



# KENDALL NATIONAL VIOLIN COMPETITION

## Winner's Repertoire

J. S. Bach

Partita de minot, BWV 1004

*Sarabanda, Giga*

L. v. Beethoven

Sonata E flat major op 12, No. 3

*Allegro con spirito*

*Adagio con molt' espressione*

*Rondo-Allegro molto*

Mirrie Hill

Abinu Malkenu

*Adagio con molto espressione*

Saint-Saens

Introduction and Rondo Capricciosa

## 2007 Finalists



### **JONATHAN MUI** (winner)

Jonathan Mui was born in Hong Kong in 1991 and started playing the violin at the age of five. He has studied with internationally renowned teachers such as Prof. Shi-xiang (Peter) Zhang, Charmian Gadd, and Prof. Ole Bøhn. Jonathan holds a Bachelor of Music with first class honours from the Sydney Conservatorium.

During his studies, he served many times as concertmaster of the Conservatorium Chamber and Symphony orchestras. As a recitalist and chamber musician, he has performed with such artists as Einar Steen-Nøkleberg, Geir Henning Braaten, Daniel Herscovitch, and David Fulmer.

He has won the 2006 Ku-Ring-Gai concerto competition, the 2007 National Youth Concerto competition in Queensland, and first prize and the TimberLay Scholarship at the 2007 Kendall National Violin Competition. The travel scholarship enabled Jonathan to travel to London in December 2007 for private tuition with Prof. Kun Hu at the Royal Academy of Music. In December 2010, Jonathan won first prize at the Gisborne International Music Competition (NZ), and was also a joint winner of the Prize for the Best Interpretation of a NZ Composition. He was invited back to New Zealand in January 2011 to perform at the Australian High Commission in Wellington.

Jonathan participated in the Lausanne Summer University chamber music seminars in 2011, and gave solo and chamber music concerts in Oslo at the Vigeland Museum concert series in 2011, 2012 and 2013. He has also performed in Brazil: at the Teatro Municipal in Rio de Janeiro in 2011, and later at the Santa Catarina Music Festival in 2014. In 2012 he was also invited to participate at the Carl Nielsen International Competition in Odense (Denmark).

As a member of the Australian Youth Orchestra (AYO), he went on the international tour in 2013, performing under the baton of Christoph Eschenbach and with soloist Joshua Bell in such venues as the Sydney Opera House, Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Berlin Konzerthaus and the Menuhin Festival in Gstaad. As part of AYO Chamber Players, Jonathan has also performed at the Musica Viva Festival in Sydney in 2013, and received chamber music coaching from Lambert Orkis.

Jonathan said "I'm very happy to see the new developments of the Kendall competition. In recent years I have noticed how many of the competitors are quite young, and so it seems natural to create a junior category. But more

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importantly, I believe it will enhance the role of classical music in young people's lives. In addition, with more performances taking place during the competition, it will have more of a music festival kind of vibe, just like any of the major competitions around the world".

Currently, I am doing maths full-time! My honours year went very well, and my supervisor was happy to have me work as his research student. I have thus started a research project, which allows me to continue working at the school of maths at the University of Sydney.

I'm also employed as a teacher at Matrix Education, which is a private company offering courses for high school students. I've been asked to help develop some resources for the incoming new syllabus, which is something I'm quite excited for. Unfortunately, my music activities have had to be put aside. I find that working in mathematics is just as demanding as being a musician, although in very different ways. Nevertheless I try to practise now and then. What's really great is that the dystonia symptoms are slowly going away. It's unclear if they will ever disappear entirely, but at least I can be confident that some time in the future, I will be able to play the violin in a more-or-less natural way again.

Jonathan was a 2018 KNVC judge for the 1st Round.

**AUGUST 2019**



### **DORETTA BALKIZAS**

Berlin-based Australian violinist Doretta Balkizas enjoys a diverse international career as a soloist, chamber and orchestral musician. She has performed as soloist with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, Nanning Symphony Orchestra and Melbourne Chamber Orchestra. She was a finalist in the 2015 Symphony Australia Young Performer Award and a major prize winner in the Dorcas McClean Travelling Scholarship for Violinists.

She has appeared as a chamber musician at the Prussia Cove International Musicians Seminar, International Holland Music Sessions, Musica Viva Festival and Yellow Barn. Her orchestral experiences include performances with the Gewandhausorchester Leipzig, Mahler Chamber Orchestra, Deutsche Symphonie Orchester and Australian Chamber Orchestra. Doretta received her Master of Music at the Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler in Berlin where she graduated in 2018 with the highest distinction. She completed her undergraduate degree at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music as a student of Alice Waten. Her studies have been supported by an Australia Council Grant, a George & Margaret Henderson Travelling Scholarship, DAA D award, Ernest V. Llewellyn Memorial Fund scholarship and an Ian Potter Cultural Trust grant.

**AUGUST 2019**



### **ALICE HIGGINS**

Alice performed, studied and taught the violin in the UK, Germany and Australia. Always in search of a challenge, Alice has completed her Masters of Music in Freiburg, Germany; performed Brahms' Violin Concerto under English National Opera's Edward Gardner, joined one of the UK's busiest chamber orchestras, Southbank Sinfonia, performing over 60 concerts in 9 months; toured the UK with Dionne Warwick; and played with some of the world's top ensembles including Academy of St Martin in the Fields, Orchestra of the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, BBC Concert Orchestra and Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment.

Alice has held the position of Director of Strings at St Aloysius' College, Milsons Point Sydney, Australia from earlier this year.

