

APRA Press Release



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BEGINS

APRA announces winner of \$10,000 Professional Development Award

APRA is pleased to announce that the recipient of the inaugural APRA NZ Professional Development Award (PDA) is Robin Toan, a 22 year old composer from Auckland.

The PDA offers \$10,000, travel and recognition to a music writer in the early stages of their career and is awarded to a New Zealand APRA member who can demonstrate that they possess outstanding potential in their field.

Over 60 applications were received for the PDA from APRA's members. One of the independent judges commented, "Robin is clearly a very talented young woman who has a clear vision of where she is headed in her career. The caliber of the applicants was very high; she should be well pleased with this achievement."

Since graduating with a Bachelor of Music Honours (First Class) from the University of Auckland this year, Robin has won the place of inaugural Composer-in-Residence for the NZSO National Youth Orchestra, entered 4 international composition competitions and is currently working on the soundtrack for a short film. Robin's goal is to become a composer capable of operating in both the contemporary classical music arena and the screen industry.

"There was an extraordinary amount of talent displayed in the applications. Robin's application did stand out. She is a remarkable young talent and we have great faith that this award will allow her to develop further" says APRA's Director of NZ Operations, Anthony Healey.

The PDA will support Robin's travel in 2006 to universities and films schools in Europe, America and Asia where she will work closely with various composition tutors sharing with them her work so far, refining techniques and developing new skills.

APRA is a non-profit organisation administering the rights of the world's composers, songwriters and publishers in Australasia. APRA represents over 38,000 writers and publishers through direct membership, with over 5,000 NZ members, and over 2 million writers and publishers throughout the world under reciprocal agreements with other organisations.

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