

Judith Clark Memorial Fellowships



Judith Clark
Photo: Joy Aberdein

Judith Clark CNZM (1931-2014) is fondly remembered as a renowned, inspiring music teacher, former Head of Piano Studies at VUW School of Music, and a passionate supporter of Music Education, New Zealand music and the arts. She firmly believed in the importance of a professional body for private music teachers and was a dedicated, active member of IRMTNZ for over half a century. She brought out the best in her students, her standards of excellence were uncompromising, and she was respected for it.

Judith Clark's wish was to nurture and encourage music students, support them in their musical careers and foster their appreciation of the arts. The Judith Clark Memorial Fellowships provide scholarships for special, short-term projects, particularly attendance at short-term reputable international courses overseas, which will have long term benefits in the professional career of a young musician.

The 2015 recipients of Judith Clark Fellowships, Alexa Thomson and Kate Oswin, attended the Aspen Music Festival and the Sinaia Summer Academy, respectively.

Recent classical music performance graduates of all instruments including voice, are encouraged to apply for a Judith Clark Memorial Fellowship.

The Successful Recipients 2015

Alexa Sangbin Thomson (viola)



Alexa Sangbin Thomson
Photo: supplied

Alexa began her musical career on the violin under the guidance of her father, Dr John Thomson, in the Midwestern United States. Her first major leadership role was as Concertmaster of the South Dakota All-State Youth Orchestra in 2008. After her family returned to New Zealand in 2009, Alexa made her solo concerto debut performing the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto with the Nelson Symphony Orchestra.

After completing her Bachelor's degree in 2013, Alexa committed to playing viola full-time and completed her Honours year studying with Gillian Ansell at the NZ School of Music. She had lessons with Masao Kawasaki, Catharine Carroll and James Dunham at the Aspen Music Festival in 2014, and in NZ there were masterclasses with Claudine Bigelow, Donald Armstrong, Timothy Deighton, Ivo-Jan Van der Werff, and Phillip Ying, and she was a finalist in the New Zealand School of Music Concerto Competition.

In 2015 Alexa won a 100-call Fellowship with the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra, then attended the Aspen Music Festival with a scholarship, and the help of the Judith Clark

Memorial Fellowship, for a full session with Professor James Dunham as her primary teacher. She also participated in masterclasses with Beth Guterman-Chu (St Louis Symphony), Choong-Jin Chang (Philadelphia Orchestra) and Robert Spano (Atlanta Symphony Orchestra). She then studied with Dr Timothy Deighton at Pennsylvania State University in their Performance Certificate programme to facilitate doing auditions for Masters programmes in the US, alongside undertaking a project in New Zealand repertoire, funded once again in part by the Judith Clark Memorial Fellowship.

Alexa is Assistant Principal Viola for both the Pennsylvania Centre Orchestra and the Williamsport Symphony Orchestras. She recently participated in masterclasses with Professors Angela Priester-Houde, Dimitri Murrath, and Michael Klotz, and attended the Miami Music Festival with a scholarship for the 2016 summer. She will begin a Master's Programme in August 2016 at Rice University in Houston, Texas, studying for two years with Professor James Dunham.

Abridged

Alexa has also been a recipient of the NZSM Director's Scholarship, the Clare Galambos-Winter Scholarships, the Marian Rayward Scholarship, and the Freemasons Lankhuyzen/ Whetu-Kairangi Music Award.

Kate Oswin (violin)

Kate completed her BMus (Hons) First Class at the New Zealand School of Music, where she was awarded the Roy Jack Prize for String Players, the Clare Galambos-Winter Scholarship in Violin Performance, and the Patricia Pratt Scholarship in Musical Performance. She is currently completing Masters studies at the Royal Academy of Music, London, as the Leverhulme Trust Scholar.



Kate Oswin
Photo supplied

Highlights of her time at the Academy include performing as Concertmaster of the Academy Symphony Orchestra conducted by Robin Ticciati for Brahms's Symphony No. 1, and as Concertmaster of the Academy Opera Orchestra for the RAO season of Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress*. She worked with John Adams for a concert of his *Book of Alleged Dances*, and performed as Co-Principal 1st Violin of the Academy String Orchestra conducted by Maxim Vengerov. She has also performed in the Royal Academy Soloists at Wigmore Hall, Buckingham Palace, and live on BBC Radio 3. Kate is 1st Violinist of the Behn Quartet, which was selected as the 2016/2017 CAVATINA Chamber Music Fellows at the Royal Academy of Music.

Abridged

JUDITH CLARK MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIPS

Supporting classical music performance graduates advance their career

- Short reputable courses
- Live auditions
- Other short projects on merit
- All instruments including voice

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<http://nikaufoundation.org.nz/News.html>