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Media Release

Australian musician Dr Danaë Killian announced as 2026 Michael Kieran Harvey Scholarship recipient

Perpetual today announced Dr Danaë Killian as the recipient of the 2026 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 2026 winner, Michael Kieran Harvey said: "Dr Killian's commitment to 20th and 21st century music is sincere and wide-ranging, born out of a deep understanding of the complete piano works of Schoenberg. A leading scholar, contemporary classical pianist and educator, Dr Killian's performing career continues to flourish through innovative environmental-themed work with the Forest Collective and numerous solo piano projects, the most recent of which is a CD of virtuoso new works on the Move label. A most worthy recipient of this scholarship, Dr Killian has consistently pushed the boundaries of performance and collaboration over an extensive professional career to high critical acclaim and is a deeply respected contributor to the Australian music scene."

"The Michael Kieran Harvey Scholarship has an illustrious list of previous recipients, all of whom shine with originality, forward-vision, and impassioned artistic commitment, like MKH himself," said Dr Killian. "I can't quite believe I've been chosen for this life- and career-changing award, which will give me much-appreciated material support to continue developing the musical practice I love with my whole heart."

Dr Killian intends to use the scholarship funds to strengthen her international connections through several focused periods of travel across Asia, Europe, North America and the UK, where she will tour the live performance version of her 2026 expressionist album *My Heart*, collaborate in person with leading composers, and draw inspiration from significant cultural and artistic traditions. She also plans to record the complete solo piano works of Australian composer Eve Duncan for the Move label and to create a new full-length work for piano and spoken voice titled *Weightless*. These activities will run alongside her ongoing collaborations with the Forest Collective and other contemporary classical music projects.

Congratulating Dr Killian on her win, Perpetual's Caitriona Fay, Managing Partner, Community & Social Investment and ESG, said: "Perpetual is proud, in its role as trustee of the Michael Kiernan Harvey Scholarship, to support the vitality and diversity of Australia's

Arts sector through philanthropic endeavour, and we congratulate Dr Killian on this achievement.”

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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. Previous recipients are Cameron Roberts (2006), Ashley Hribar (2008), Zubin Kanga (2010), Aura Go and Adam Cook (2012), Dr James Hullick (2014), Alex Raineri and Nicholas Young (2016), Rohan Drape (2018), Dr Anthony Pateras (2020), and Ayesha Gough (2022) and Dr Erik Griswold (2024).

About Dr Danaë Killian

Dr Danaë Killian is an expressionist pianist known for her intense originality and interpretive power. A passionate champion of modern art music, Danaë Killian has given premiere performances throughout Australia, Europe, China, New Zealand, and the USA. In Naarm-Melbourne, Danaë is a Forest Collective core artist, freelance recitalist, and an AMEB examiner. Danaë has been a University of Melbourne Honorary Fellow and has received prestigious awards including the Australian Alumni (W G Walker) Fulbright Scholarship, the Helen Macpherson Smith Scholarship, an Australian Postgraduate Award, and an Endeavour Postdoctoral Research Fellowship. Among her many recordings is the critically lauded *Arnold Schoenberg: Complete Works for Piano Solo* (Move, 2015).

About Perpetual Philanthropic Services

Perpetual is one of Australia’s largest managers of philanthropic funds, with \$4 billion in funds under advice for charitable trusts and endowment funds (as at 31 December 2025). Perpetual is trustee for over 1000 charitable trusts and endowments and provides individuals and families with advice on establishing charitable foundations and structured giving programs. Each year Perpetual distributes more than \$129 million to community organisations on behalf of its clients. Perpetual also assists charities and not-for-profit organisations with investment advice and management.

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