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For immediate release

Anouvong Liensavanh wins \$5,000 Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Award

South Australia's top award for an arts graduate – the \$5,000 Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Award – will be presented to Anouvong Liensavanh at the Helpmann Academy's Maestros & Apprentices fundraising dinner on Friday June 12 at the Adelaide Convention Centre.

Anouvong is a Bachelor of Music (Honours) graduate of the University of Adelaide's Elder Conservatorium, specialising in classical flute. The twenty-one year old musician is amongst the most exciting performers to have emerged from the school in recent years, and has shown great commitment and initiative in his studies and early career.

In addition to experience as a soloist, Anouvong has performed with numerous orchestras over the past four years, including the Elder Conservatorium Wind and Chamber Orchestras, the Norwood Symphony Orchestra and the Australian Youth Orchestra. He also played with Co-Opera's regional tour of *La Traviata* as Principal Flute.

Anouvong recently ranked 2nd in the flute auditions at Yale University in Connecticut, USA. While this Ivy League college only admits one flute player each year, Anouvong was thrilled at the result, and has since been accepted into the Masters course at the Royal College of Music in London, England.

Through its sponsorship of the State's leading award for an arts graduate, the Bendigo and Adelaide Bank aims to provide meaningful support for talented South Australians pursuing a career in the arts. "Anouvong is a talented musician who is already making a significant impact internationally. I am sure we are all witnessing the beginning of a major international career, starting right here in Adelaide," says Jamie McPhee, Chief Executive, Partner Advised Bank, Bendigo and Adelaide Bank. "We take great pride in enhancing the lives of South Australians by supporting artistic, cultural and business activities which we hope will help create a brighter future for South Australians, particularly our young people."

The Bendigo and Adelaide Bank winner is chosen from a select field of outstanding 2008 graduates from each of South Australia's major arts institutions: Adelaide Centre for the Arts (TafeSA), Adelaide Central School of Art, Elder Conservatorium of Music (University of Adelaide), Flinders Screen Production and Drama Centre (Flinders University), South Australian School of Art (UniSA) and Vizarts, O'Halloran Hill (TafeSA).

Proceeds from the Maestros & Apprentices black-tie dinner – this year themed *Starry, Starry Night* - provide significant benefits to students and recent graduates from the Helpmann Academy's partner schools, by assisting with funding for projects, facilitating visiting artists, student exchanges and creating performance and exhibition opportunities both in Australia and abroad. This glamorous night has grown enormously in popularity since it began in 1996, and is a showcase of the very best of South Australia's food, wine and emerging creative talent.

For further information contact Chris Bull, Helpmann Academy Marketing Manager, on