

James Carson Memorial Flute Competition

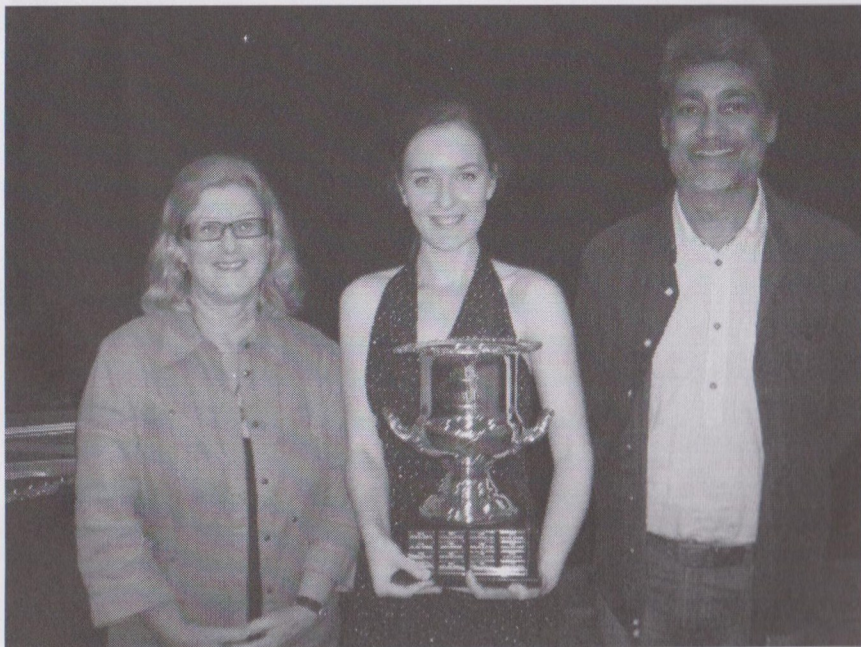


Pictured:

Cam Manricks, Jeanette Manricks, Emily Smith, Simone Maurer, Toni Wei, Lilly Ford and Mitchell Leigh

September 22 saw the final of the James Carson Memorial Flute Competition at Basil Jones Theatre. Each competitor had to prepare the Hindemith *Acht Stucke* for the preliminary round and the Carl Vine *Sonata* for the final, each competitor had to perform a piece of their own choice. It was a wonderful afternoon of music. Many thanks to Jeanette and Cam Manricks for adjudicating and Mitchell Leigh for accompanying. While waiting for the adjudication Lily Yang, the winner of the Gold Challenge, performed. Congratulations to Simone Maurer, the 2012 James Carson Memorial Flute Competition Winner. Congratulations to all of the competitors on a job well done.

An Interview with Simone Maurer, Winner of the 2012 James Carson Memorial Flute Competition



Pictured: Jeanette Manricks, Simone Maurer, Cam Manricks

1. Simone, congratulations on winning the 2012 Carson Memorial Flute Competition - the most prestigious competition in Queensland. How did you begin learning the flute?

I grew up in Mackay and started learning flute when I was 10 years old. My mother used to keep her old Armstrong flute on top of our piano. I wanted to play flute in my primary school band, so after much begging she let me learn.

2. Who inspired you in your early years (not necessarily musicians)?

My family always inspired me to keep practising and enjoying flute. My first flute teacher - Renae Covey - and my piano teacher - Judith Brown - are both still huge role models to me. Otherwise, I remember hearing a recording of Jeffrey Khaner playing some American flute repertoire when I was 11 and I really liked his velvety tone.

3. What made you decide to study flute at the Con?

I was originally accepted on flute and piano at the Conservatorium. It was difficult to choose between the two, but I chose flute because I want an orchestral career.

4. What do you enjoy most about studying at the Con?

The many ensembles, chamber music opportunities, internationally-trained lecturers, the music research department and my flute internship with the QLD Symphony Orchestra.

5. What did you find the toughest?

Juggling my university needs with other commitments, and living away from home.

6. You are in your third year of study - what are your future plans for study?

Next year I'll be completing my Honours year at the Conservatorium. I'm planning to base my thesis around the modern French Flute School.

7. You have had a busy time with competitions. What other awards have you won and how has preparing for them helped you as a musician?

Earlier this year I was invited to play Mozart's Flute Concerto in G with the Second QLD Youth Orchestra. In the QFG Flute Challenge, I won the QFG "Diamond Challenge" section - my piece was "Lookout" by Robert Dick. My woodwind trio (flute, oboe and clarinet) at the Conservatorium won the 4MBS Ross Peters Chamber Music Prize - we played "Divertimento" by Malcolm Arnold and "Spring and Rust is in Bloom" by Andrew Ball. Recently I won the Southeast QLD Concerto competition, run by the Redlands Eisteddfod Inc. - I played the "Phoenix Concerto" by John Carmichael.

These events were all extra-curricular activities - they weren't a part of my degree. Preparing for the competitions involved a lot of extra work on top of my university repertoire and a fair bit of memorisation. However, it has been beneficial to learn how to cope and perform under pressure. Both rounds of the Southeast QLD Concerto Competition and the James Carson Memorial Competition were within 7 days of each other - which certainly built up my stamina!

8. What are your plans for the future?

After my undergraduate degree, I want to do postgraduate study - Masters and a PhD. I'll be applying for some prestigious scholarships overseas and also looking at what Australian universities have to offer. Ultimately I'd like to be a research scholar, have some orchestral experience and teach flute at a tertiary institution.

9. What flute do you play?

I play an Altus.



Flute Tutor Australia

@ enquiries@flutetutor.com.au

web: www.flutetutor.com.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/flutetutorausralia

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