



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**21 May 2009**

## **WATEN'S WINNING WAYS**

**Alice Waten** denies she has the “Midas touch”, but try telling that to her students.

As one of Australia's most pre-eminent international music teachers, Associate Professor Waten has added another record to her long list of “firsts” with three of her Sydney Conservatorium of Music pupils winning through to the finals of the **2009 ABC Young Performer of the Year Award**.

The Award, to be judged in Brisbane on 13 June, is acknowledged as the country's most important concerto performance for strings.

The trio of Con contenders comprises **Xenia Deviatkina-Loh**: *Shostakovich Violin Concerto No1* (1st Year B.Mus); **Ji-Won Kim**: *Sibelius violin Concerto* (Masters Program); and **Katherine Lukey**: *Nielsen Violin Concerto* (Masters Program).

Deviatkina-Loh was a founding member of The Con's pilot project “Rising Stars” in 2008, while Kim recently won the string section of The Con's Concerto Competition, and will perform Mozart's D major K 218 with the SCM Orchestra in September under the baton of Imre Pallo.

But it doesn't end there. Earlier this month, two of Waten's other students successfully auditioned for places in the Australian Chamber Orchestra and Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra.

So in demand is the veteran music educator, she will:

- Judge the violin section at the **6th International Tchaikovsky Competition for Young Musicians** in Moscow from June 17 to June 28. This event is held every four years and is considered one of the world's most prestigious classical music competitions.
- Give **masterclasses** in Seoul, Korea, in July.

“Alice is a very special educator, and since she started working at The Con has made a significant impression... to the extent that students are coming from around the country to study with her,” said Dean and Principal of The Con, Professor **Kim Walker**.

“I am told that having three finalists vying for the Young Performer Award is unprecedented. Her profile is second to none in this country.”

Waten, who has taught at distinguished institutions around the globe and mentored dozens of successful Australian artists in a 36 year career, joined The Con after a world-wide recruitment program.

Her appointment in May last year along with Norwegian violinist Ole Bohn and Romanian-born violist Reiner Schmidt represented the first major expansion in full-time appointments to The Con's String Unit in 10 years.

Waten was the first Australian to study at the Moscow Conservatoire, graduating with a Master of Arts degree, where her principal teachers were Valery Klimov and David Oistrakh.

Previously, she studied at the Hochschule für Musik, in Berlin, while teaching positions include Head of Strings, Chetham's Specialist Music School, Manchester, UK; Head of Strings and Orchestral Studies, Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts; Artist Teacher in Residence, Senior Lecturer in Violin and Director of the Conservatorium Chamber Orchestra, Sydney Conservatorium of Music; Head of Strings and Classical Ensemble, Australian Institute of Music, Sydney; and guest lectureships including The Menuhin School (UK), Idyllwild School of the Arts (California USA), Canberra School of Music and the Australian National Academy of Music, Melbourne.





SYDNEY  
CONSERVATORIUM  
OF MUSIC

Former students include Richard Tognetti (violinist and Artistic Director, Australian Chamber Orchestra); Dimity Hall (violinist, Australia Ensemble and the Goldner String Quartet); Marina Marsden (Assistant Concertmaster, Sydney Symphony); Kirsten Williams (Associate Concertmaster, Sydney Symphony); and Sun Yi (Co-concertmaster, the Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra).

She coached the nationally and internationally acclaimed Tankstream Quartet from its formation in 2000.

Prior to devoting her professional life to teaching, Waten was a foundation member of the Australian Chamber Orchestra and held a principal chair for 11 years.

### **Media inquiries**

**Scott Saunders on 02 9351 1298**

