

SYDNEY SYMPHONY PLAYERLINK PROGRAM SHOWS FROM ACORNS “BIG TREES GROW”

Renowned Australian violinist **Jennifer Hoy** is proof perfect that young talent properly nurtured can blossom into a brilliant later career.

As a secondary school student in Tamworth in the early 1990s, Hoy was an inductee into the Sydney Symphony’s **Playerlink** program – a scheme that 16 years on continues to make a difference for aspiring teenage musicians.

The record shows that Hoy went on to claim a string of Regional NSW competitions, secure outstanding tertiary credentials and a subsequent long list of high-level performances with various orchestras and quartets before landing a full-time position with the Sydney Symphony.

The 76 students taking part in this week’s annual Playerlink development classes at the **Orange Regional Conservatorium** might be hoping for a sprinkling of gold dust of their own.

The students hail from all points of the Central West, Tablelands, Blue Mountains, Armidale and Young, and their musicianship embraces the full spectrum of instruments.

Over the three day program (**4-6 September**), the inductees will receive mentoring from a range of Sydney Symphony musicians and gain the opportunity to perform in a full orchestra.

They will be tutored in ensemble playing, music interpretation and technical skills, as well take part in open discussions with members of Australia’s leading orchestra and gain an insight into the how, when, where and what of being a professional musician.

Playerlink, which is principally devoted to country and regional districts, has become an integral part of the Sydney Symphony’s comprehensive education network over many decades. Many inductees have earned stepping stones to advanced study with the orchestra’s Sydney Sinfonia and Fellowship programs.

“I started playing when I was four and by the time I had completed High School I was dedicated to pursuing music as a career,” comments Jennifer Hoy, who has held a permanent position in the 1st Violin section of the Sydney Symphony for the past eight years.

“Experiencing Playerlink back then and combining what I learned from competing in music competitions had a profound effect on my commitment to music and I’m happy to say that commitment has never really waned.”

The Managing Director of the Sydney Symphony, **Rory Jeffes**, said the intensive workshops provided in Orange are aimed at bringing like-minded musical kids from across a wide region together and giving them the chance to be mentored by some of Australia's best classical musicians.

"For many of the 76 students who attend Playerlink, it will be the first time they will have played in a full orchestra. It truly is an inspirational experience for these young musicians and gives them a rare opportunity to experience the thrill of being part of a live orchestral performance," he said.

"We want to build on the students' already substantial skill base and hopefully give the youngsters a step up for greater involvement in music in the future."

This week's program concludes on Sunday with a free, open workshop at the Orange Regional Conservatorium, with family members and friends, as well as the general public, invited to observe.

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