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Report by - SHAN DENG - 1996 Churchill Fellow

THE PETER MITCHELL CHURCHILL FELLOWSHIP to carry out intensive study and training on solo piano and concerto repertoire.

## **Introduction**

I undertook a Peter Mitchell Churchill Fellowship to have a burst of intensive study and training on solo piano and concerto repertoire with Professor Lamar Crowson at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. I would like to sincerely thank The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust and Mr Peter Mitchell for sponsoring my project.

## **Executive Summary**

Name: Shan Deng

Address: 11 Waldorf Place, Runcorn, Qld. 4113

Occupation: Student Fourth (Hons.) year- Bachelor of Music (Performance)  
Queensland Conservatorium of Music, Griffith University

Highlights:

Pretoria - Semifinalist in the Eighth Unisa Transnet International Piano Competition.

Cape Town - Piano recital at the University of Cape Town.

Johannesburg - appeared on TV program "People of the South" with the Australian High Commissioner, National Broadcast.

It was a wonderful experience participating in an International competition with such high standards, it gave me exposure to and knowledge of international expectations and standards. Through lessons with Professor Crowson I learnt a considerable amount of new solo and concerto repertoire. I will use the knowledge gained to prepare for International competitions and the concert platform.

I started my trip in Pretoria participating in the Eighth Unisa Transnet International Piano Competition. There were thirty pianists from all over the world competing against each other, they were chosen from 156 entries. I was one of the lucky thirteen to go through to the semifinals.

The rest of my trip was spend studying with Professor Lamar Crowson at the University of Cape Town. I spend most of my time learning new repertoire and also partook in Professor Crowson's piano literature class which proved to be most beneficial. During my stay in Cape Town, I Participated in a number of concerts including Professor Crowson's 70th birthday celebration concert and the exchange concert presented by the students of the University of Cape Town at the Conservatorium in Stellenbosch. I also gave a farewell solo recital to a large audience with the Australian High Commissioner, Mr Ian Porter, dean of the music faculty, Assoc. Professor Stuart Reiner and numerous lecturers present. I attended thirty concerts in all, highlights include Professor Crowson playing Mozart concerto K595 with the Cape Town Symphony Orchestra and Puccini's opera "Madama Butterfly".

I represented Australia as a Churchill fellow on a number of occasions, appearing on a television program called "People of the South" with the Australian High Commissioner. The program is very popular with more than ten million viewers nationally. I was featured on the show as a young international artist, I performed Liszt's concert etude "Gnomesreigen" for an live audience and was interviewed by the host Mr Dali Tambo. I was featured as a young Australian pianist at functions hosted by the West Australian government to promote Australian food, wine and culture.

I am now completing my degree at Queensland Conservatorium of Music, Griffith University. In September, I will be performing Saint-Saens piano concerto number two with Queensland Conservatorium Symphony Orchestra at the Westpac Gala Concert. In October, I will be traveling to China on a Queensland China Council Grant, performing in Beijing and Shanghai including a performance for the Queensland Premier while he is in Shanghai.

I found my trip to South Africa most beneficial to my career. I was among a class of outstanding musicians and students, it helped me to lift my own artistic awareness and perception. Upon completion of the Churchill fellowship, I will perform in concerts and compete at international competitions and also undertake national and international tours to help publicize the Churchill Trust and promote Australia as a country of high musical standards.

# Talent with keys

RUNCORN musician Shan Deng returned from South Africa last week where she had been studying on a four-month Churchill Fellowship.

For Shan, 21, the trip was the highlight of her piano career which began when she was a mere four years old.

A student at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, Shan said she chose to go to the unlikely country of South Africa because she was interested in studying under famous chamber musician Professor Lamar Crowson.

While most of her four-month stay at the Cape Town University was taken up with practice and lessons, Shan also managed to appear on television, compete in an international competition and organise a concert.

"Most people go to Europe and America and really the reason I chose to go to South Africa was to be taught by Professor Crowson," she said.

"It was my first time away on my own and I feel it's helped me grow up and become more independent."

The fellowship is sure to be just one of many



● Concert pianist Shan Deng ... just back from studying in South Africa.

for the talented pianist who has also been awarded a Lord Mayor's Arts Fellowship and in September will tour China with the Beijing Symphony Orchestra.

Shan's family migrated from Beijing, China in 1988 where her parents were well known performers.

Her father Wei Deng now coordinates the

Chinese Orchestra at the Conservatorium of Music and her mother Ling-zi Li is a piano teacher.

At age 14 Shan was awarded the Conservatorium's Bach prize and in 1991 was the youngest soloist to appear in the nationally televised AIDS benefit concert.

Southern Star 19.6.96

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# MUSIC

## TONIGHT REPORTER

# World class pianists meet

**W**ith the Third Unisa Transnet Strings Competition completed, it is the turn of top pianists from around the world to test their competitive skills.

On Friday, the Eighth Unisa Transnet International Competition will be opened at Unisa's Old Mutual Hall. The elimination rounds start on Saturday when 38 pianists go through their paces in three daily sessions starting at 9:30am, 2pm and 7pm.

