

JOHN CHONG-NEE APRA NZ PDA 2007

APRA NZ is proud to announce the recipient of the 2007 APRA Professional Development Award - John Chong-Nee. The PDA offers \$10,000 to an APRA member who can demonstrate that they possess outstanding potential in their field.

To say John Chong-Nee has had a successful run would be an understatement. APRA member since 2000, he is registered as being a writer and or co-writer of over 60 works, including the 2003 Silver Scroll nominated Ill Semantics track 'Highway'.

It began in the early '90s with seven piece group Semi-MCs, out of which formed AKA Brown a duo with Sam Feo II. AKA Brown were picked up by UPR (Urban Pacifica Records), Phil Fuemana saw beyond John's MCing talents and the young musician began his ever-blossoming career working with the likes of Dobbyn and Finn. Following their performance at the '98 Silver Scroll Awards the AKA Brown remix of the iconic Dave Dobbyn track "Beside You", brought Chong-Nee's skills into the limelight and Dawn Raid Entertainment soon signed him up as their in-house producer.

Undeniably John Chong-Nee is one of New Zealand's most in demand collaborators. Even P-Money agrees, rating him as "Australasian RnB producer #1 hands down".

His Dawn Raid production credits are literally a list of the

'who's who' of urban Pacific music - The Deceptikonz' "Elimination" album, Mareko's debut album "White Sunday", plus groundbreaking compilations "Southside Story" and "Str8 From Tha Streets".

The credits don't stop there, writing and producing on various other projects over the years including - Che Fu "2 b Spasifik", Ben Lummis "One Road", PNC "Rookie Card". Remixing for the likes of Katchafire and providing his own tracks for multi-platinum selling compilations Major Flavours & RnB Superclub. A career highlight would have to be his work on "First Edition" with Dei Hamo; in 2004 they achieved three #1 singles including the highest selling single of the year "We Gon' Ride".

Stepping out from behind the desk and back to his original musical roots, John Chong-Nee finally released his own album "Just Getting By On Love" in 2006 - producing no less than six Top 20 NZ Airplay chart hits.

John's skills have not gone unnoticed internationally and the PDA is going to allow him to travel to the United States to accept invitations for various writing, producing and performance collaborations. With his legacy of training up local musicians and being extremely open with his knowledge, APRA believe this award will not only benefit Chong-Nee but many New Zealand artists in the future.

Abbie Rutledge



TOPIC PHOTOGRAPHY

PDA POSTCARD

Sensational York (UK)

I was really impressed by the University of York, from the picturesque lake setting to the size and quality of its musical facilities. They have three concert auditoriums, a whole block dedicated to research and above all a huge composition department - there are over thirty PHD composition students alone! Despite this I was delighted to find that it was just as common to see another student walk by as it was a family of geese.

I was warmly welcomed by Nicola LeFanu and Roger Marsh. They immediately made me feel at home. My sessions with Nicola were both thoroughly enjoyable and insightful. I learnt a lot about my writing style, my weakness and even my strengths. Both Nicola and Roger introduced me to a range of new music that was unknown to me that I am now keen to explore. I also spent long afternoons in their large music library studying their contemporary scores, many that I had never had a chance to see before.

Robin Robin Toan (APRA NZ PDA 2005 recipient)



Nicola and I at one of our sessions.