**AUGUST 2018**



## SONJA SCHEBECK

sonjaschebeck.com

Sonja was born in Sydney, Australia and is of Russian/Polish/Austrian heritage. She became entranced by the violin at age 3 after attending a baby prom by the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and began studying the Suzuki method with Barbara Hayward. She completed her Bachelor of Music (Performance) with first-class Honours from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, studying with Christopher Kimber and was the recipient of the George & Margaret Henderson Postgraduate Scholarship and University Postgraduate Award. She is currently undertaking the Masters program at the Konservatorium Wien, studying with Professor Florian Zwiauer (1st Konzertmeister, Wiener Symphoniker).

Sonja has been fortunate to work in a variety of genres with artists including composer Chloé Charody, classical/theatre collective Ilythian, Extra Sounds Ensemble (Krakow), Wiener Symphoniker, Concertino Wien, Max Steiner Orchestra Vienna, guest musician with Jazz Orchestra Tirol, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Sydney Symphony Sinfonia, English Session Orchestra, Sydney Scoring Orchestra, Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, Palace Gate Orchestra (concertmaster), Sydney Camerata, film director Jane Campion and composer Mark Bradshaw (soundtrack for 'Bright Star'), pop/rock band Saving Grace, The Eastern Bloc folk string quartet, experimental band Wicked Miranda, Australian hip-hop group Mind Over Matter, balkan ensemble The Yellow Quinces and musical circus-stunt group Strings on Fire. Coming from a diverse musical background including folk and jazz, Sonja has also performed with various groups on guitar, double bass, piano and percussion. She has a special interest in new music, twentieth-century Russian music (particularly that of Sergei Prokofiev) and in the circus arts of fire performance, acrobatics and more recently stilt walking, pole and aerial arts.

Sonja is privileged to be a founding member of Nigel Kennedy's 'Orchestra of Life', touring for projects across UK/Europe and Australia since 2010. She has performed as co-soloist with Mr Kennedy in Double Violin Concertos by J. S. Bach and A. Vivaldi, selections from B. Bartok's 44 Duos as well as at festivals and concerts with the Nigel Kennedy Jazz Quintet.

Other performance highlights include the Adelaide Fringe Festival, Beijing Musicathlon pre-Olympics cultural festival (representing the Sydney Conservatorium), the Melbourne Fringe Festival, performances with Nigel Kennedy and the Orchestra of Life at Royal Albert Hall, Henley Festival, Latitude Festival and BBC Proms (UK), Berlin Philharmonie (Germany) and with the Nigel Kennedy Band at Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival (Germany), Przystanek Woodstock (Poland), St Prex Classics (Switzerland – mentor to the 'St Prex Young Artists') and Porgy & Bess Jazz Club, Vienna.

Sonja has been a prize-winner at the Gisborne International Music Competition, International Space Time Concerto Competition, Balmain Sinfonia Concerto Competition, Kendall National Violin Competition, Marcus Edwards Violin Prize, and Ku-ring-gai Philharmonic Orchestra Concerto Competition, a finalist in the Musica Viva Chamber Music Awards and Nelson Meers

Outstanding Instrumentalist Awards and a finalist in the 2010 and 2015 Symphony Australia ABC Young Performer of the Year awards. She has participated in masterclass lessons with Perry Hart, Jiří Zigmund, Charmian Gadd, Goetz Richter, Simon Fischer and David Takeno.

Since 2007 Sonja has worked closely with Australian composer [Chloé Charody](#) on many projects including 'Ilythian' contemporary classical/theatre collective, 'MusiqueArt' street-press magazine for the Fine Arts and 'ReachOut', a touring music education program designed to bring the classical music of today to the youth of Australia, particularly those living in regional and remote areas. They co-founded [Charody Productions](#) in 2010. Schebeck has premiered many of Charody's compositions, including as guest solo violinist with the Dutch National Ballet for the opera-ballet 'Magdalene' in 2011 and the premiere of 'The Phoenix' caprice for solo violin (excerpt from the Violin & Fire Concerto of the same name) in May 2012 at the Musikverein, Vienna. This work was also presented by the Dutch National ballet as a piece for solo violinist/dancer (choreographed by Remi Wortmeyer) at the New Moves festival, Amsterdam 2016.

Charody and Schebeck have a special interest in creating new art fusing new classical music with circus arts. Their creation '[The Carnival](#)' circus-opera (for which Schebeck is co-director, solo violinist, aerial and fire performer) has appeared multiple times in Sydney, at the Melbourne Fringe Festival and on London's West End in 2011 and the Fliegende Bauten, Hamburg in 2013. Their current project is Charody's 'Phoenix' Concerto for Violin, Fire and Orchestra.

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Sonja is currently based between Europe/UK and Australia as a freelance performer whilst creating her own interdisciplinary projects including [The Freestyle Orchestra](#) (recipients of the Audience Choice awards in the 2016 Tarisio Trust Young Artist Grants), Spiegel Duo (with pianist Lisa Chou), 'PyroViolinist' fireshow and The Harlequin Court Orchestra street performance collective. She appears as violinist/fire artist for Zirkus Pikard (Austria) and for Igudesman & Joo's ['The League of X-traordinary Musicians'](#) with recent performances at the Vienna Konzerthaus New Year's Eve Gala and the Lucerne Festival. Highlights of 2017/18 season include Ross Edwards' 'Maninyas' Concerto (soloist with Houston Ballet) and performances with The Freestyle Orchestra for the Venice Biennale and 'Les Jardins Musicaux' (Switzerland).

**AUGUST 2019**