



GRAND SCHEME: Jayson Gillham says mum Yvonne used to drive him to Brisbane for lessons. **Picture:** Jodie Richter

Dalby pianist has British judges in raptures

QUEENSLAND classical pianist Jayson Gillham has won the prestigious Commonwealth Musician of the Year gold medal in London.

Gillham, 25, won the piano section of the competition in February and competed against winners in the strings, wind and vocal divisions in the finals last week. Previous win-

ners of the prize include Australian pianists Geoffrey Parsons (1953) and Piers Lane (1982).

Gillham, who graduated from the Queensland Conservatorium in 2007, won the \$24,000 prize with Liszt's *Spanish Rhapsody* as his major performance piece.

Gillham, based in London,

visited parents Ian and Yvonne in Dalby this week before recitals in Brisbane next month, followed by a tour of South-East Asia and Europe with the Queensland Youth Symphony.

"I think it helped that I lived in Dalby in my early years but I could not have done this without the help of my

parents," Gillham says. His mother took him on the weekly two-hour round trip to Toowoomba for lessons and then to Brisbane for lessons with Leah Horwitz of the Queensland Conservatorium.

Gillham will play at QPAC Concert Hall on June 2.

www.qtix.com.au

Noel Mengel