

SOUNZ Awards for 2006...

Ross Harris has been awarded the 2006 SOUNZ Contemporary Award for his *Symphony No. 2*, the third time he has won the award in its nine-year history. Ross previously won in 2000 for his piece *To the Memory of I.S. Totzka* for soprano and chamber ensemble, and in 2005 with *Labyrinth*, for tuba and orchestra.

The jury, in selecting *Symphony No. 2* for the 2006 award commented: "This work represents a fantastic accomplishment – to take the theme of war and to treat it so sensitively, and yet with such drama. It was an inspired decision to use a soprano soloist to represent all the different characterisations within of the literary elements."

Ross has been Composer in Residence with the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra in 2005 and 2006 and the APO, conducted by Bundit Ungrangsee, premiered *Symphony No. 2* in



Ross Harris and fellow finalist Eve de Castro-Robinson celebrate at the APRA Silver Scrolls Award Evening in September.

June this year with soprano Madeleine Pierard in the solo role.

The other finalists this year were also orchestral works featuring a soloist: *Releasing the Angel* by Eve de Castro-Robinson for cello and orchestra and Dylan Lardelli's *Tumbu* for clarinet and orchestra, both commissioned and premiered by the NZSO.

Young Wellington composer and musician **Tabea Squire** has been awarded both of the 2006 SOUNZ supported awards for secondary school composition. She won the SOUNZ prize for Original Composition in the 2006 New Zealand Community Trust Chamber Music Contest for her string quartet *Random Berg 7* described by adjudicator **Michael Norris** as "a most impressive exploration of colours, ideas, rhythms, textures, and all sorts of other musical parameters". Her choral piece *Fragments* won the composition section of the NZCF BIG SING competition, adjudicated by **Chris Archer**.



The SOUNZ Community Commission for 2007 has been awarded to **Robin Toan** and the Manukau Symphony Orchestra. "I am really looking forward to working with the orchestra," Robin comments. "They are a lively and committed group musicians. I already have a few ideas in mind for the work – I want to use strong cultural influences which will require the players to extend the use of their instruments and to utilise their voices. I also aim to make the work accessible and enjoyable for the audience – and hopefully fun to play as well!"



Spotlight!

New Zealand music and musicians have been in the spotlight of media publicity recently.

Douglas Lilburn: His Life and Music by **Philip Norman** (top) was launched in Christchurch and Wellington and has already won much critical acclaim, *North and South* declaring, "It's a bloody good read and undoubtedly biography of the year."

The *View From Olympus* CD/DVD from Rattle of three major concerti by **John Psathas** was launched in September (right) and is already attracting very favourable comment...



...and filmmaker Prue Donald is completing her documentary on the work of **Gillian Whitehead** (left). It will screen in the 2007 season of *Artsville* on TV1.



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