



# 2007 Classical Music Awards

presented by APRA and the Australian Music Centre

Hosted by Julia Lester, presenter of ABC Classic FM's *Drive* program

12 September 2007, Sydney Theatre, Walsh Bay

Broadcast live on ABC Classic FM from 7pm

## A feast of sound to celebrate the best of our contemporary classical composers

A diverse and exciting program of performances will accompany the announcement of the winners of the 2007 Classical Music Awards presented by APRA and the Australian Music Centre.

The Awards, honouring the best in the nation's contemporary classical music scene will be held on Wednesday 12 September 2007 and will feature performances by **TaikOz, Topology, Roger Smalley and Halcyon**.

As in previous years, the event will be broadcast live, nationally on ABC Classic FM.

**TaikOz** have earned renown for their unique fusion of Japanese ritual drumming and western percussion music. They are a finalist in the category of "Outstanding Contribution to Australian Music in a Regional Area" for their 2006 National Regional Tour and their artistic director Ian Cleworth is a finalist for the prestigious "Long-Term Contribution to the Advancement of Australian Music" award. TaikOz will perform *Shinju-Pearl: Part I* by Ian Cleworth. The performance will feature the impressive sight and the exhilarating thunder of seven ōdaiko – grand drums – played in the contemporary style where the players stand with their backs to the audience. *Shinju-Pearl: Part I* was composed for Synergy Percussion's 30th Anniversary in 2004.

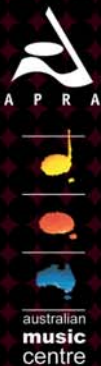
Brisbane-based group, **Topology** is one of Australia's leading new music ensembles. Their energetic, full-blooded sound and compact instrumentation has earned them a nomination in the category of "Outstanding Contribution by an Organisation" for their 2006 concert series. Topology will perform three works: *Chop Chop* by John Babbage (the group's saxophonist) and *Well may we say* by Robert Davidson (the group's bassist and leader). *Chop Chop* cleverly captures the various meanings attributed to the phrase. It is by turns, the popular local beer of Santiago, Chile; the not-so-popular (with the Government) tobacco; a common jazz term used to talk about technique and musicality (ie. chops); two beers, and a way of telling someone to hurry up! In contrast, Robert Davidson's *Well may we say* is drawn from his *Big Decisions* piece which was inspired by his experiences as a nine year old growing up in Canberra during the dismissal of the Whitlam Government by the Governor General. A chop chop of a different kind and a musical feast for the senses. The third work is a Topology favourite by Topology violist Bernard Hoey.

*Birthday Tango*, a piece commissioned by arts patron Barbara Blackman and composed by distinguished and respected Australian composer, pianist and conductor, **Roger Smalley** is nominated in the category "Best Composition by an Australian Composer". At the ceremony, Roger will perform his own piano compositions called *Gamelan*, No. 1 from *Three Studies in Black and White*. A beautiful expression of the importance of collaboration, the first piano study, *Gamelan*, is written for the left hand alone; while the second, *Moto Perpetuo* (with interruptions) is for the right hand alone. The third, *Dialogue*, draws the two together and is for both hands. The final section of the piece is a lament, titled *In Memoriam 12 October 2002*. It captures Roger's personal reaction to the terrible event of the Bali nightclub bombings which took place while he was composing this study. A fitting performance for our times.

**Graham Hair's** work, *O Venezia*, borrows its title from a celebrated account in Wagner's diary of a sleepless night on a Venetian balcony. *O Venezia: Part 1* is a finalist for "Best Composition by an Australian Composer". It is a multi-movement 'song-cycle-in-progress', composed for the ensembles Pandora's Vox (Boston), Halcyon (Sydney) and Scottish Voices (Glasgow) and features four female singers and harp. On this other sleepless night of celebration in Sydney, our audience will be treated to a performance of the piece by fellow nominees, **Halcyon**. An adventurous, sophisticated vocal ensemble, Halcyon has earned a reputation for its dynamic musical performances of a wide range of music by living composers, with a special commitment to the works of Australian composers. Halcyon, together with Flinders Quartet, are finalists in the "Best Performance of an Australian Composition" category for their performance of *Bright Forms Return* by Gillian Whitehead.

Eleven national awards will be presented in categories covering composition, performance, music education and outstanding contribution. A special Award for Distinguished Services to Australian Music will also be presented, and state-based Awards for outstanding achievement during 2006 will be announced.

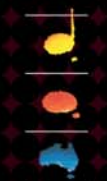
2007 CLASSICAL MUSIC AWARDS





CLASSICAL  
MUSIC  
AWARDS

2007 CLASSICAL MUSIC AWARDS



australian  
music  
centre

Presenters include interim CEO of the Sydney Opera House, Sue Natrass; prominent composer and artistic director of Musica Viva, Carl Vine; CEO of Australia Council for the Arts, Kathy Keele; ABC Classic FM Program Manager John Crawford, Australia Councillor Nicola Downer And APRA's Chair Mike Perjanik.

**Contact: Anna Cerneaz**  
**P: (02) 9362 5711 or 0412 093 063**  
**E: [anna@cenika.com](mailto:anna@cenika.com)**  
**W: [www.apra.com.au/awards](http://www.apra.com.au/awards) or [www.amcoz.com.au/projects](http://www.amcoz.com.au/projects)**