

MEDIA RELEASE
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**SYDNEY
CONSERVATORIUM
OF MUSIC**

CON STUDENTS TOPS IN ASIA PACIFIC STRINGS

Students at The Con have triumphed in the finals of the prestigious Asia-Pacific Chamber Music Competition, winning three of the six prizes on offer.

Rebecca Chan (SCM, Master of Music 1) and **Stefanie Farrands** (SCM, B.Music 1), performing as part of the **Hamer String Quartet**, claimed first place in the Robert Salzar Foundation Prize; Musica Viva Most Outstanding Australian Ensemble; and the Peter Druce Audience Prize.

The Competition (formerly the National Chamber Music Competition) is held in Melbourne every four years.

The Hamer Quartet won through two rounds to make the finals.

The Competition comprises six Piano Trios (piano, violin and cello) and six String Quartets (two violins, viola and cello).

Chan (violin) and Farrands (viola) are students of The Con's Associate Professor Violin, Alice Waten.

Hamer Quartet was formed in early 2006 and had its national debut in March 2007, receiving critical acclaim and broadcast on ABC Classic FM. Other members are Michael Brooks Reid (violin) and Michael Dahlenburg (cello)

They are named after the former Victorian Premier, Sir Rupert Hamer, who was a driving force behind chamber music in Melbourne.

"This is another excellent result by members of our aspiring and brilliant student body," commented Dean and Principal, Professor Kim Walker.

"They excel nationally and internationally and, with the guidance of dedicated Staff members, bring us great pride."

Meanwhile, **James Wannan**, viola/viola d'amore (SCM, Grad.Dip 1) has won a Churchill Fellowship.

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