



MEDIA RELEASE
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ENROLMENTS AT RECORD PITCH AT THE CON

The Sydney Conservatorium of Music has experienced a record level of student enrolments for its nine curriculum streams in 2009.

Auditions numbered a best ever 800 from 23 countries, with a total of 185 places provided – 14 higher than the University quota - in courses straddling performance to research.

Of the 800 applications received, more than 400 were first preferences – some 20 per cent better than in previous years.

The number from local and overseas post graduate students totalled a record 210.

One of the successful enrollees scored a UAI of 100 in the 2008 HSC and plans to undertake a Bachelor of Music in piano.

Pro-Dean (Academic), Professor Anne Boyd, said the trend to combined degrees was again a standout for 2009.

“The combined Music-Medicine course field of highly qualified applicants is now the second largest after Science-Medicine, for the University of Sydney,” she said.

“Another major development is the number of local and overseas students taking on music research degrees – a record 108 for the current year.

“Also of immense importance is the doubling in the quota for students pursuing composition. The Con is now home to around 70 composers, with a doubling of the First Year intake into this degree stream which reinforces a youth force intent on sounding Australia as a nation.

“This is a marvellous trend made all the more exciting by the bequeathing of the first Chair in Australian Music by Peter Sculthorpe.”

The Con received 100 international student applications from 21 countries - including Iran, Greece and Taiwan - and made a record 35 offers – 50 per cent undergraduates and 50 per cent postgraduates.

Among the successful applicants were from the UK, China and Taiwan for PhDs in creative sound.

“We are immensely pleased with the outcome of enrolments for 2009, which underscores the growing reputation of The Con and augurs well for generating an even greater level of inspiration and challenge for all concerned,” commented the Dean and Principal, Professor Kim Walker.

“There is a buzz of expectation surrounding The Con as we improve our resources and opportunities for furthering our young and older musicians as well as our interface with the international music community – and a record level of enrolments is the icing on the cake.”

Media inquiries

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