

The Shirley Paton Memorial Scholarship

Background

Shirley Paton was an extraordinary pianist who achieved recognition early in her career and eventually became a performer for the ABC. As a young student, she won the 1937 Empire Scholarship that enabled her to study for three years at Trinity College London. The *Shirley Paton Memorial Scholarship* has been created in her memory.

Purpose

The purpose of the scholarship is to further the career of a promising pianist and provide the means for a series of lessons that will enhance and advance the winner's chances of pursuing a concert career. It is suggested that the minimum level for entry be Licentiate or equivalent.

Scholarship Conditions

- The scholarship to be operated by each State Music Teacher Association in rotation between 2021 and 2026 inclusive. These conditions and the agreements made have been kindly prepared by Dr Rita Crews OAM to whom we are very grateful.
- The scholarship is open to students of both members and non-members of the respective MTA.
- Age limit is open, up to and including the age of 25 years as of 1st June of the year of entry.
- The amount of the scholarship to be \$1500 for the first year to cover a minimum of 10 lessons. This will increase by \$100 per year.
- Auditions for the scholarship are to be via electronic means eg. unlisted YouTube video (or Dropbox file) with link details included in the submission form.
- The audition will consist of the performance of two works viz:
 1. *When eyes first saw, thy beauty was as this...* by Phillip Wilcher [score available from Wirripang] which was commissioned by Kim Radok in memory of his mother, Shirley Paton.
 2. A work of the entrant's choosing but must be of a similar standard to the first work and an example of Western art music of the Romantic period [eg. Chopin, Schubert, Brahms etc].
- The entrant may supply a resumé that supports the achievements including public performances to date. Programmes may be submitted as evidence of such performances. Results of eisteddfodau and/or examinations may also be submitted.
- Entrants cannot be related to either Council members or adjudicators or be currently taught by a member of the MTA Council hosting the scholarship.
- The winner to be at a high level of performance with the possibility of a concert career.
- The winner may remain with their current teacher with MTA approval, or suggest a recognised teacher they prefer. The MTA will decide on the appropriateness of that teacher
- Adjudicators to be a panel of two members of the respective MTA Council that are piano teachers, and one external member appointed by the hosting Council.
- The 2021 winner will be announced and will perform at the MTA of NSW Conference, [Inspire](#), in September 2021.
- **Closing date for 2021 is 1st July.** Late entries cannot be accepted.
- Entry fee for 2021 is \$50. Registrations are online via www.trybooking.com/BPIBD