

**MEDIA RELEASE**

20 October 2008

**TRIPLE WHAMMY AT THE ARIAS FOR CON ALUMNI**

Conservatorium Alumni Julian Hamilton and Kim Moyes – better known as the Presets – have garnered three Aria Awards, including Album of the Year.

The electro pop duo, who started making music together after they met by chance while studying classical soundscapes and jazz respectively at The Con in 1995, were named Best Group for 2008 and honoured with Best Dance Release for their album *Apocalypse*.

They had already picked-up three wins in the Artisan Awards, including Producer of the Year and Best Video.

Hamilton and Moyes told the Aria awards function in Sydney last night: “We’re stunned. Six years ago Kim and I started making this weird music just because it was fun. We’re so thrilled you guys seem to love it too.”

The pair graduated in 1999 – Hamilton with a BMusEd and Moyes a BMus.

The three awards come on top of the Aria Award for Best Classical Album of 2008 clinched by staff members Neal Peres Da Costa and Daniel Yeadon and Con Alumnus Richard Tognetti for the *Bach Sonatas for Violin and Keyboard*

On that album, Tognetti played a 1759 GB Guadagnini violin, Peres Da Costa played organ and harpsichord and Yeadon cello and viola da gamba.

Earlier this year Staff members, Judy Bailey and Catherine McCorkill, were honoured at the Australian Classical Music Awards, presented by APRA and the Australian Music Centre.

Bailey, the internationally renowned jazz pioneer, earned the award for Distinguished Services to Australian Music, for her longstanding contribution to Australian music through her role as a mentor, composer and educator.

McCorkill, a lecturer in Woodwind Studies, won Best Performance of an Australian Composition as clarinet soloist for The Australia Ensemble’s rendition of Nigel Westlake’s *Rare Sugar*.

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