

An array of young talent

PETER KOHN

A FEAST of young musical talent awaits attendees of this year's B'nai B'rith Showcase finals concert later this month.

Finalists have been chosen after competing in the heats during August, and Showcase chair Andrew Kolb is enthused about this year's offerings.

Students who competed in the heats, and will appear as soloists in the Showcase event at St Kilda Town Hall on September 15, are in line to win a prestigious scholarship, the \$1000 B'nai B'rith Victoria Award.

They include Jason Antman of Mount Scopus Memorial College (guitar), Camilla Dalia Burrows of The King David School (KDS) (contemporary vocal), Daniel Freidgein of KDS (contemporary piano), Havah Rotblat of Leibler Yavneh College (classical piano), Rachel Silber of KDS (classical vocal), Benji Wald of Victorian College of the Arts (clarinet), Orr Zacks of McKinnon Secondary College (recorder), Daniel Loza of Mordialloc Secondary College (classical piano) and Gavriel Yee of Yesodei HaTorah College (strings).

Concertgoers will also hear a line-up of ensembles drawn from four schools – Mount Scopus, Leibler Yavneh, Bialik and KDS – including a string trio, a vocals trio, and a school orchestra. A joint schools project will perform Shir HaMasa composed by Shlomo Gronich.

The B'nai B'rith Showcase, for-



Havah Rotblat

merly known as the Eisteddfod, is open to young people aged 8-25, said Kolb, who has been running the event since 2014, when it returned after a half-decade hiatus. He said the rebranding has also changed the annual event rules to enable young artists to perform in “a friendly and collaborative” setting.

Entrants aged 8-10 were not judged competitively but received constructive feedback and mentoring, while those aged 11-25 were judged by an expert panel and placed first, second or third, and compete for prizes including the B'nai B'rith Victoria Award.

Another new element this year is that schools will choose the vocal and instrumental ensembles that will perform at the finals concert but they will not be adjudicated.

The B'nai B'rith Showcase will be held on Sunday, September 15, 2pm, at St Kilda Town Hall (via portico entrance). Booking is essential, and tickets are \$10 (adults), \$5 (members and concessions) and free (under 13). Contact the B'nai B'rith Victoria office, (03) 9523 0888 or trybooking.com/BCYNH



Orr Zacks plays the recorder at last year's concert. Photo: Daniel Goodrich