

Media Release

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Adelaide jazz pianist headed for Montreux

Adelaide born, New York based jazz pianist Matthew Sheens has been announced as one of 11 finalists in the **Montreux Jazz Festival** solo piano competition which runs from **29 June until 14 July, 2012**.

At the Festival, which is held in Switzerland, Matthew will join high profile jazz artists Herbie Hancock and Chick Corea, as well as Janelle Monae, Bob Dylan and Lana Del Rey.

"Montreux is one of the biggest, most established jazz festivals in the world. It's an incredible honour to represent Australia," said Matthew, 25.

"Although the Festival began in 1967, the piano competition has only been running for the past 13 years. It's extremely competitive so I'm really excited to have been selected," he added.

A recipient of the Carclew Youth Arts' Dame Ruby Litchfield Scholarship and a graduate of the Elder Conservatorium of Music, Matthew travelled to the United States in 2009 to undertake a masters degree at the New England Conservatory, Boston.

Upon completion of his studies, Matthew moved to New York where he recorded his debut solo album and was given the opportunity to play alongside jazz greats such as Jerry Bergonzi.

Since moving to the United States, Matthew has performed in numerous festivals including the Panama International Jazz Festival, Europafest (Romania), Jazz Hoeilaart Festival (Belgium) as well as concerts in Holland and Turkey.

After the Montreux Jazz Festival Matthew plans to release his debut album which currently in post-production and commence work on several writing and recording projects.

"I certainly attribute the connections I've made within the music world to the funding I received from Carclew Youth Arts," said Matthew.

"I encourage all artists to seek out funding opportunities that can assist in taking their arts careers to the next level."

Carclew Youth Arts 2013 Scholarship applications are now open. Guidelines and forms are available from www.carclew.com.au or by phoning 8267 5111.

Applications close 5pm, July 13, 2012.

For further media information please contact Allison Kane, Marketing Manager, Carclew Youth Arts on 8267 5111 or akane@carclew.org.au