The competition ends on February 16 and 17 when the winners will be announced in the Opera State Theatre.

Eight pianists hail from Russia, with two from Georgia and Estonia, five from Italy and two from America, Canada and Australia. Solo musicians arrive from Brazil, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Philippines, Poland, Taiwan and Britain while Africa is represented by Sodi Braide from Nigeria and Christopher Duigan from South Africa, the only local competitor.

The judges include Abbey Simon from America, Lev Naumov from Russia, Andrzej from Poland, Dario de Rosa from Italy, Jung Meier-Josten from Germany, Hiroku Nakakamura from Japan and South Africans Nancy Holmeyer, Peggy Haddon, Johann Potgieter and John Roos. The third round, when each of the



**Stars on the rise ...** (From left) Shan Deng (20) from Australia began her piano lessons in China, her birth country, which she left at the age of 12. She recently won a fellowship to study with local maestro Lamar Crowson. Gloria D'Atri (19), from Italy and the youngest competitor, currently studies in Zurich and has won numerous first prizes in national and international competitions. Olga Pushechnikova (21) from Russia is a student from the Moscow State Conservatoire. In 1993 she received first prize in the First International Rachmaninov Competition.

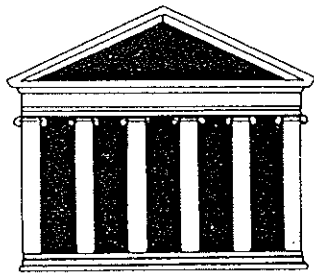
Semi-finalists play for an hour, will take place from February 8 to 10 at 2:30pm and 7pm. The finalists will be announced on the last evening following the final performance.

The finals follow on February 13 and 14 when each pianist will play a Mozart concerto in the Old Mutual Hall followed by a second appearance on February 16 and 17 in the Opera State Theatre when

concertos by Beethoven, Schumann, Liszt, Brahms, Saint-Saëns, Grieg, Rachmaninov, Ravel or Prokofiev will be performed with the Transvaal Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Gerhard Korsten.

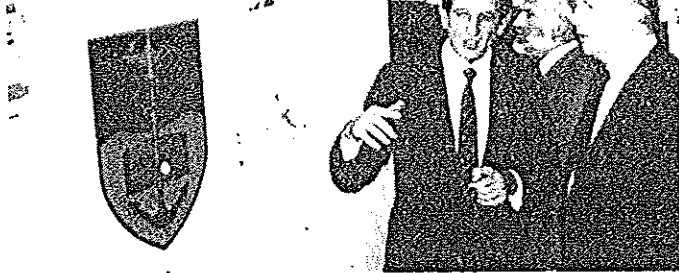
Piano master classes will be held between rounds two and three on February 7 at 2pm and 7pm. For further details phone the competition office on (012) 429-2908.

# CAMPUS COLUMN



## EC President visits UCT and You

exhibition of selected research which affects daily life



Dr Frank Raymondo (left), Director of UCT's Organisation of Applied Research, discusses aspects of UCT's research with Mr Santer (right) and shows him around the UCT and You exhibition which has been housed at St Gabriel's since its display at the South African Museum ended.

The President of the European Commission, Mr Jacques Santer, took the opportunity of seeing UCT's interactive research exhibition, *UCT and You*, when he visited the St Gabriel's Community Centre in Guguletu recently.

Mr Santer visited the Centre

during his first official visit to South Africa and joined the Guguletu community in celebrating the joint signing with President Nelson Mandela, of European Commission grants to South Africa for health, education and rural development project.

## UCT artist wins Japanese award



Ms Eunice Geustyn, a Masters student at UCT's Michaelis School of Fine Art, has received the Kochi Museum of Art Prize by the 3rd Kochi International Printmaking Triennial in Japan.

Titled "Sanctuary," the award-winning picture deals with issues surrounding cultural eco-feminism. It was produced using a

combination of lithography and screen printing.

Ms Geustyn likes to use symbols and metaphors to explore the issues she is interested in. On completing her Masters, she would like to continue creating art while also teaching. She is a part-time lecturer at the Cape Technikon.

## Stats package licensed

UCT has obtained an academic site licence for Statistica, a statistical programme that runs under Windows.

The licence allows UCT registered students and staff to install and use the software. Two versions are available—for networks and stand-alone PCs.

Statistics has already been installed on several network file servers at UCT. Those wishing to use the network version have been asked to contact their network supervisors.

Those wishing to use the stand alone version have been asked to contact ITS Computer Centre Library at 650-3032.

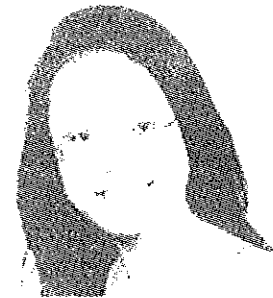
The programme requires Windows 3.1, a 386 processor, a high density floppy drive, 25 MB of hard disk space and 8 MB of RAM.

## Piano recital

Shan Deng, a highly acclaimed young pianist from Australia will present a piano recital at the Chisholm Recital Room on May 29 at 8pm. She will perform works by Mozart, Debussy, Chopin, Clementi and Prokofiev.

