



A NIGHT OF JAZZ *with*
**PAUL
GRABOWSKY**

THE HILTON ADELAIDE
FRIDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2019

WELCOME

The Helpmann Academy and the Elder Conservatorium of Music at the University of Adelaide welcome you to *A Night of Jazz with Paul Grabowsky*. Tonight, is a rare opportunity to see one of Australia's preeminent jazz pianists, while honouring the next generation of South Australia's jazz talent with our 2019 Jazz Awards.

We are thrilled to be awarding over \$28,500 in prize money to the passionate and driven graduates taking to the stage with Paul this evening. This coupled with the invaluable experience of learning from and performing beside a musician and composer of Paul's calibre, means that the annual Night of Jazz event is an enriching experience for both the award recipients and audience alike.

In preparation for the performance tonight, the graduating musicians participated in a series of exclusive masterclasses with Paul Grabowsky AO, as a part of the Helpmann Academy Cultivate Series. The series aims to provide students and graduates with unique opportunities to work with a diverse range of professional artists to develop their skills and experience. Tonight, is the culmination of those sessions. We hope you will enjoy it.

This event is made possible by the generous support of our 2019 Jazz Award partners and donors, the Hilton Adelaide, Jazz SA, K&S Langley Family Fund, The Lang Foundation, Rob Lyons, Bendigo & Adelaide Bank, and our wine partner, Grigori Family Wines.

Their generous contributions provide these emerging musicians with the drive to take that next step in their career.

Our thanks to the lecturers and staff from the Elder Conservatorium of Music at the University of Adelaide for their ongoing support and steadfast commitment in producing such astounding talent.

CELEBRATING

25

— YEARS —



HELPMANN
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PAUL GRABOWSKY

"the audience was on its feet and pleading for more..."

Herald Sun

"Arguably, one of the most influential, inventive and individualistic players and composers of the modern jazz era in Australia."

Tony Hillier, Rhythms Magazine

Paul Grabowsky AO is one of Australia's most distinguished artists – a pianist, composer, arranger and conductor. He has been a director of some of Australia's most prominent arts festivals, the composer of nearly thirty feature film scores, and several works of music theatre, the founder and leader for nineteen years of the Australian Art Orchestra, and an executive at the ABC.

Whether as composer, teacher, television personality, mentor or arts advocate, for him, this is all informed by his work as a pianist, and composer, particularly in the field of jazz, where, according to him, 'the piano never lies'.

His musical journeys have resulted in collaborations with musicians from many countries, not least with the First Nations peoples of Australia, and those journeys continue. Among his many awards are five ARIAs, the Melbourne Prize for Music and an H.C. Coombs Fellowship.



AWARDS

MAX GRYNCHUK

**Keith & Susie Langley Memorial Award
\$7500**

Best Overall Honours Graduate

Max has been playing music since the age of 5, initially starting on the piano before picking up trumpet at age 13. He attended Marryatville High School, where he developed a passion for Jazz, Latin, and Big Band music.

Max performs regularly with the Royal Australian Navy Band SA, Mike Stewart Big Band as well as his own big band and small ensemble projects. Since 2015, he has also performed as a member of the Hilltop Hoods horn section, performing at festivals such as Falls, Splendour in the Grass, Groovin' the Moo, and more recently as an opening act for the Aus/NZ leg of Eminem's world tour, where he performed to over 80,000 people at a sold-out MCG.

As well as playing trumpet, Max is also an avid composer/arranger. His compositions and arrangements have been performed by many local ensembles such as the Marryatville High School Big Band, JazzSA Superbands, Elder Conservatorium Big Band, SA Navy Band and the Mike Stewart Big Band. He has also worked as an arranger for Royal Caribbean Cruises International.

Max completed his Bachelor of Music (Jazz Performance) with First Class Honours in 2018.



