

Homeschooling in the News Well done Stephen Watson!



He's the same age as a first year student, but Stephen Watson isn't a new kid on the block. The 18 year old musical prodigy is graduating this year—one of the youngest students ever to graduate in a New Zealand university.

Mr Watson, who has a degree in piano performance, is one of the country's best, taking out a runner-up gong at the 2013 National Concerto Piano Competition on March 9.

But the teenager doesn't like to be called a genius and attributes much of his success to his homeschooled education.

"I had a lot more time than I think I would have had if I was at school to practice and do others musical activities," he says. "I was able to finish by around 12 most days."

He used the spare time to practice piano—and by the age of 15, university was the next logical step. "I had completed my licentiate of music the year before and that was the natural continuation to get further," he says.

By 16 he had started studying full-time, practicing between five and six hours a day and undertaking a heavy workload to finish a year ahead of time.

Mr Watson is studying honours this year and plans to go into professional performance later in life.

By Tom Mead
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