

Media Release
Wednesday, 13 November 2013



Melbourne Prize for Music 2013 winners announced

***Brett Dean recipient of \$60,000 Melbourne Prize for Music 2013
Stephen Magnusson picks up \$30,000 Outstanding Musician Award 2013 and
Kate Kelsey-Sugg the \$13,000 Development Award 2013 and Residency.***

The winners of the esteemed Melbourne Prize for Music 2013, Outstanding Musicians Award 2013 and Development Award 2013 were announced tonight at a special awards ceremony.

The recipient of the \$60,000 Melbourne Prize for Music 2013 is classical composer, conductor, Brett Dean, recognising an outstanding contribution to Australian music and to cultural and public life.

The recipient of the \$30,000 Outstanding Musicians Award 2013, plus a \$2,500 Qantas international travel credit, is awarded to guitarist, Stephen Magnusson, for his recent work, which represents outstanding creativity and skill.

The \$13,000 Development Award 2013 is awarded to pianist, vocalist, saxophonist and composer, Kate Kelsey-Sugg, to assist in developing her music career.

The 2103 Residency with the Faculty of the Victorian College of the Arts and Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, The University of Melbourne is awarded to Kate Kelsey-Sugg.

The announcements were made at **Federation Square**, the exhibition and event partner of the annual Melbourne Prize, and is complemented by an exhibition of the finalists, which will run until November 22.

Today's awards, celebrating the abundant musical talent in Victoria across a range of genres and providing recognition and opportunities for Victorian musicians, mark the annual Melbourne Prize's ninth year.

The \$60,000 Melbourne Prize for Music 2013 is awarded to a Victorian musician, or group of musicians, who has made an outstanding contribution to Australian music and has enriched cultural and public life. Supported by The Vera Moore Foundation, The Tallis Foundation & Melbourne Prize Trust.

The \$30,000 Outstanding Musicians Award 2013, plus \$2,500 of Qantas international travel, is awarded to a Victorian musician, or group of musicians for recent work representing an outstanding example of creativity and skill. Supported by the late Dame Elisabeth Murdoch AC DBE and Qantas.

The \$13,000 Development Award 2013 is awarded to a musician or group of musicians, 30 years of age and under, who demonstrate outstanding musical talent with the potential to develop their professional career. The Award comprises \$7,000 cash, supported by the Melbourne Prize Trust, and a \$6,000 Yamaha Music Australia grant.

The winners were selected by the Melbourne Prize judging panel, which includes some of Australia's most respected musical identities including, **Kate Ceberano, Professor Barry Conyngham, Professor Paul Grabowsky, Huw Humphreys, and Chong Lim.**



The annual Melbourne Prize is supported by the State Government through **Arts Victoria**. The **City of Melbourne** is a partner through its Triennial Grants Program - Arts and Culture.

"This year's impressive list of finalists represents the enormous breadth and depth of musical talent that resides here in Victoria. It's this diversity of talent, not just in our music scene but right across our arts sector, that gives Melbourne – and Victoria generally – its reputation as a creative and cultural centre", said the Hon Heidi Victoria MP, Minister for the Arts.

"Melbourne is blessed with a vibrant music industry, passionate musicians and audiences. The Melbourne Prize for Music 2013 and Awards provides opportunities for local musicians and promotes the musical talent and rich music culture that we are fortunate to enjoy in Melbourne." Lord Mayor Robert Doyle

Melbourne Prize Trust Executive Director Simon Warrender has been delighted with the response to this year's Prize. "The winners and finalists are testimony to the creativity and vitality of musical talent in Victoria. It has been an excellent year and the response was well above our expectations and continues to grow – thank you to all 2013 entrants and the finalists.

"The generous support and community investment of our 2013 partners and patrons have made it possible to offer the Melbourne Prize 2013 program and exhibition, which reinforce Melbourne and Victoria's reputation as Australia's musical capital - thank you to all our supporters."

