

media release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



TSO announce Wayne Neilson as winner of inaugural 'Heyward Prize' for Tasmanian composers

The TSO announce composer **Wayne Neilson** as the winner of the inaugural **Heyward Prize** for Tasmanian composers, for his work *From Valley to Summit*.

Named in honour of former Managing Director Nicholas Heyward, who led the TSO for 17 years before his retirement in 2018, the prize recognises Heyward's commitment to Australian composition which saw the TSO become internationally recognized for its performances and recordings of Australian music, including more than twenty ABC Classics recordings.

The competition was open to composers residing in Tasmania with the specified requirement that the orchestral work be bright and uplifting in character and between three and eight minutes in length. An totally anonymous selection process began in April 2019, with a panel of composers selecting works that were rehearsed by the TSO and conductor Benjamin Northey in a closed rehearsal last week.

Wayne Neilson is a Tasmanian-based freelance composer, orchestrator, arranger and music educator. His song cycle *Of Fire and Ice*, based on poems from 3 Australian poets for Soprano and Piano, was premiered at the Canberra School of Music. Neilson composes cinematic orchestral music that is highly emotive and evocative, collaborating with artists and poets. Neilson's work *From Valley to Summit*, which the composer describes as a 'sonic story' based on the poem of the same name by Lee Eggleston, was voted the winning entry.

In addition to a cash prize of \$3000, Wayne's composition will be recorded by the TSO and performed in a coming season by the TSO and will be recorded by the TSO.

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