



Media Release

Australian musician Ayesha Gough announced as 2022 Michael Kieran Harvey Scholarship recipient

4 March 2022

Perpetual today announced Ayesha Gough as the recipient of the 2022 Michael Kieran Harvey Scholarship, who will receive \$60,000.

Established in 2006, the Michael Kieran Harvey Scholarship is awarded to Australian post-graduate musicians to help further their careers.

The scholarship is given to applicants who demonstrate technical mastery of the piano, display originality, imagination, creativity, and a desire to pursue piano and music in the 21st century. It was established by the will of the late Susan Mary Remington to celebrate the work and achievements of Australian pianist and composer Michael Kieran Harvey.

Commenting on the 2022 winner, Michael Kieran Harvey said: "Due to the global pandemic, the scholarship for 2022 has focussed on younger graduates who have tried innovative approaches to presenting and producing music in the face of this challenge. Ayesha Gough has done amazing and unique work embracing the new paradigm. She has continued to develop her improvised and interpretive cross-media work here in Australia and also at the Royal College of Music where she has been accepted into the DMus after successfully completing her Masters. Her mixed-media essays in extended interpretive recital techniques have resulted in a series of remarkable releases on YouTube that display her multi-dimensional approach to the keyboard and its repertoire. I look forward to further exciting developments in her musical activities and have the utmost confidence that she is a most worthy recipient of the Michael Kieran Harvey scholarship."

"I am thrilled to be the recipient of the 2022 Michael Kieran Harvey Scholarship," said Ms Gough. "I feel I can now explore my creativity with even greater freedom and solidify my career as an experimental musician. Michael Kieran Harvey has been a wonderful inspiration to me through his music and his ongoing interest in my creative projects. It is vitally important to me to champion Australian music and musicians – we have much to offer and a wide array of styles, sounds, and energy. The Michael Kieran Harvey Scholarship provides a chance for Australian musicians to focus on their creative output within a career path that can often be financially trying."

Ms Gough intends to develop more large-scale creative projects that interact across disciplines including a video monodrama and a multimedia life performance over the course of the two-year scholarship.

Congratulating Ms Gough on her win, Perpetual's Caitriona Fay, Managing Partner, Community & Social Investment and ESG, said: "Through the Michael Kieran Harvey Scholarship, Perpetual is proud to support talented musicians in Australia such as Ayesha. Philanthropic investments within the arts are so important and can often influence cultural change, creating active and vibrant societies."

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Note to editors

About the Michael Kieran Harvey Scholarship

The Scholarship was created through the will of Susan Mary Remington to recognise the work and achievements of the composer/pianist Michael Kieran Harvey. The Scholarship funds can be applied to performance and recording projects, and associated costs, and generally to the furtherance of the applicant's professional career.

Ideally, as well as assumed technical mastery, the successful applicant(s) will display originality, imagination, creativity and a history and future desire of pursuing directions relevant to the piano, and music, in the 21st century. The scholarship was first awarded in 2006.

About Ayesha Gough

Australian pianist Ayesha Gough is developing her own style grounded in strong traditional concepts with an inherent interest in the unique and engaging. A strong passion for new music, particularly that of Australian composers, has seen her premiere new works in 2016 and 2017 by Klotz and Yedid, and collaborate with Klotz for the premiere of Midnight Rain in 2018.

First prize-winner at the 2015 Lev Vlassenko Piano Competition, Ayesha performed with the Russian National Orchestra in December 2018, under the baton of Mikhail Pletnev, as part of a concert held in memory of Lev Vlassenko. She has also performed with the Queensland Symphony, the Queensland Conservatorium Symphony, and the Queensland Pops Orchestra under such conductors as Edvard Tchivzhel, Nicholas Braithwaite, and Daniel Carter. Her recital opportunities have taken her throughout Australia, as well as New Zealand, Italy, Japan, and China.

Ayesha studied under Oleg Stepanov for 10 years, both at a pre-tertiary and tertiary level at the Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University. It is this period of study to which she attributes the foundation of her pianistic values, both in terms of the school of piano passed on by her teacher, and the gradual encouragement by other lecturers to explore new mediums. Throughout 2018, she continued study in Italy with Boris Petrushansky at the Accademia Pianistica Internazionale "Incontri col Maestro". In 2020 she graduated from the Royal College of Music, London, with a Masters with Distinction. At RCM she studied with Gordon Fergus-Thompson and Andrew Zolinsky whilst undertaking research concerned with pushing the boundaries of the piano recital.

She has been awarded the Theme and Variations Foundation Award, the Brisbane Club Award, the QCGU Postgraduate Prize, the Ena Williams Award, the Joyce Campbell Lloyd Scholarship, and the Allison/Henderson Scholarship. Ayesha has been supported by Variety, the Children's Charity, of which she is an International Ambassador.

About Perpetual Philanthropic Services:

Perpetual is one of Australia's largest managers of philanthropic funds, with \$3.7 billion in funds under advice for charitable trusts and endowment funds (as at 31 December 2021). Perpetual is trustee for many charitable trusts and endowments and provides individuals and families with advice on establishing charitable foundations and structured giving programs. Perpetual also assists charities and not-for-profit organisations with investment advice and management.

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