Judges Statement

The diversity of the 2103 finalists is testimony to the abundant music talent and spectrum of genres we have in Victoria. The three recipients inform a diversity and richness of achievement in each of their genres and the individual musicians commitment to their professional music careers. The recipients articulate the criteria in each category. **Brett Dean**, classical composer and conductor, has made an outstanding contribution to Australian music both locally and on the international stage and in doing so has enriched our cultural life. Guitarist, **Stephen Magnusson's** work represents an outstanding example of creativity and skill. **Kate Kelsey-Sugg**, pianist, vocalist, saxophonist and composer, demonstrates outstanding musical talent with the potential to develop her music career. The judges congratulate the three winners and the other 2013 finalists and would like to thank all entrants this year.

Biographies

Melbourne Prize for Music 2013 / BRETT DEAN - classical composer and conductor

Brett Dean has been commissioned by the Berlin Philharmonic, Concertgebouw Orchestra and LA Philharmonic among other leading orchestras, and in 2009 Dean won the Grawemeyer Award for his violin concerto *The Lost Art of Letter Writing*. Recent premieres have included *Fire Music* (commissioned by the Australian Ballet for their 50th anniversary celebrations) and the orchestral version of the same work, which has just won the APRA Art Music Prize 2013; *The Last Days of Socrates* in Berlin, Melbourne, Los Angeles; and *Dramatis Personae* (for trumpet and orchestra) at the Grafenegg Festival and in Copenhagen. Dean combines his composing activities with a musical life performing internationally as a soloist, chamber musician and conductor with the world's leading orchestras.

Outstanding Musicians Award 2013 / STEPEHN MAGNUSSON - guitarist

Stephen Magnusson has performed and recorded with national and international artists including, Charlie Haden's Music Liberation Orchestra, Tim Berne, Jim Black, Julien Wilson, Australian Art Orchestra, Katie Noonan, Michelle Nicole, Assumptions Trio, Mike Nock, Enrico Rava, Arthur Blythe and many others. Stephen's awards include: the Swiss Diagonal Arts Grant and Pop Kredit award in 1999; Co-Winner of the National Jazz Award in 2000; ARIA Award with Elixir in 2011 and The 2013 Bell Award for Best Contemporary Jazz Album with MAGNET.

Development Award 2013 / KATE KELSEY-SUGG - pianist, vocalist, saxophonist and composer

Kelsey-Sugg has received various awards: the James Morrison Vocal Scholarship, the Marion Isobel Thomas Award for piano and second prize at the National Jazz Awards for voice at the Wangaratta Jazz Festival. Kelsey-Sugg has achieved international recognition, being invited to showcase Australian jazz at the 2010 World Expo held in Shanghai, playing in Berlin to record the album *The Berlin Sessions* and performing her original music at the Rockwood Music Hall in New York City. Kelsey-Sugg has studied under jazz musicians: pianist Jason Moran and vocalist Kurt Elling. Kelsey-Sugg has also performed alongside such artists as Mavis Staples, Rickie Lee Jones, Joss Stone and Archie Roach.

-more-



Each of the finalists is in the running for the publically-voted **\$4,000 Civic Choice Award 2013, supported by Readings**. Voting for this award is open at www.melbourneprize.org and by voting people have a chance to win a luxury stay at the Sofitel Melbourne On Collins.

Voting can also be made during the Federation Square exhibition in November in the free catalogue available during the event. Voting closes at 5pm on 22 November. The recipient of this award will be announced on 29 November 2013.

Mr Warrender added, "Our activities would not be possible without the generous support of our many partners and patrons, many of whom have been with the Prize since inception – all recognise that importance of supporting and developing our arts and culture."

This year's winners will join an esteemed group of past recipients including, most recently, drummer/percussionist David Jones (Melbourne Prize for Music 2010), conductor Ben Northey (Outstanding Musicians Award 2010), and pianist/composer Natalie Bartsch (Development Award 2010).

For more information, including all the latest announcements on the Melbourne Prize for Music 2013, visit www.melbourneprize.org. You can also keep up to date with news from this year's Melbourne Prize program on social media:

TWITTER: @Melbourne_Prize

FACEBOOK: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Melbourne-Prize/165519083499496>

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Interviews with the 2013 prize winners and with Melbourne Prize Trust Executive Director, Simon Warrender are available upon request. For more information, please visit www.melbourneprize.org or contact:

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Notes to the editor:

About the annual Melbourne Prize

The annual Melbourne Prize is the most valuable prize of its kind in Australia and runs in a three-year cycle, which includes the Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture (2011), the Melbourne Prize for Literature (2012) and the Melbourne Prize for Music 2013. The cycle commences again with the Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2014, which will be the 10 year anniversary of the annual Melbourne Prize.

