

## **Helpmann Academy/EDS Professional Development Grant Awarded to Talented SA Percussionist**

**Talented percussionist Fleur Green has been awarded the Helpmann Academy/EDS Professional Development Grant. The grant will enable Fleur to travel to the United States to take up a scholarship position at the prestigious Peabody Conservatory.**

One of only 10 musicians selected for a two-year scholarship, worth \$15,000, Fleur will study a Graduate Diploma at the Peabody Conservatory, part of the John Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, United States. Selected from over 90 applicants worldwide, it is the first time an Australian has been awarded a scholarship to study at the Conservatory.

As part of her studies at the Conservatory Fleur will have weekly lessons with internationally renowned percussionist Professor Robert Van Sice. An important performer and educator, Professor Van Sice has performed and commissioned much of the marimba repertoire now available.

In awarding Fleur the grant, EDS Executive Director, Fraser Nicholson said: "EDS has been a supporter of the Helpmann Academy over a number of years and we are very pleased to further support the development of talented young artists in South Australia, such as Fleur, through this special Professional Development Grant."

Studying under James Bailey at the Elder Conservatorium of Music, Adelaide University, Fleur Green achieved First Class Honours in Music (Percussion Performance) in 2005. Since graduating she toured as a composer and percussionist with Windmill Performing Arts Company and has studied under marimba virtuoso Keiko Abe in Japan for three months. The 70-year-old maestro is one of the original marimba players and she has developed the double and triple mallet technique enabling marimbists to play chords and more technical pieces.

En route to the United States Fleur will attend the Linz International Marimba Competition and Festival in Austria and has been invited to study in Croatia for three days with Professor Igor Lesnik and a week in Strassborg, France with Professor Emmanuel Sejourne. Fleur performed works by both these percussionist/composers in her final honours recital last year.