



Embargoed for media release until 7.30pm, Monday September 29, 2008

2008 ARIA Fine Arts Awards winners announced

Chris Lilley

Andrea Keller

Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingu

Richard Tognetti, Neal Peres Da Costa & Daniel Yeadon

At the 2008 ARIA Fine Arts Awards tonight, expectant mother **Andrea Keller** won her third ARIA Award, **Richard Tognetti** scored a hat trick, **Chris Lilley** was recognised for his unique comic brilliance, and angel-voiced **Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingu** took the first of a possible four ARIA Awards in 2008.

The ARIA Fine Arts ceremony celebrated both passion and excellence within the Australian music industry across four genres. Honouring achievements in the **Classical, Jazz, World Music and Soundtrack/Cast/Show** recordings, the Fine Arts event, now in its fifth year in the ARIA program, was held for the first time at the magnificent **City Recital Hall, Angel Place** in Sydney.

Winner of the ARIA Award for **BEST SOUNDTRACK/CAST/SHOW ALBUM** is one Australian television's great success stories of recent years, **Chris Lilley**. His 4CD set release of **SUMMER HEIGHTS HIGH**, the cult mockumentary hit from ABC TV, demonstrates Lilley's comedic brilliance and why Australians of all ages have adopted the vocal mannerisms of Jonah, Ja'mie and Mr G.

Having won the last two ARIA Awards for **BEST CLASSICAL ALBUM** for his Bach series, National Living Treasure **Richard Tognetti** makes it a hat trick - the first time ever in this category. For this year's ARIA Award winner, **BACH SONATAS FOR VIOLIN & KEYBOARD**, Tognetti was joined by musical and real life partners **Neal Peres Da Costa** on harpsichord and organ, and **Daniel Yeadon** on cello and viola da gamba.

FOOTPRINTS, the winner of the **BEST JAZZ ALBUM**, is a tribute album to the great composer and saxophonist **Wayne Shorter** by Melbourne-based pianist **Andrea Keller**. Andrea couldn't attend the awards as she is due to give birth to her second child in less than two weeks, but will be back on stage to perform this album in November at the Wangaratta Festival of Jazz.

One of this year's great musical discoveries is a blind singer from North East Arnhem Land **Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingu**. His album, **GURRUMUL**, has won the ARIA Award for **BEST WORLD MUSIC ALBUM**. It is largely sung in indigenous languages and has had music critics hailing the arrival of an extraordinary talent, a veritable "gift from the gods". The ARIA voters have agreed and he has been nominated for four ARIAs this year, including the coveted **BEST MALE ARTIST**. One down, three to go?

The 2008 ARIA Fine Arts Awards was hosted by Australian screen icon **Jack Thompson**, with special guest presenters: director **Bruce Beresford**; three time ARIA Award winner **Paul Dyer**; and opera stars **Emma Matthews** and **Philip Langridge**.

The audience was treated to performances by this year's nominees: **Grace Knight**; **Mike Nock**; **Archie Roach**; **Neal Peres Da Costa** and **Daniel Yeadon**; and **The Divas** from **Priscilla Queen Of The Desert The Musical**.





2008 ARIA FINE ARTS AWARDS WINNERS

Best Classical Album

RICHARD TOGNETTI, NEAL PERES DA COSTA & DANIEL YEADON

Bach Sonatas for Violin & Keyboard

(ABC Classics)

Best Jazz Album

ANDREA KELLER

Footprints

(ABC Jazz)

Best Original Soundtrack/Cast/Show Album

CHRIS LILLEY

Summer Heights High

(ABC Music)

Best World Music Album

GEOFFREY GURRUMUL YUNUPINGU

Gurrumul

(Skinnyfish Music/MGM)

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The 2008 ARIA Awards will be held on **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19**, at **ACER ARENA**

and be broadcast exclusively on **Network Ten** from 7.30pm.

General public tickets are on sale now from Ticketek.

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