In 1995 Shan received a Churchill Fellowship to study under Lamar Crowson at the College of Music. In 1996 she was a semi-finalist in the Unisa Transnet International Piano Competition. In 1997, Shan will further her studies under a Brisbane City Council Fellowship at Bloomington University, Indiana.

Born in 1975, Shan Deng began piano lessons at the age of four and was accepted at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing when she was seven years old. Now an Australian citizen, Shan has been studying with Leah Horwitz at Queensland Conservatorium of Music, Griffith University, where she is now in the



fourth year of the Bachelor of Music (Performance) degree.

Shan has won many scholarships and major awards. In 1994 she was outright national keyboard winner of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation Young Performers' Awards. She also received a prize for being the most outstanding first or second year student in 1994, achieving high distinction in every subject and receiving a 100% grade point average.

Shan has performed with the major Australian symphony orchestras and has been featured on Australian and South African national radio and television programmes. She has participated in master classes given by Lamar Crowson, Lev Vlassenko, Ari Verdi and Cristina Ortiz.

## SA Passports

Intending travellers whose South African passports are about to expire are advised to apply for a new passport at least two months before their planned departure date.

The new South African passport will valid for ten years. Children will be issued with their own passports and will no longer be endorsed on the passports of their parents.

An emergency passport will be issued for a minimum period of three months.

Prescribed fees: Passport: R80.00; Lost/stolen/damaged passport: R160.00; Emergency passport: R50.00; Child's passport: R60.00 (valid five years).

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# UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN



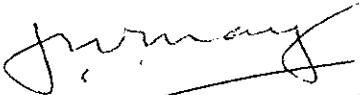
## S.A. College of Music

Postal Address: University Private Bag - Rondebosch 7700 South Africa  
Telephone: 650-2626 · Telefax No (021) 650-2627

28 May 1996

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN :

Ms Shan Deng has been a student of Professor Lamar Crowson at the SA College of Music, University of Cape Town, for the past four months. During her stay she has given many public performances; her exceptional abilities as a musician and performer have made a great impression on all the staff and students at the SACM. It is a pity that we could not have benefitted from this for a longer while.

  
ASSOC PROFESSOR J W MAY  
DIRECTOR



Faculty of Music

Postal Address: University Private Bag · Rondebosch 7700 · South Africa  
Telephone: 650-2626 · Telefax No. (021) 650-2627  
Dean of the Faculty: Assoc. Professor Stuart Reiner

29 May 1996

To Whom It May Concern:

Throughout the two decades of my connection with this Faculty, two of its great assets have been the musicianship and the pedagogical skill of Professor Lamar Crowson. Among the many rewards and tributes those merits have brought to him and to us, the decision of Shan Deng, to come here from Brisbane so as to avail herself of Professor Crowson's tutelage, must rate high. In the limited time she has been able to be a student here, Ms Deng has created a forceful impression through her own musicianship, in which great self-discipline and sensitive musical understanding are so happily blended as to produce concert artistry of a high order. We are privileged to have had her with us, and I look forward to hearing her further beautiful work in years to come, as I feel confident that she will attain prominence in the field to which she brings such outstanding gifts.

Stuart Reiner





HIGH COMMISSIONER

AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION  
CAPE TOWN

29 May 1996

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

I first met Ms Shan Deng when she came to South Africa to compete in a major piano contest over four months ago.

Since that time, I have seen her regularly. She has performed at many High Commission functions and we have appeared on television together.

In addition to her undoubted talent, Shan is a very pleasant, intelligent and warm-hearted person who has endeared herself to everyone she has met. She is industrious, extremely trustworthy and reliable. She shows a maturity well above her age and has represented Australia in an exemplary way during her short time in South Africa.

I am sure that Shan will continue to achieve the success she richly deserves.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Ian W. Porter'.

(Ian W. Porter)



**S.A. College of Music**

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28 May 1996

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

**SHAN DENG**

Having taught for many years, I have been fortunate in having such outstanding students as the late Steven De Groote (winner of the Van Cliburn), John Lill (winner of the Tchaikovsky), Howard Shelley (who has recorded the complete works of Rachmaninoff), and Albie van Schalkwyk, Senior Lecturer at U.C.T. (winner of the S.A.B.C. Competition). There are many more successful ex-students but I can't name them all.

Several years ago, in Australia, I met Miss Shan Deng. As a Churchill Scholar, she came to study with me (for too short a period). She is young but there is a promise of great success. Technically she is outstanding. And she is totally dedicated in preparation. She's an expert in presentation - so vital for a performing career. In addition, she possesses that rare ability to always add that something extra when she performs.

Her short membership of the S.A. College of Music, U.C.T., has impressed and stimulated both staff and students.

It is impossible to predict a success. In the present environment of over-production of graduands and contest winners, I bleed for the young aspirants.

However, Shan stands a very good chance. I do wish her well. She deserves.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lamar Crowson". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial 'L' and a long, sweeping underline.

LAMAR CROWSON  
Emeritus Professor