



# KENDALL NATIONAL VIOLIN COMPETITION

## Winner's Repertoire

J S Bach  
Grave and Fugue from Sonata No 2 in a minor

N Paganini  
Caprice no 5

M Hill  
Abinu Malkenu (Ashkenazic ancient melody)  
Adagio con molto espressione

S Prokofiev  
Sonata no 1 in f minor Op 80  
*Andante Assai*  
*Allegro brusco*  
*Andante*  
*Allegrissimo*

## 2005 Finalists



**RAY CHEN** (winner)  
[www.raychenviolin.com](http://www.raychenviolin.com)

Ray Chen is a violinist who redefines what it is to be a classical musician in the 21st Century. With a media presence that enhances and inspires the classical audience, reaching out to millions through his unprecedented online following, Ray Chen's remarkable musicianship transmits to a global audience that is reflected in his engagements with the foremost orchestras and concert halls around the world.

Initially coming to attention via the Yehudi Menuhin (2008) and Queen Elizabeth (2009) Competitions, of which he was First Prize winner, he has built a profile in Europe, Asia, and the USA as well as his native Australia both live and on disc. Signed in 2017 to Decca Classics, the summer of 2017 has seen the recording of the first album of this partnership with the London Philharmonic as a succession to his previous three critically acclaimed albums on SONY, the first of which ("Virtuoso") received an ECHO Klassik Award. Profiled as "one to watch" by the Strad and Gramophone magazines, his profile has grown to encompass his featuring in the Forbes list of 30 most influential Asians under 30, appearing in major online TV series "Mozart in the Jungle", a multi-year partnership with Giorgio Armani (who designed the cover of his Mozart album with Christoph Eschenbach) and performing at major media events such as France's Bastille Day (live to 800,000 people), the Nobel Prize Concert in Stockholm (telecast across Europe), and the BBC Proms.

"It's hard to say something new with these celebrated works; however, Ray Chen performs them with the kind of authority that puts him in the same category as Maxim Vengerov." — Corriere della Sera

He has appeared with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra, Leipzig Gewandhausorchester, Munich Philharmonic, Filarmonica della Scala, Orchestra Nazionale della Santa Cecilia, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and upcoming debuts include the SWR Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, Berlin Radio Symphony, and Bavarian Radio Chamber Orchestra. He works with conductors such as Riccardo Chailly, Vladimir Jurowski, Sakari Oramo, Manfred Honeck, Daniele Gatti, Kirill Petrenko, Krystof Urbanski, Juraj Valcuha and many others. From 2012-2015 he was resident at the Dortmund Konzerthaus and in

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PO Box 86 Kendall NSW 2439

[www.kendallviolin.org.au](http://www.kendallviolin.org.au)

17/18 will be an "Artist Focus" with the Berlin Radio Symphony.

His presence on social media makes Ray Chen a pioneer in an artist's interaction with their audience, utilising the new opportunities of modern technology. His appearances and interactions with music and musicians are instantly disseminated to a new public in a contemporary and relatable way. He is the first musician to be invited to write a lifestyle blog for the largest Italian publishing house, RCS Rizzoli (Corriere della Sera, Gazzetta dello Sport, Max). He has been featured in Vogue magazine and is currently releasing his own design of violin case for the industry manufacturer GEWA. His commitment to music education is paramount, and inspires the younger generation of music students with his series of self-produced videos combining comedy and music. Through his online promotions his appearances regularly sell out and draw an entirely new demographic to the concert hall.

Born in Taiwan and raised in Australia, Ray was accepted to the Curtis Institute of Music at age 15, where he studied with Aaron Rosand and was supported by Young Concert Artists. He plays the 1715 "Joachim" Stradivarius violin on loan from the Nippon Music Foundation. This instrument was once owned by the famed Hungarian violinist, Joseph Joachim (1831-1907).

**AUGUST 2019**



### **JANET ANDERSON**

Janet Anderson has been a violinist with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra since 2007. She studied with Michele Walsh at the Queensland Conservatorium and Professor Gottfried Schneider at the Hochschule fur Musik und Theater in Munich.

