.

For media interviews, photos please contact: Nicola Archer, Nicola Archer Communications on 0419 002 769 or nicola@nicolaarcher.com