

Australian Broadcasting Corporation
TV PROGRAM TRANSCRIPT
LOCATION: <http://www.abc.net.au/7.30/content/2006/s1753911.htm>
Broadcast: 02/10/2006



Award-winning teen pianist records first album

Reporter: Peter McCutcheon

MAXINE MCKEW: Murray McLaughlin reporting there. Well, it's the dream of many young musicians to one day release their own album but one Brisbane teenager is about to realise that dream at the tender age of 13. Award-winning pianist Alex Raineri has been hard at work in the studios recording classical and contemporary pieces, including some of his own compositions, and the young maestro has some big name backers, as Peter McCutcheon reports.

ALEX RAINERI: They were just random ideas which we worked on and pieced them together.

GRAHAM EVANS, CLARINET TEACHER: He obviously has this mission in life to be a musician and that's fairly rare.

PETER MCCUTCHEON: This is a piece that you won't find in the repertoire of any other 13-year-old. That's because Alex Raineri is playing the first movement of a suite he composed himself.

PETER MCCUTCHEON: What is it about composing that you enjoy so much?

ALEX RAINERI: Probably how you can basically do anything. You're not restricted well, there aren't rules.

PETER MCCUTCHEON: And this young musical whiz from Brisbane is about to release his debut album featuring some of his original work.

MICHELE RAINERI: We're really delighted with his compositions. We never expected them to be what they are, with his first attempts.

LEAH PURCELL: He's 13, wow, he's composing his own music. He plays beautifully and he really knows what he wants.

PETER MCCUTCHEON: Alex Raineri began piano lessons when he was only four and has since won hundreds of awards. But apart from his father taking piano lessons as a child, the young composer's parents don't have much of a musical background.

MICHELE RAINERI: I never did any music when I was young. The recorder, and that was it.

PETER MCCUTCHEON: The Brisbane teenager's musicality has impressed many in the industry, including acclaimed actor and singer Leah Purcell who has agreed to perform on his debut CD. The two caught up recently in a recording studio in Sydney.

ALEX RAINERI: Just a suggestion there, on "I'm going through" maybe cut out some of the vibrato to make it more theatrical.

LEAH PURCELL: Yeah, sweet. He gave me phenomenal direction and really helped the song and it allowed me to bring stuff out, as well. He could really speak the language.

MICHELE RAINERI: Have you got all your pieces ready for the singers?

ALEX RAINERI: Yes.

PETER MCCUTCHEON: Back home in Brisbane, Alex Raineri's mother Michele says her son's drive to perfect his music has a remarkable effect on family life because, believe it or not, this young teenage boy also loves housework.

ALEX RAINERI: I find it hard to sort of concentrate when there's stuff everywhere, so yeah, I try to keep everything reasonably neatish.

PETER MCCUTCHEON: When not on the piano or cleaning the house, Alex Raineri plays clarinet in the

Queensland Youth Orchestra, as well as studying musical theory. And over the past year he's begun taking lessons in composition.

ALEX RAINERI: I just have random ideas which I just play on the piano and then mum would get angry because I wouldn't write them down and I wasn't sure what to write down, how to set it out.

MICHELE RAINERI: He'd bash around at the piano and just do these crazy pieces and so I suggested perhaps you'd better get some instruction on how to put it down on paper. And that's how it all started.

GRAHAM EVANS: He obviously wants to compose. He wants to convey his ideas of music and put it on paper and hear the sounds that he writes.

PETER MCCUTCHEON: After finishing his album featuring both his own compositions and contemporary covers, Alex Raineri wants to fast track his schooling and would eventually like to study overseas. And as he approaches adulthood, the possibilities appear endless.

ALEX RAINERI: I'm planning to move maybe to study in England at one of the universities there. Yes, studying piano and composition.

LEAH PURCELL: As long as the Australian public get behind this young Alex, I think he's got a very, very big future and I reckon overseas as well. He's going to be a great ambassador for Australia with his music.

MAXINE MCKEW: Remember, you saw him here first. Peter McCutcheon reporting there. That's the program for tonight. We'll be back at the same time tomorrow. But for now, goodnight.



© 2011 ABC | Privacy Policy