JIWON IS QUEEN OF THE STRINGS

Sydney Conservatorium of Music masters student, Jiwon Kim, was announced as the winner of the Strings Final for the 2009 ABC Young Performer of the Year award with a stunning violin performance in Brisbane.

Kim, 24, who moved from Melbourne to The Con to specifically study under Associate Professor Alice Waten, played the Sibelius: Violin Concerto to edge out fellow finalists Xenia Deviatkina-Loh, 18, and Katherine Lukey, 28, also students at The Con, and Kana Ohashi, of Victoria.

The award is acknowledged as the country’s most important concerto performance for strings.

It is the first time that three of the four finalists for the award have been tutored by the same teacher.

Kim, from Kingsford, recently won the string section of The Con’s Concerto Competition, and will perform Mozart’s D major K 218 with the SCM Symphony Orchestra in September under the baton of Post Graduate conducting student Anthony Pasquill.

She will now join the winners of the finals of the Keyboard and Other Instruments sections of the Award in the Grand Final, to be held in Adelaide on 22 October, performing with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra.

It is the second year in a row that Kim has made the strings final.

“I was so much better prepared this time round thanks to a number of concerts arranged for me by the Conservatorium in the lead-up,” commented Kim.

“It was still daunting, but in 2008 I only had one pre-final concert to work with. This time I had more confidence.”

Waten is acknowledged as one of Australia’s most pre-eminent international music teachers, having taught at distinguished institutions around the globe and mentored dozens of successful Australian artists in a 36 year career.

"It is a wonderful result for all three...just getting to the finals was a massive achievement. They had to go through three stages. This helped build their momentum, but at the same time increased the pressures.”

Waten said young musicians vying for a career faced stresses equal to emerging ballet dancers.

“They are not just learning their instrument; they have to perfect performance as well. The path is longer than studying medicine...most start out at five and six years old and can be 20 and 25 before the gestation period is over. The perseverance and dedication needed is extraordinary, and something that can be often overlooked by audiences as they admire the quality of what they are hearing.”

In the final, Deviatkina-Loh (1st Year B.Mus) played Shostakovich: Violin Concerto No1 and Lukey (Masters Program) played Nielsen: Violin Concerto. Deviatkina-Loh was a founding member of The Con’s Open Academy Rising Stars in 2008.

Dean and Principal of The Con, Professor Kim Walker said: “What a great feather in the cap for Jiwon, Xenia and Katherine...the overall result is a triumph for them and for Alice Waten. We are all extremely proud.”

Meanwhile, David Papp, 24, who recently completed a Bachelor of Music Performance degree at The Con, will play Oboe in the Other Instruments final of the ABC Young Performer Award in Hobart on Friday night.

Papp began piano lessons at six years of age and by the time he was nine years old had commenced oboe lessons. He spent his secondary education at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music High School and completed his Licentiate of Music through the Australian Music Examinations Board on both oboe and piano in 2001 at age 17.

Papp has been a member of Sydney Sinfonia since 2005 conducted by Richard Gill, and was part of the Australian Youth Orchestra in 2007.

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