Janet was a finalist in the 2005 Kendall National Violin Competition, winning the prize for the best performance of an Australian composition and was a finalist with the Fyra String Quartet in the Australian Chamber Music Competition. Janet received the 2006 Griffith University Postgraduate Award and Brisbane Midcity Rotary Club Music Award.

With the Leonore String Quartet Janet won the 2008 Musica Viva Chamber Music Prize, attended the International Musicians' Seminar, Prussia Cove UK, undertook a residency at the Banff Centre Canada, attended Mt Buller Chamber Music Summer Schools and competed in the 2009 Asia-Pacific Chamber Music Competition. Janet was a 2009 Australian Chamber Orchestra Emerging Artist, mentored by Aiko Goto, and toured extensively with ACO and ACO2 throughout Australia.

Janet continues to perform with ASO, Adelaide Baroque, Adelaide Concert Collective, Kegelstatt Ensemble and various chamber groups.

**AUGUST 2019**



### **JENNEN NGIAU-KENG**

Jennen Ngiau-Keng is an entrepreneur who performs regularly with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra as a casual violinist. A year after winning the Kendall National Violin Competition in 2006, he started an online shoe business called JENNEN shoes, which has since expanded into an international online business with boutiques in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane.

Since 2011, Jennen has directed String Musicians Australia, a string quartet booking agency, that has now performed for over one thousand wedding and corporate functions across Australia.

This year Jennen is performing with the Tasmanian Symphony and Melbourne Chamber Orchestra.

I have two children now, so spending a lot of time with them and working a lot less.

**AUGUST 2019**



## **XI MAY ZHEN**

Born in Sydney in 1992, Xi May began playing the violin at the age of five. In 2004, Xi May was the youngest semi-finalist (aged 11) selected from 186 competitors from 29 countries to compete in the Yehudi Menuhin International Violin Competition in London. In 2005, at the age of 13, Xi May won First Prize (Gold Medal) at the 2005 International Violin Competition in Germany. Playing Paganini's Concerto No. 1 in D Major, she was a winner of the National Youth Concerto Competition. Xi May was also a finalist in the Tchaikovsky International Competition. Other experiences include being selected at the age of 13 to compete as a finalist in the ABC Young Performers Awards (string category), as well as being a finalist in the Kendall National Violin Competition.

In 2006, Xi May was invited to perform Mozart's Violin Concerto in A Major in Japan to celebrate Mozart's 250th anniversary. In the same year, she performed Tchaikovsky's Concerto In D Major with the Udmurt Orchestra in Russia. Xi May has also performed the Violin Concerto in A minor by Vieuxtemps with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra. She has appeared as a soloist with numerous groups including the Melbourne String Ensemble (2006), Queensland Youth symphony (2004-2007), Sydney Concert Orchestra (2004), East West Philharmonic Orchestra (2001) and NSW State Schools' Orchestra (2001). Xi May has also performed the Violin Concerto in D Major by Beethoven with the SBS Youth Orchestra.

XI MAY ZHEN continued:

Xi May was presented with the New South Wales Premier's Young Chinese Volunteer Award at Sydney Government House in recognition of her active and distinguished service to the community. She is also a recipient of the Mayoral Recognition of Endeavour Award (Bankstown) for musical contributions to the community. Xi May has performed as a soloist at events including the Premier's Gala Concert, Christmas Eve concerts at Sydney Olympic Park and Darling Harbour, NSW Schools Spectacular, NSW Public Schools Choral Concert, and the International Boat Show concert.

She was awarded her LMusA with distinction in 2002, and completed 6th grade musicianship with honours the following year.

Xi May achieved near full marks in the NSW Higher School Certificate examination and was awarded the Premier's Award for All-round Excellence. She was subsequently accepted into a dual degree medical program. Xi May is currently working as a doctor in a Sydney hospital.

Xi May sends her best wishes.

**AUGUST 2019**