

Paula Russell wins the prestigious Barry Tuckwell prize at the Melbourne International Festival of Brass

Talented cornet player and Yamaha Music Australia artist, Paula Russell, won the prestigious Barry Tuckwell Prize for cornet this year at the Melbourne International Festival of Brass. Paula plays the YCR8335S Xeno cornet. The Barry Tuckwell Brass Prize has been established by MIFB to showcase emerging talent, and to assist in brass players' further musical studies.

The competition was run over three rounds, with the first entry assessed via CD. The semi finals and final were held at Melba Hall (University of Melbourne) on Friday 3rd October with an inaugural concert performed by the National Australia Brass, featuring the cream of Australia's brass band musicians, led by Professor David King and featuring fellow Yamaha Artist, Jens Lindemann. The program for the sold out concert included performances of works by Australian composers including Dr Brenton Broadstock's 'Sunburnt Land' and Barry McKimm's 'Ash Wednesday'.

The program also featured works by two European composers, Johan de Meij's 'Extreme Makeover' and the world premiere of a new work for brass and percussion by Swiss composer Ludovic Neurohr – 'Psyche'. This was commissioned by National Australia Brass for the Melbourne International Festival of Brass, 2008. Adjudicators for the event were Geoff Payne, David King, Jens Lindemann and Barry Tuckwell. Chris Bowman from Yamaha Music Australia was at the event to present the prize to Paula.

The concerts and all other MIFB events were streamed live on The Music Page – <http://www.themusicpage.com> during the festival.

- With Reporting by Carolyn Gannell/ Yamaha Music Australia



David King(left), Barry Tuckwell (2nd of left), Paula Russell (center) and Jens Lindemann (right)