

MEDIA RELEASE

New scholarship for emerging arts leaders announces inaugural recipient

Sydney – Wednesday 30 July 2014 – The Sydney Opera House today announced the first recipient of a new scholarship designed to help equip the next generation of arts leaders for the complex landscape facing cultural institutions in the 21st century.

The inaugural winner of the \$20,000 [Lloyd Martin Travelling Scholarship for Emerging Arts Leaders](#) is Carl Nilsson-Polias, Content Manager of the Sydney Theatre Company (STC).

Mr Nilsson-Polias will undertake an international study tour next year, focusing on organisations that have made important innovations in translating shows and events into digital content, including the National Theatre in London, MoMA in New York and the US National Football League.

The Lloyd Martin Travelling Scholarship honours the memory of the Opera House's longest-serving general manager, and has been created with the generous support of the Alexandra and Lloyd Martin Family Foundation.

Lloyd Martin joined the Opera House when it first opened in 1973. He succeeded Frank Barnes as general manager in 1979 and steered the Opera House through some of its most formative years, before retiring in 1997.

The scholarship funds a tour or residency for arts administrators in the formative stages of their careers, when overseas experience will most benefit their professional development, the organisation for which they work and the broader arts community.

It is open to staff of the Opera House and its seven flagship resident companies: the Australian Chamber Orchestra, Bangarra Dance Theatre, Bell Shakespeare, Opera Australia, Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Sydney Theatre Company and The Australian Ballet.

The scholarship focuses particularly on areas that are increasingly vital to arts organisations' viability and success, such as digital technology, commercial enterprises, finance, philanthropy, sponsorship, marketing and communications.

NSW Minister for the Arts Troy Grant welcomed the announcement: "Arts management plays a crucial role in developing the state's arts and cultural sector and enriching the lives of the people of NSW. The Lloyd Martin scholarship is an innovative approach to building the skills of our next generation of arts leaders."

STC Executive Director Patrick McIntyre said: "I salute the Alexandra and Lloyd Martin Family Foundation and the Sydney Opera House for offering this scholarship, and for opening it up to staff from the resident companies. It's terrific to see the Opera House making such a contribution to the development of young managerial talent in the arts. This is a great way to mark the legacy of Lloyd Martin, with whom I had the pleasure of working many years ago. We are very proud of Carl and look forward to further developments in his skills, knowledge and outlook."

Lloyd Martin's daughter Wendy Martin said the scholarship's focus on the business of the arts internationally was particularly fitting given her father's career.

"As a young man, Dad returned home from London, where he had been working for Sir Lew Grade, to take the reins of the Tivoli Circuit, following the death of his father, the impresario David N.

Martin,” Ms Martin, Head of Performance & Dance at London’s Southbank Centre and former Head of Theatre and Dance at the Opera House, said. “He brought that overseas experience to bear throughout his career at the Opera House, where he was instrumental in forging links with the Opera House’s overseas peers and internationalising its focus.”

Sydney Opera House CEO Louise Herron AM said: “This scholarship is a wonderful tribute to a man who contributed greatly to many careers. I would like to congratulate Carl, who was an outstanding candidate in a very strong field, and to again thank the Martin family for their inspiring generosity. It has enabled the institution Lloyd led for so many years to continue to foster the next generation of talent, not least that of our resident companies, who are central to all we do.”

Ms Herron said that the Lloyd Martin scholarship would, over coming years, build the same kind of living legacy as the MADE by the Opera House exchange program for Australian and Danish architecture, engineering and design students, which was also announced as part of the Opera House’s 40th Anniversary last October.

In addition to Ms Martin and Ms Herron, the selection committee for the scholarship included another Opera House alumnus, former CEO Michael Lynch, now CEO of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority in Hong Kong.

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Sydney Opera House

The Opera House is a masterpiece that belongs to all Australians. One of the world's most recognised and celebrated buildings, it contributes significantly to the cultural life of the city. The World Heritage-listed Opera House welcomes over 8.2 million visitors on site every year and hosts 1,800 performances attended by 1.4 million people. It is one of the world's busiest cultural precincts.

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