CHELSEA MCGUINNESS

Rob Lyons Award, \$2000
Top Voice Undergraduate

Chelsea McGuinness has studied with internationally acclaimed vocal experts throughout her training and is currently under the mentorship of award-winning jazz vocalist Anita Wardell. In 2016, she was presented with the Generations in Jazz (GIJ) award 'Most Promising Jazz Vocal Soloist' and is now in her final year of studying for a Bachelor of Music (Jazz Performance) at the Elder Conservatorium. Chelsea was selected as a GIJ Vocal Scholarship Finalist in 2018 and 2019 by James Morrison, which gave her the opportunity to receive mentorship from internationally renowned vocalist Lizz Wright and Grammy award-winning vocalist Kurt Elling. Chelsea now gigs regularly in Adelaide at various venues and corporate events, playing with some of Adelaide's most sought-after musicians. At the end of 2018, Chelsea spent a month in New York and Los Angeles to gain further experience in the international jazz scene, inspiring her to further her studies interstate and potentially overseas in the coming years.



BEN FINNIS

The Lang Foundation Award, \$5000
Best Overall Undergraduate

Ben Finnis is a 22-year-old guitarist who is currently in his third year of the jazz performance program at the Elder Conservatorium of Music. Ben picked up the guitar at the age of 7, and has since gone on to tour regularly with several local bands including Donnarumma, Superdose Gangway and Local Revolution. Over the past three years Ben has had the privilege to study under James Muller and in 2018 won the Keith & Susie Langley Memorial Award for Top Guitar Undergraduate at the Helpmann Academy Night of Jazz.



LENNY REGIONE

Bendigo & Adelaide Bank Award, \$2000
Top Bass Undergraduate

Lenny Regione started playing the electric bass in his first year of high school, and quickly became interested in jazz as a medium. As his passion grew, he decided to trade in his dream of becoming a physicist to study jazz at the Elder Conservatorium. He couldn't be happier with his decision and has decided to pursue a career in music. He currently plays in several local Adelaide bands including The Empty Threats and The Lenny Regione Trio and has recently picked up the double bass, which he enjoys very much.



AWARDS

CIARA FERGUSON

Helpmann Academy Award, \$2000
Top Piano Undergraduate

Ciara was born into a musical family and has played and sung all her life. She received a music scholarship to Marryatville High School's Special Interest Music Program where she was Music Captain and was awarded the Professor William Hague Award, the Technical School's Music Society Award and the St. Peters Rotary Scholarship. She began university studying classical piano but switched to jazz in 2017 under the tutelage of Mark Ferguson and Graham Williams. Ciara sings in the Adelaide Connection choir and the Elder Conservatorium Chorale and is the pianist for the university big band.

She has been a pianist and/or backing vocalist for Mark Holden, Rhonda Burchmore, Rachael Beck, Eddie Perfect, and Tim Campbell. Ciara played keyboards for *Les Misérables* (G&S Society) and was first keyboard for *Miss Saigon* (The Met). She was a creative trainee for the Pierrot Project with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra and has assisted in their children's programs. Ciara gigs around Adelaide in jazz and pop bands including her family group 'Marmalade Five,' and works as a piano teacher and accompanist.



THE MIKE STEWART MEMORIAL AWARD

Presented in partnership with JazzSA

We are thrilled to be presenting the 2019 Mike Stewart Memorial Award at this year's *Night of Jazz*. Valued at \$10,000, the Mike Stewart Memorial Award will provide an outstanding early career jazz musician with opportunities to help establish themselves as a professional musician.

The Mike Stewart Memorial Award has been established in partnership with JazzSA to honour the legacy of Adelaide Jazz icon, Mike Stewart. Mike Stewart was an incredibly passionate musician, a fierce advocate for jazz and a dear friend of many in the South Australian jazz community.

The recipient of this exciting award will be announced tonight.

THANK YOU

Morgan Fletcher, Drums
Sidonie Henbest, Master of Ceremonies
Mark Ferguson, Head of Jazz, Elder Conservatorium of Music

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THE ADELAIDE
REVIEW



HELPMANN
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The Helpmann Academy empowers SA's most promising emerging creatives to realise their visions and build sustainable practices.

We believe the arts are an essential part of society, and that the talented and dedicated emerging artists we support are valuable contributors, who deserve to be encouraged and celebrated.

A career in the performing or visual arts is a tough road to tread. Our aim is to develop connections and pathways for successful and sustainable careers, and walk alongside emerging artists as they make the transition from study to professional practice.

We collaborate with a passionate community of partners, donors and cultural organisations to provide a unique and valuable program of grants, awards, fellowships, residencies, mentorships and masterclasses.

Together, we work to ensure artists are exposed to a diverse range of opportunities, providing the best chance to develop their artistic identity, and act as the principal driving force of their own careers.

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