



Simon Tedeschi – Dame Joan Sutherland Fund Recipient 2008



Described by pianist Leslie Howard as one of the finest musicians of his generation worldwide, Simon Tedeschi was named the Symphony Australia Young Performer of the Year In 1998 performing Ginastera's Piano Concerto No 1 with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Jun Maerkl at the Melbourne Concert Hall. He was the recipient of a Queen's Trust Overseas Study Award of \$10,000, also presented at the Young Performers Awards in Melbourne.

Mr. Tedeschi first performed a Mozart Piano Concerto at age 9 in the Sydney Opera House and since then has played as soloist with the Queensland, Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide Symphony Orchestras, as well as the Fort Worth Chamber Orchestra, Texas. He has toured Taiwan, New Caledonia, Italy and Malta as soloist with the SBS Radio and Television Youth Orchestra.

Mr. Tedeschi has won numerous prizes and piano scholarships. In 1994, he entered his first International Piano competition in Italy, where he achieved tremendous results. There he was voted the "Most Outstanding Performer in all Youth Sections" as well as winning the Open Age Concerto Section, two Piano sections and his age section. As a result of this competition, Mr. Tedeschi toured the USA in 1995, performing in New York, North Carolina and Texas. That same year, he had a private audience with Luciano Pavarotti and performed for him.

In 1996, Mr. Tedeschi attended the Van Cliburn Institute, Texas, for 3 weeks, which accepted only 20 pianists worldwide. He was one of only three chosen to perform a Mozart Concerto with the Fort Worth Orchestra. Recent engagements include the Shostakovich 1st with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra and the Mozart K595 with the Sydney Symphony. Simon Tedeschi was the subject of an Australian Broadcasting Corporation documentary, Australian Story, screened nationally on August 5th, 1999.

Mr. Tedeschi signed a recording deal with Sony Music Entertainment Australia under the Sony Classical label, his debut CD released in May 2000. He was subsequently nominated for a MO Award as Classical Performer of the Year and for an ARIA award, Classical Record of the Year.

2000 engagements included the Grieg Piano Concerto with the QSO, recitals for the MSO, a Scriabin programme for the Adelaide Festival, an extensive recital tour for Musica Viva, and guest appearances with the internationally-acclaimed harmonica virtuoso Larry Adler on his Australian tour.

Mr. Tedeschi has performed for the Dalai Lama at his fund-raising concert in London in December, 2000. He also appeared at the Edinburgh Festival and St. John's, Smith Square performances which moved Larry Adler to comment that "...he is one of the finest Gershwin exponents I have seen...reminds me of the young Rachmaninoff...".

In 2001, Mr. Tedeschi performed with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Sydney Youth Orchestra and toured extensively for Musica Viva Australia with guitarist Slava Grigoryan.

In February 2002 Simon Tedeschi won the keyboard section of the Royal Overseas League Music Competition in London, which is open to Commonwealth musicians under the age of 28.

As well as this, he was engaged to perform for the Dalai Lama at the Sydney Opera House, as part of his mid-year trip to Sydney. Also in 2002, he played recitals and concertos in New York, Philadelphia, London, Edinburgh, Wales and a 5-concert tour of Mexico as part of the Cervantino Festival.

In early 2003, Simon Tedeschi performed Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue at the New South Wales Premier's Australia Day Concert at Darling Harbour, Sydney. He also recorded Leroy Anderson's Piano Concerto with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and appeared in recital with classical guitarist Slava Grigoryan.

In 2004, he toured for Musica Viva, and travelled to Japan for performances with Leigh Warren & Dancers. 2005 has already incorporated recitals in Italy, the opening recital for the Australian Pavilion at the World EXPO in Nagoya, Japan and a performance at the invitation of the Governor of NSW for their Royal Highnesses the Crown Prince and Princess of Denmark. Simon was later invited back to Nagoya, Japan, to perform in EXPO Hall for International Marine Day.

Simon has recently recorded Tchiakovsky's 1st Piano Concerto and Grieg's Piano Concerto with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Richard Bonyngge, which was released in September 2005. Richard Bonyngge himself commented: 'an extraordinary young pianist...I felt a true musical togetherness with Simon, his sensitivity, his passion and his superb technique.' In November 2005, Simon was invited to be the soloist with the Cyprus State Orchestra for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) held in Malta. 2005 also incorporated recitals all over Australia, performances with award winning Jazz pianist Kevin Hunt and touring with renowned Brazilian Flautist Tadeu Coelho and Cellist Trish O'Brien.

2006 saw Simon performing in New York (for the International Keyboard Institute and Festival), Pennsylvania (for the Mt Gretna Festival) and San Francisco (State University) with Roger Woodward. The year has also featured continuing tours with jazz pianist Kevin Hunt, culminating in a performance in November in the Basement (Sydney's premier jazz venue). Simon was also invited to be guest adjudicator for the City of Sydney Piano Scholarship. As well as performing Rhapsody in Blue with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Simon also performed for the very first time with Roger Woodward and Synergy Percussion Ensemble at the City Recital Hall, Sydney. 2007 will see a two-piano recital with Woodward and Tedeschi coming together again as well as a recorded release of the Mozart Piano Concerto K488 with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra under Alexander Briger. Simon was recently the recipient of a \$3000 award from the Phonographic Performance Company of Australia.

Charitable performances have a prominent part in Simon's performing schedule; 2006 alone saw performances for the Karuna Foundation in support of Cambodian orphans, the Mater Hospital and a gala concert in the Sydney Opera House for the Wayside Chapel. Simon Tedeschi is the Roving Ambassador for The Australian Children's Music Foundation. He was recently awarded the Centenary of Federation Medal by the Governor General of Australia.

Born in Sydney in 1981, he studied piano with Neta Maughan from 1990-2000. In 2002, he moved to London to study with Noretta Conci. Since 2003, he has been based in Sydney.