Since inception the annual Melbourne Prize has made available close to \$1million in prizes and awards, plus artist residencies, equipment grants and an annual public exhibition at Federation Square to Victorian writers, sculptors and musicians.

About the Melbourne Prize Trust

Launched in 2004, the Melbourne Prize Trust was established to recognise and reward talent, excellence and inspire creative development.



The Trust achieves this aim by running the annual Melbourne Prize, which is funded by a collaboration of partners and patrons. The Melbourne Prize Trust is an initiative of **Committee for Melbourne**. The exhibition design and complete brand identity is by Founding Partner, **Cornwell Design**.

A full list of partners and patrons can be found over the page, and at www.melbourneprize.org.

The origins of the Melbourne Prize Trust date back to *The Magic Pudding* sculpture commission and children's garden precinct at the Royal Botanic Garden Melbourne. The Melbourne Prize Trust is a Deductible Gift Recipient and Income Tax Exempt Charity.

The \$60,000 Melbourne Prize for Music 2013 finalists:

Brett Dean
Tony Gould
Mick Harvey
Shane Howard
Wilma Smith

The \$30,000 Outstanding Musicians Award 2013 - plus a \$2,500 Qantas international travel credit - finalists:

Ros Bandt
Grigoryan Brothers
Stephen Magnusson
Gian Slater
Eugene Ughetti
Erkki Veltheim
Bart Willoughby
Ainslie Wills
Julien Wilson
Lisa Young

The \$13,000 Development Award 2013 finalists:

Michael Bakrnchev
Helen Croome
Jessica Jiang
Adam Katz
Kate Kelsey-Sugg

Past Melbourne Prize for Music and awards winners
2010

Melbourne Prize for Music 2010
David Jones *drummer / percussionist*
Outstanding Musicians Award 2010
Ben Northey *conductor*
Development Award 2010
Natalie Bartsch *pianist / composer*

2007

Melbourne Prize for Music 2007
Professor Paul Grabowsky *pianist, composer, conductor*
Outstanding Musicians Award 2007
Genevieve Lacey *recorder virtuoso*
Development Award 2007
Julian Langdon *composer*

The annual Melbourne Prize
Past recipients - 2005 to 2012



Melbourne Prize for Music 2010
David Jones

Outstanding Musicians Award 2010
Ben Northey

Development Award 2010
Natalie Bartsch



Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2011
Bianca Hester

Professional Development Award 2011
Isaac Greener & Lucas Maddock

Civic Choice Award 2011
Isaac Greener & Lucas Maddock



Melbourne Prize for Literature 2012
Alex Miller

Best Writing Award 2012
Craig Sherborne

Civic Choice Award 2012
Tony Birch



Melbourne Prize for Literature 2009
Gerald Murnane

Best Writing Award 2009
Nam Le

Civic Choice Award 2009
Amra Pajalic



Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2008
Alexander Knox

Professional Development Award 2008
Tom Nicholson

VicUrban Award 2008
Louise Paramor

Civic Choice Award 2008
Elaine Miles



Melbourne Prize for Music 2007
Paul Grabowski

Outstanding Musicians Award 2007
Genevieve Lacey

Development Award 2007
Julian Langdon



Melbourne Prize for Literature 2006
Helen Garner

Best Writing Award 2006
Christos Tsiolkas

Civic Choice Award 2006
Henry von Doussa



Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2005
Open Spatial Workshop

Professional Development Award 2005
Karen Abernethy

Civic Choice Award 2005
Matthew de Moiser

Government Partners



Melbourne Prize for Music 2013 Partners



Media Communications



Broadcast Partner



Print Partners



Founding Partners



Outstanding Musicians Award 2013 Patron

Dame Elisabeth Murdoch AC DBE

Development Award 2013 Partners



Wine Partner



Exhibition Signage & AV



Exhibition Consultant

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Exhibition and Event Partner



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Dr Ronald Benson

Civic Choice Award 2013 Partner



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Trophies



an initiative of the Committee for Melbourne 

Design by Cornwell