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ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE  
NSW & ACT

## Cellist's competitive nature



VANESSA HUNTER

CELLIST Catherine Hewgill can thank two competition wins for helping boost her career. A competition she entered as a 14-year-old in Perth gave her the confidence to pursue the musician's life. The second was the Hammer-Rostropovich Scholarship in the US that opened many doors, not least that of Mstislav Rostropovich, with whom she studied for a time. Hewgill, principal cellist with the Sydney Symphony, is now a judge for a new cello competition. The Australian Cello Awards is accepting entries, by recording, from Australians and New Zealanders aged 18-30. Entries close on August 16. Semi-finals will be held by audition in Sydney and London, ahead of the finals in Sydney next March. There are cash prizes and performance opportunities on offer, but Hewgill, pictured, says the competition also gives entrants the incentive to learn fantastic repertoire. "I have been encouraging every talented cellist that I pass in many musical hallways," she says. Details: [celloawards.org.au](http://celloawards.org.au).

MATTHEW WESTWOOD

In *The Hansard Monologues*, entertain

PAUL CLEARY



AT a time when most Australians think politics has reached its

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