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International Viola Society Congress  
Melbourne Violin Competition

# The ABC Young Performers Awards (YPA) live again!

David Langley



## ABC YOUNG PERFORMERS AWARDS

The Young Performers Awards is Australia's most prestigious competition for young classical instrumentalists. The awards, long recognised for their reputation for launching international careers, are hosted by ABC Classic FM and the Music and Opera Singers Trust (MOST).

Formerly known as the ABC Instrumental and Vocal Competition and the ABC Symphony Australia



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2011 YPA Finalists Nicholas Young, Emily Sun, Nicholas Russoniello

Young Performers Awards (among other names), it began in 1944 and ran until 2015 in six states (the semi-finals) and a national final in rotating states with four categories: keyboard, strings, wind and vocal. The competition gained a new partner in MOST in 2017.

Entrants needed to have been aged under 30 by 31 December 2017 (there is no minimum age). Digital video entry, included in the awards for the first time, enabled musicians from all around Australia to participate, and allowed Australian musicians studying overseas to enter the awards. Entrants were invited to upload video entries to [youngperformersawards.org](http://youngperformersawards.org) before March 6th 2018, when a judging panel led by Dene Olding AM selected 12 semi-finalists.

These semi-finalists will perform in public recitals at Sydney's City Recital Hall on 16 – 17 July. Three Finalists will then be chosen to perform at the Sydney Opera House with the Sydney Symphony



2012 Oliver She, Richard Pollett, Ashley Smith Finalists 2012



2014 semi-finalists. Photo Lucas Dawson.

Orchestra on 24 July, with all concerts broadcast by ABC Classic FM.

The awards on offer in 2018 total over \$170,000 in prizes, including cash awards and performance opportunities. The musician who claims the title of Young Performer of the Year proves themselves outstanding in all areas of musical performance, demonstrating high technical proficiency, an understanding of the repertoire and an appreciation of musical style. They also win the \$50,000 Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust Scholarship, the \$30,000 Sheila Walker Scholarship and are named the ABC Classic FM Artist-in-Residence.

The YPA have provided aspiring young musicians the opportunity to perform with Australia's major orchestras for more than 70 years. Since their inception, they have been a launching pad onto the international stage for acclaimed international musicians such as Beryl Kimber (violin, 1946), Charmian Gadd (violin, 1962), Nathan Waks (cello, 1968), Keith Crellin (viola, 1972), Brett Dean (viola, 1981), Adele Anthony (violin, 1983), Alison Lazaroff-Somssich (violin, 1986), Julian Smiles (cello, 1988), Li-Wei Qin (cello, 1993), Sophie Rowell (2000) and Kristian Winther (violin, 2002).

More recent participants and winners (marked with an asterisk) include violinists Stuart Lee-Chen\* (2007), Rebecca Chan (2008), Ji Won Kim\* (2009), Richard Pollett (2010), Emily Sun (2011), Katerina Nazarova\* (2012), Grace Clifford\* and Anna da Silva Chen (2014).

*David Langley is the Events & Communications officer at Music and Opera Singers Trust (MOST). More information about the YPA may be found at <http://youngperformersawards.org/>*