

# MEDIA RELEASE



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## **2016 National Youth Concerto Competition finalists announced**

Australia's finest young string players aged up to 17 years travel to Brisbane to participate in the 41<sup>st</sup> National Youth Concerto Competition (NYCC) presented by Queensland Youth Orchestras. Violinist Mitzi Gardner from New South Wales, cellist Jared Cheung from New South Wales, and violinist Yebin Yoo from Victoria will compete for the first prize of \$3,000 with their chosen concerto in the public Finals Concert titled *String Sensations*.

The concert will take place in the Old Museum Concert Hall on Sunday 9 October at 3:00pm with the Queensland Youth Symphony conducted by John Curro AM MBE.

"I cannot wait to grow and learn from playing with the orchestra and build many valuable friendships throughout the week," says Miss Yoo.

"To be a part of the NYCC is a very special honour and it will be a great opportunity to exhibit my creation to the audience."

Established in 1976, the NYCC is recognised as the most prestigious competition in Australia for string soloists aged up to 17 years.

Now in its 41<sup>st</sup> year, the NYCC continues to encourage the development of young Australian string players, attracting an exceptionally high standard of applicants. Founder and Director of Music John Curro AM MBE believes it is important to provide excellent performance opportunities for young string players.

“The NYCC is the only competition in Australia, that has been specifically designed to give young string players aged up to 17 years experience playing concerto repertoire with an orchestra,” says John.

“Finalists must also present recital programs at various public venues and schools throughout Brisbane, providing players with the opportunity to refine and further develop their performance and musical techniques.”

QYO has seen countless NYCC participants go on to pursue successful careers within Australia and abroad including Jane Peters (1978), Richard Tognetti (1980), Nicholas Milton (1985), Li-Wei Qin (1993) and Ray Chen (2002).

More recently, Anna Da Silva Chen (2010), Lily Higson-Spence (2011 & 2013) and Grace Clifford (2012) were finalists in the ABC Young Performers Awards after competing in the NYCC a few years prior.

Providing plenty of rehearsal opportunities, John Curro AM MBE believes the NYCC is an excellent stepping stone for future, more prestigious competitions.

“We create an atmosphere of stress free preparations by giving lots of rehearsal time to the finalists,” says John.

“In this spirit, we do not differentiate between the winner and the other finalists who are not graded 2nd or 3rd.”

The NYCC also offers up to four recitalists, the opportunity to join the Queensland Youth Symphony as orchestra members and participants in public recitals throughout Brisbane during the NYCC Finals Week. Many of the recitalists go on to re-audition and become finalists the following year, including 2016 participants Mitzi Gardner and Jared Cheung.

The NYCC Finals Week will run from the **1 – 9 October 2016**, with an incredibly high standard of performances expected throughout the competition week, culminating with the spectacular Finals Concert titled *String Sensations*.

### **String Sensations – Sunday 9 October 3:00pm in the Old Museum Concert Hall**

Violinist Mitzi Gardner - Prokofiev Violin Concerto No. 1, Op. 19

Cellist Jared Cheung - Dvorak Cello Concerto in B minor, Op. 104, B. 191

Violinist Yebin Yoo - Sibelius Violin Concerto in D minor, Op. 47

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