

MEDIA RELEASE



queenslandyouthorchestras



Sydney born pianist rises to international fame

Sydney born pianist **Tony Lee** has earned a reputation as one of Australia's finest upcoming young pianists. "Tony has a rare quality of projecting his musical vision... his articulation, tone colour and insight into the music is impressive for someone his age," said concert pianist Gerard Willems AM. **Tony** is the top prizewinner of ten national and international piano competitions including the Lev Vlassenko Piano Competition, Louise Henriette International Piano Competition, Scriabin International Piano Competition (Paris), Adilia Alieva International Piano Competition and the Australian Youth Classical Music Competition among others.

On Saturday 22 August 7pm at QPAC Concert Hall, **Tony Lee** will debut as a soloist with the Queensland Youth Symphony conducted by John Curro AM MBE performing Beethoven's dramatic Piano Concerto No. 2. One of his earliest written works, Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 2 is a delightful piece of music composed with humour and passion, highlighting his transition from a bold, young composer-virtuoso to a rising figure in 19th-century music.

During his early teens, **Tony** knew he wanted to become a professional pianist.

“I was inspired by many things, but it was my teachers and mentors at the time that guided me through a crucial period in my musical development,” Mr Lee said.

“It was from that point onwards that I started performing internationally and decided this is what I wanted do with my life.”

Tony Lee has appeared as a soloist with orchestras in Australia and around the world including the Samara Philharmonic, BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and our very own Queensland Symphony Orchestra. He is currently a soloist in residence at the iconic Chapelle Musicale Reine Elisabeth in Belgium under the direction of Maria-João Pires.

“I have had many great moments in my career already, in fact, a few months ago I gave the European premiere of Gareth Farr’s Piano Concerto with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra under the direction of Tecwyn Evans,” Mr Lee said. “This was a very memorable moment, working closely with the composer himself which was a great privilege.”

Tony Lee will mesmerize audiences performing *Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 2* on Saturday 22 August 7pm at QPAC Concert Hall. The program will begin with Strauss’ emotive and mournful tone poem *Death and Transfiguration*, and conclude with Stravinsky’s majestic ballet score *The Firebird*.

The majority of the 100 members of the **Queensland Youth Symphony** are tertiary music students, brought together by their passion for orchestral playing, and combining their skills to form one of the world’s leading youth orchestras. QYS has its own subscription series, tours internationally every four years, and again in 2015 was named QPAC’s Youth Orchestra in Residence.

Conductor John Curro AM MBE founded QYS in 1966 and continues conducting the orchestra with authority and charisma, motivating the orchestra to musical greatness. As a respected figure through the Australian musical community and within the international landscape of youth music education, he has conducted many of Australia’s professional orchestras and various international orchestras including the London Virtuosi, the Shanghai Philharmonic Orchestra and the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra.

Tickets are available online through [qtix](#), or by calling 136 246.

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For **interviews with Tony Lee** and more information, images or interviews please contact:

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