Musicians shine in music spectacular

The USQ Keyboard Ticklers return to the University of Southern Queensland Arts Theatre stage this weekend with another thrilling piano recital.

In what can only be described as a tour de force of music-making, the group's 2012 concert will combine the sounds of two grand and four upright pianos, choir, percussion and organ.

The concert will showcase the vast musical talent in the university's music program featuring the School of Creative Arts' current piano students together with an exciting array of alumni musicians performing an all-Russian program.

Putting together such a mammoth production has taken months of reworking of scores and rehearsals under the direction of USQ senior lecturer in music, Dr Phillip Gearing and associate.

**PIANO SPECTACULAR**

**WHEN:**
- 7:30pm on Saturday, June 2
- 2pm on Sunday, June 3

**WHERE:**
- USQ Arts Theatre.

**TICKETS:**
- $27 adult, $21.50 concession, $16.50 student, $8.50 child. Phone 4651 1111.

Music director, Morgan Chalmers, currently completing the final year of his Bachelor of Creative Arts (music) degree. Morgan is also a talented composer, arranger and conductor.

"Russian music provides a rich source of colourful music both musically and instrumentally and provides examples of some of the most masterfully orchestrated compositions of the 19th and 20th centuries," he said.

Morgan's challenges have been many - to take a masterfully orchestrated work such as Rimsky-Korsakov's Scheherazade and create a kaleidoscope of colours from an ensemble of mono-timbral instruments; to sustain sound in works like Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture and Rachmaninoff's Isle of the Dead to bring a new colour and sound to the piano ensemble; and to rework Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition - originally composed for solo piano to create a full spectrum of colour not unlike that of an orchestra.

Other items on the program will include selections from Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker Suite and Stravinsky's Petrushka.