



Media release

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Johnny Dennis Music Awards announced in Sydney today

Perpetual Trustees Victoria Ltd (Perpetual), together with Mr Malcolm Harrison, co-trustees of the Johnny Dennis Light Music Trust, and the Australian Guild of Screen Composers, have named composers Brian Daly, Yantra de Vilder and Brett Aplin, winners of the 2010 Johnny Dennis Music Awards.

Best Popular Song: **Brian Daly** for 'What Might Have Been'

Best Instrumental: **Yantra de Vilder** for 'Reflections'

Best Movie Theme: **Brett Aplin** for 'My New England'

The winner in each category received a prize of \$5000 for their compositions.

Mr Andrew Thomas, Perpetual's General Manager of Philanthropy said that the Awards were established in perpetuity through the will of Dennis John Mole, whose stage name was Johnny Dennis.

'Dennis bequeathed his entire estate to a suitable trust for the purposes of achieving appropriate recognition for composers of light music. This is a great example of how an individual can provide a sustainable form of financial support to their chosen cause for years to come,' said Mr Thomas.

Trustee Mr Malcolm Harrison founded the trust in 1989 and appointed Perpetual as co-trustee. The awards are run in conjunction with the Australian Guild of Screen Composers.

Judging the awards for the 10th year, well-known singer, Kamahl, said he was pleased to be a part of the Awards to fulfill Johnny's charitable intentions in assisting composers of light music.

'They say that heard melodies are sweet and those unheard, sweeter. If there's any truth to this sentiment, it reflects through these Awards as it is always interesting to hear new compositions. And this year is no exception to the high calibre of entries,' said Kamahl.

The winners for the Awards were announced today at a presentation at Government House, Sydney.

For further information about the Johnny Dennis Music Awards, please contact:

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Appendix

Background

Johnny Dennis was the stage name for Dennis John Mole who migrated to Australia from England in the 1940s and got his first musical break on the late Jim 'Woody' Wood's talent search program on Melbourne 3AW playing and singing 'Chattanooga Shoe Shine Boy'.

He was then a band pianist for three years at the Ritz Hotel, St Kilda, before moving to the Gold Coast where, playing on the electric organ, he was for more than three years the keyboard player at the Palm Lounge of the Grand Hotel in Coolangatta.

He spent most of his life travelling as a performer, spending the majority of his time working in Sydney and Melbourne, as well as the USA, England and Scotland.

Johnny Dennis died suddenly from a heart attack on his way to a rehearsal in 1989.

In his will, Johnny Dennis bequeathed the total proceeds of his estate to a suitable trust, which would assist composers of light music to achieve appropriate recognition.

The bequest in the will was to be carried out at the discretion of the executor, Mr Malcolm Harrison. Mr Harrison established the Johnny Dennis Light Music Trust by deed in December 1989 and to ensure perpetuity, appointed Perpetual Trustees to be co-trustee.

'To assist the composers of Light Music to achieve appropriate recognition by way of awards, competitions, travelling scholarships or scholarships to enable composers of Light Music to pursue the necessary study and /or travel to further such purpose and to be awarded annually in accordance with conditions hereinafter set out.'

Definition of Light Music

(As outlined in the will of Dennis John Mole)

'Light Music' means music and musical compositions suitable for public performance of an entertaining and melodious nature and shall include dance music, show and film music and music suitable for public and private entertainment through the medium of radio, television, and various forms of recording.

It shall not include music of a primarily percussive nature where melody is dominated by rhythm as for example rock and roll and discotheque music nor music having a merely ethnic appeal as distinct from an international or exotic flavour; nor shall it include music of an operatic or light operatic nature.

About the 2010 Johnny Dennis Music Award winners

Brian Daly

Brian Daly is an Australian songwriter, composer, multi-instrumentalist, performer and producer, with over 20 years experience across many music genres including pop, rock, jazz, country, folk and short film scores. His successful career as a jingle writer/ advertising composer has also seen his music used for many national advertising campaigns in Australia.

A finalist in last year's International Songwriting Competition in Nashville, he is an extremely versatile writer, with works for solo artists through to symphony orchestra. He co-wrote and produced the debut album for Australian artist Sue Carson, and often co-writes with rising Country star Mark Wells.

Brian lives and works in Newcastle. He is currently scoring his first full-length feature film and holds the position of Group Creative Director with Enigma Communications in Newcastle.

Yantra de Vilder

Yantra de Vilder has a Masters Degree in Contemporary Music. She has enjoyed an acclaimed career in music and sound design working in film, television, theatre and radio. Her eclectic blend of musical talent encompasses composition, arranging, musical direction, conducting and performance.

More recently she has been composing music for a range of BBC World Service projects working in countries such as Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Burma as well as creating the multi-media performance 'Latitude 33' to be premiered in June this year.

The Sydney Morning Herald has said Yantra de Vilder is 'a star in the making'.

Brett Aplin

Brett Aplin is an AFI and Australian Screen Music Award winning composer, known for his diversity and ability to craft scores that seamlessly enhance the narrative of film.

A classically trained pianist, Brett won the 2000 Annual Pete Carpenter Fellowship (BMI Foundation, NYC) and travelled to Los Angeles to work with Emmy and Grammy award-winning television composer Mike Post, where he composed music for 'Law and Order: Special Victims Unit'.

He has since worked with many of Australia's leading film makers scoring documentaries and feature length films. Brett has been nominated for three Australian Screen Music Awards, twice for Best Music for a Documentary for 'The Floating Brothel' (2007) and 'Secrets of the Forbidden City' (2008), and winning Best Music for a Short Film last year for 'Lucy Wants to Kill Herself' (2009). He was also awarded an AFI Award for his work on 'Rare Chicken Rescue' in 2008.

About Perpetual

Perpetual Group is one of Australia's most experienced investment and trustee groups, with an enduring passion for protecting and growing our clients' wealth.

Founded in Sydney in 1886, we have helped generations of Australians invest and manage their wealth through all market conditions.

Perpetual Group manages investment funds exceeding \$29 billion, administers over \$222 billion of client funds, and advises clients on over \$8 billion of investments (as at 31 December 2009).

We have also helped individuals, families and companies contribute to the health and well-being of others through philanthropic endeavours. Today, Perpetual is one of Australia's largest managers of philanthropic funds, including acting as trustee for over 450 charitable trusts with over \$1.1 billion in funds (as at 31 December 2009).

For further information, go to www.perpetual.com.au/philanthropy