

Local Orchestra announces winner of \$10,000 Scholarship

The Ku-ring-gai Philharmonic Orchestra announced cellist Martin Smith as the winner of the \$10,000 Young Performers Scholarship at the first concert of their season on Saturday. As Mr Smith is currently performing overseas, the scholarship was accepted on his behalf by his mother Mrs Patricia Morton.

The Young Performers Scholarship was established in 2008 to commemorate 25 years of the NSW Secondary Schools Concerto Competition. It was created to support a talented musician, who is a previous winner of the Concerto Competition to progress their performance careers to an internationally acclaimed standard.

Three applicants reached the final short-list: violinist, Suyeon Kang, oboist, Huw Jones and cellist, Martin Smith. As applicants all showed a high level of talent and skills, their educational outcomes and influence on the Australian musical landscape were also considered. The applicants had to outline a community project that would enrich the cultural life of Australian music.

KPO Scholarship winner Martin Smith is an Australian 'cellist, he grew up in Waverton and was educated at Sydney Conservatorium of Music. He is currently undertaking postgraduate studies with Natalia Gutman at the Scuola di Musica di Fiesole, in Italy. He is also preparing for a debut recital at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam with Scottish pianist Alasdair Beatson in March 2009. He returns to Australia in July to take part in the Asia-Pacific Chamber Music Competition in Melbourne.

Mr Smith said: "I am incredibly excited and honoured that the Ku-ring-gai Philharmonic Orchestra has selected me to be the recipient of the inaugural Young Performers' Scholarship . . . I look forward to meeting everyone in Australia soon."

In May 2009 Mr Smith will tour internationally with United States Ambassador for Peace, Midori Goto, in a string quartet. The tour will cover parts of Indonesia and Japan as part of a music-sharing project taking music to children who might not otherwise have the opportunity for involvement in the arts.

The inaugural \$10,000 scholarship was supported by Turramurra Community Bank Branch Bendigo Bank, St Ives Shopping Village and KPO Friends. Many supporters of the KPO are looking forward to hearing Martin perform later this year in Sydney.

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Photo 1: Pam Mulvey & Alan Stratton from the Grange, Anne Cahill - KPO Vice President, Denice Kelly - Manager of Turramurra Community Bank Branch Bendigo Bank, Patricia Morton & Graeme Smith (Martin's parents)

Photo 2: Anne Cahill – KPO Vice President, Denice Kelly – Manager of Turramurra Community Bank Branch Bendigo Bank, Patricia Morton – Martin's mother