

\$1,500 Isabel Menton Composition Prize winner announced

Australian Catholic University (ACU) has announced that Joshua Adams from Perth has won the 2018 Isabel Menton Composition Awards for unpublished and previously unperformed choral works, valued at \$1,500.

His composition *In Id Ipsum Invicem* was selected ahead of *God is with Us* (\$500) by Fiona Dyball from Melbourne.

Samantha Allen-Craig from Melbourne was selected as the winner of the Student Division (\$500) for her composition *Matthew*.

The awards were announced at a ceremony in Melbourne on Wednesday 10 October.

The Isabel Menton Composition Awards aim to support and inspire new Australian choral music while honouring the late Sister Isabel Menton of the Sisters of St Joseph, an outstanding choral musician and teacher.

Deputy Head of the National School of Arts Professor Tim McKenry said the 2018 prize represented another opportunity for composers to challenge themselves to compose a work that resonated with the theme of empathy.

“Fostering culture through supporting the composition of new choral music is central to the Mission of ACU,” Professor McKenry said.

“ACU is committed to enriching the cultural life of its community. The Isabel Menton Composition Choral Composition prize has once again seen the creation of wonderful new works.”

Isabel Menton Composition Prize winners list

1st prize (\$1,500): *In Id Ipsum Invicem* by Joshua Adams from Perth

2nd prize (\$500): *God is with Us* by Fiona Dyball from Melbourne

Student Division winner (\$500): *Matthew* by Samantha Allen-Craig from Melbourne

Biographies

Joshua Adams

Joshua Adams is an emerging baritone and young professional in Perth's choral music scene as well as a choral composer. Studying classical voice, he will complete his Honours (music) at the University of Western Australia at the end of 2018. While researching the living tradition of Gregorian chant, he is also the Principal Cantor and a chorister at St Mary's Cathedral, Perth. In 2017 he received the highest accolade from the Royal School of Church Music, the Gold Award. Joshua is a member of Voyces and the Giovanni Consort, and has sung with the National Youth Choir of Australia for the past two years. His first achievement as a composer was a shortlisting in the Ralph Morton Memorial Composition Competition held by NYCA in 2017, and *In Id Ipsum Invicem* is his first piece to receive an award. His sacred works are performed in various contexts in Perth, primarily at St Mary's Cathedral.

Fiona M. Dyball

B.Mus (ACU), Grad. Dip. Music Therapy & Education (Melb), Grad. Cert RE (ACU), MMusSt (Melb), MTS (Boston College).

Fiona is a musician, teacher, conductor, composer and liturgist based in Melbourne. She works extensively in adult and youth faith formation and in Music Ministry, inspired by her mentor, Sr Deirdre Browne IBVM. Fiona is Music Leader (Voice) at Marcellin College in Melbourne, Music Director at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Hawthorn, and also serves on the Australian National Liturgical Board for the ACBC. Fiona is also member of the Victorian committee for the Australian Pastoral Musicians Network. Fiona has travelled extensively, working and praying with diverse communities around the world. Fiona sang with David Haas at the LA Religious Education Congress, and she is the only Australian to have been invited by David Haas to teach on Music Ministry Alive (now the One Call Institute), a yearly formation program for young liturgical musicians in

the USA. Fiona studied composition with Australian pianist, harpsichordist, conductor and composer Roger Heagney OAM, KSG, and has a special love for psalmody and choral music.

About Isabel Menton

Those who knew Sister Isabel spoke of her witty and joyful conversation, her energy and enthusiasm for life and her capacity for rich friendship. Isabel displayed a love of learning, dedication to her Josephite vocation and her profession as an educator.

Isabel joined the Sisters of St Joseph in 1930 and died in 1979. In 1948 she was appointed to St Joseph Training Centre (a teacher training centre for the Sisters) where she trained music teachers and the renowned Sisters' Choir. In 1956, Isabel was appointed Principal of St Joseph's Training College, which later expanded to form the Catholic College of Education. She maintained her encouragement and support of students establishing a library for them, urging them to strive for excellence.

In 1991, the College was one of the founding colleges that formed Australian Catholic University (ACU).

The Isabel Menton Composition Award recognises her contribution to the development of the creative arts in ACU's predecessor college and through this work to Catholic education in Australia.

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