



March 16, 2009

Top music students in Opera House showcase

Minister for Education and Training, Verity Firth, has congratulated 20 of the state's top music students who will perform in the prestigious ENCORE concert at Sydney Opera House today.

Ms Firth said ENCORE, which is always a sell-out event, was a tribute to the outstanding young musicians and composers who have studied for the Higher School Certificate in NSW.

"Securing a spot in the ENCORE concert is notoriously competitive," Ms Firth said.

"The 20 talented students were chosen from a field of 5,700 who studied three music courses last year.

"These students are among the best musicians and composers in the State and I wish them the best for the future, whether they pursue music as a career or continue it as a hobby."

Ms Firth said ENCORE is a unique concert that highlights the talent and dedication of music students across NSW.

"ENCORE offers a smorgasbord of musical genres and styles," she said.

"This year's program includes instrumentalists on flugelhorn, harp, piano, guitar, saxophone, trumpet, French horn and clarinet, as well as contemporary and classical vocalists.

"There are original compositions, skilful arrangements and complex and technically challenging pieces.

"This variety is a testament to the scope of the music syllabuses being studied at schools across NSW.

"Music is important to our young people, and nothing shows this more clearly than the number of students choosing to study it as part of their HSC.

"Music is one of the top 15 subject selection choices at HSC level, and the number of students taking it continues to go up and up.

"Changes to the curriculum in recent years have led to music becoming an integral part of daily activities in the classroom.

"With advances in technology and media in our schools, we are seeing music incorporated in many areas of the broader curriculum."

Ms Firth said the students involved in today's ENCORE performance were from regional areas including Deniliquin, Albury, Lismore and Newcastle as well as from metropolitan Sydney.

"I would like to thank the families and friends who support and encourage these talented students, and acknowledge the dedication of their music teachers," she said.

ENCORE is presented by the Board of Studies NSW in partnership with the Department of Education and Training.

A total of more than 4000 seats in the matinee and evening performances, being held today, are fully sold out.

The performances are recorded and CDs will be available for purchase through the Board of Studies later in the year.

ENCORE is one of several 2008 HSC student exhibitions held in Sydney including DesignTECH (Design and Technology), ArtExpress (Visual Arts) and OnSTAGE (Drama), with many of them also touring to major regional areas.

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PERFORMANCE LIST

Name	School	Instrument	Repertoire
Lauren Azar	Newtown HSPA	Voice	Butterflyz
Ken Allars	Newtown HSPA	Trumpet	Intrada
Timothy Engelbrecht	Toongabbie Christian School	Guitar	No More Tears
Michael Gorman	Deniliquin HS	Voice/Guitar	Still Got the Blues
Lauren Whitehead	The Scots School, Albury	French Horn	Hunters Moon
Joshua Harlen	Trinity Catholic College, Lismore	Guitar	Talking Hands
Natalie Wong	Hornsby GHS	Harp	La Source Op. 44
Dane Laboyrie	Kirrawee HS	Flugel Horn	Moonlight Serenade
Ken Kuo	Pittwater House Grammar School	Violin	Zigewerweisen
Kathryn Hulme	Sydney Girls HS	Voice	Flower Duet
Kathy Zang	St George GHS	Piano	Oiseaux Tristes
Thomas Cockburn	Knox Grammar School	Saxophone	Jungle fever
Zhi Zu	Sydney Boys HS	Piano	Prelude Op 23 No 5 (Rachmaninoff)

Rowan Katekar	Newcastle Grammar School	Saxophone	Aint Misbehavin'
Ivy Kwon	Abbotsleigh	Clarinet	Postcards from France – Mvt 2

COMPOSITIONS

Name	School	Composition Title
Deborah Kim	Cherrybrook THS	Love to See You Smile
Alexander Openshaw	Barker College	Skewbold
Doretta Balkizas	MLC Burwood	Chiaroscuro
Elissa Tran	Conservatorium HS	De Profundis
Morgan Merrell	Conservatorium HS	Dilute