

# Simon Tedeschi

## *World class Australian pianist*

Australian pianist, Simon Tedeschi has been the toast of the classical music world since he first performed at the Sydney Opera House at age nine. Fast forward to 1998, and Simon was named the Symphony Australia Young Performer of the Year.

Since that time, Simon has gained an international reputation, playing as soloist with the Queensland, Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide Symphony Orchestras. He has toured Taiwan, New Caledonia, Italy and Malta as soloist with the SBS Orchestra and performed in New York, North Carolina, Texas and Philadelphia. Simon's other tours include; London, Edinburgh, Wales and a five concert tour of Mexico.

In 1996, Simon attended the Van Cliburn Institute, Texas, which accepts only 20 pianists worldwide. Simon was also the subject of the ABC TV documentary, *Australian Story* in 1999.

Simon has also dabbled in the movie business. His film debut was the hand-double for the very young David Helfgott in *Shine*, where he had to sit behind the actor with his arms through his dressing gown, and play unsighted.

This is just one of many anecdotes Simon retells as part of his performance, along with the time where he played for Luciano Pavarotti at the age of 13 and was also the subject of a portrait by Cherry Hood that won the Archibald in 2002.

Then there is the matter of training and stamina for a career in music. Simon takes his audience behind the scenes of what it's like, citing a scientific study that says playing a concerto is, calorie-wise, roughly equivalent to killing a bull with your bare hands.

In 2000, Simon's first CD was released. He was subsequently nominated for a MO Award as Classical Performer of the Year and for an ARIA award for Classical Record of the Year.

In 2002 Simon won the keyboard section of the Royal Overseas League Music Competition in London. Then in 2003, he performed Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue at the Premier's Australia Day Concert at Darling Harbour. Most recently, Simon recorded Tchiakovsky's 1st Piano Concerto and Grieg's Piano Concerto with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Richard



Bonyngé.

Simon Tedeschi is also the Roving Ambassador for The Australian Children's Music Foundation and was also awarded the Centenary of Federation Medal.

Simon is currently expanding his talents into the realm of jazz. He was attracted by the versatility aspect of it and the challenge of having to improvise after having to 'read off the music' for so long! A prospect, Simon freely admits, that both inspires and terrifies him.

## Client testimonials

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“ He is one of the finest Gershwin exponents I have seen...reminds me of the young Rachmaninoff.

- *Larry Adler*

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