

2009 KENDALL NATIONAL VIOLIN COMPETITION

Kendall audience members chose the same winner as the experienced judges 6 times out of 11 when they agreed on Saturday 12 September, giving their prize to 19 year old Queensland violinist Glenn Christensen by a substantial vote.

Glenn took out every award. He won the first prize of the Caldersmith concert violin and the Lee Memorial Award, as well as the awards for the best performance of Bach and for the best performance of an Australian composition. He also won the TimberLay International Travel Scholarship valued at \$4000.

The judges, Carl Pini, Susan Blake and Gu Chen, admitted to having some very difficult decisions to make in view of the high standard of the finalists. One of them, Sujin Park, was awarded the \$30,000 Dorcas McClean Travelling Scholarship just a week before the Kendall final. We look forward to seeing Sujin and the other two finalists in future Competitions.

Glenn Christensen played at the Celebration Concert in Kendall on Sunday 13th; that evening he played the piano and sang at his brother's wedding west of Brisbane; on Monday 14th, in the morning, he sat an exam on Baroque History, and, that evening, he won the Ronald Clifford Davis Violin Prize (\$4500) offered by Griffith University in conjunction with the Queensland Conservatorium. Second prize (\$2500) went to 2008 Kendall finalist Lachlan O'Donnell. Both Lachlan and Glenn have been chosen for the Australian Youth Orchestra's International Tour in 2010.

Glenn will also return to Kendall in 2010 to give one of five paid recitals, part of his Kendall prize.

Gu Chen, the inaugural winner in 1999, flew from Macau where he is Concert Master of the Macau Orchestra, to judge the Competition and also to perform at the Celebration Concert on Sunday. He and Goetz Richter delighted the audience with their duets on Caldersmith violins, Gu Chen playing his prize instrument from 1999 and Goetz Richter playing the one awarded to Glenn.