



## **PROFILE – Gerard Willems, Adjudicator**

### **2018 AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL PIANO AWARD**

Gerard Willems was born in Holland and moved with his family to Australia in 1958 when he was 12 years old. He studied both in Sydney and Munich and graduated from the NSW State Conservatorium of Music which now is the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. There, he has been on the teaching staff since 1981 and is currently Associate Professor.

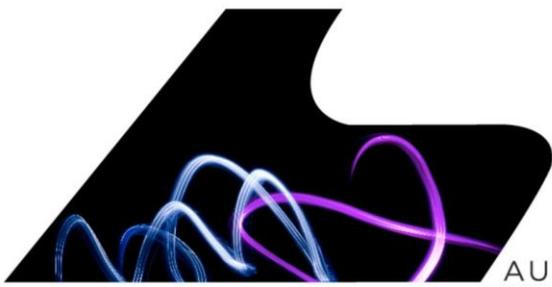
Gerard has done concert tours of the USA, the United Kingdom, Europe, Asia, New Zealand, Australia and Israel, having performed under the batons of conductors such as Sir Bernard Heinze, Nicholas Braithwaite, John Lanchbery, Nicholas Milton, Avnir Biron and Patrick Thomas. He has broadcast for Australian, Dutch, French, Austrian, British and Israeli radio. For several years Gerard was the Concerto Soloist for Margot Fonteyn, Rudolf Nureyev and Mikhail Baryshnikov during several worldwide ballet tours.

In 2001 Gerard was named the inaugural *Queen Elizabeth II Music Scholar* by the Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust. In 2003 he was awarded a *Centenary Medal* for services to music and in 2012 he was appointed a *Member of the Order of Australia (AM)* for services to the arts as a concert pianist, educator and mentor to young musicians.

Regarded as a specialist in the first Viennese school, Gerard teaches and gives masterclasses worldwide and is invited to be on juries of national and international piano competitions. He was Visiting Professor at the Hochschule für Musik in Freiburg (Germany) in 2008, and Artistic Director of the Southern Highland International Piano Competition. Since 2004 he has been the expert commentator for the Sydney International Piano Competition of Australia for ABC Classic FM.

As a recording artist he has received great acclaim for his *Beethoven-Willems Collection* which on 14 CDs and 1 DVD includes the complete piano sonatas, the complete concertos and further piano works. Gerard is both the first Australian and Dutch pianist to have recorded the full Beethoven piano sonata cycle. These ABC Classics recordings have won him two ARIA awards in 1999 and 2000 as “best classical album of the year”. The included DVD of the Emperor Concerto has received the *World Music DVD Prize* in 2005.

Gerard’s recording work also includes albums with the music of Tchaikovsky, Mozart and Grieg. His latest double CD album *Morning Mood* with piano music of Grieg was launched in 2013 by ABC Classics.



He is sought after – both in Australia and overseas – as a performer, radio and television broadcaster, lecturer, adjudicator and public speaker.

He is spending this year (2017) in the United States and Europe, both performing and lecturing as a visiting Professor at various music institutions such as UCLA in Los Angeles and the Paris Schola Cantorum.

(Social Media: [www.facebook.com/GerardWillems](http://www.facebook.com/GerardWillems)

Instagram: @the\_ivories

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