

AGSA NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT -----MAY 2002

MEMBERSHIP

At about this time in 2000 I put out a plea to you all to renew your membership. There was a magnificent response and our membership numbers rose splendidly. The committee estimates that a membership of 70 is somewhere near the mark for our state. We had exactly 70 last year. Right now we are well short of that mark. We still need you with us. This is what I said in 2000. I hope it has the same effect.

The President's Plea.

If you haven't become a member or you have not yet renewed your subscription, please do so now. Our greatest source of income is from our membership. We need your fees to support our program and more importantly to maintain the profile of the Accompanist in South Australia. I appeal particularly to the professional pianists amongst you who possibly do not need the Guild to maintain your careers. The Guild needs you. Post your subscriptions today.

Membership application forms are included in this Newsletter. If you have email please include it. It makes contacting you both easier and cheaper for the Guild.

PROGRAM DATE CHANGES

We have experienced a few problems this year what with a guest suddenly taking off overseas, a prizewinner in ill health and a Festival losing not only its Artistic Director but also a large percentage of its funding. But we, as all accompanists must be, are flexible and have moved quickly to rearrange matters. The results follow.

Change of Program date—Professor Bodman Rae ---now Tuesday May 21

Professor Charles Bodman Rae sends his apologies for this necessary change. He will be caught in Germany unable to get a flight back to Adelaide for Monday May 13. *An Evening with Professor Bodman Rae* will now take place on Tuesday May 21 at 7.30 in Bishop Hall at the Elder School of Music. This will be your opportunity to meet the new professor and quiz him about his plans for the future education of the State's accompanists. He will also give a short Master Class, working with pianist, Michael Ierace and trombonist, Patrick Beaman who will perform "Capriccio" by Paul Bonneau. Remember you can park in the underground car park next to Bonython Hall. Make sure you have \$4 handy. (It may now be \$5 and a note won't do.)

Change of Program Date – Irina Lioubimova (2001 Geoffrey Parsons winner) and soprano, Rosalind Martin – now Wednesday September 11 – 7.30 – Pilgrim Church

Pneumonia has attacked 2 of our active members (see Margaret McDonald below) over the past year. We wish Irina a speedy recovery and thank Rosalind for being so cooperative with the date change.

Doubt re Barossa Festival.

Last week the Barossa Music Festival lost its State Government grant. This has sent shock waves through the ranks of the Festival administration which has itself experienced considerable disruption lately. I am keeping in touch with Anthony Steel re the place of the **Geoffrey Parsons Award** in the Festival. All we can hope for at this point is that the Festival will continue and the GPA will be part of it as it has for the past 10 years. If this is not the case we will certainly arrange an alternative. There are already plans B and C under consideration.

A NEW ACCOMPANISTS' GUILD

I am pleased to report that a third Guild now exists in Australia. NSW has set up its Guild under the leadership of the outstanding Australian accompanist and Sydney Conservatorium Lecturer, David Miller. It appears that they intend accrediting accompanists ---something we are not yet inclined to do considering this present age of litigation. We congratulate the NSW Guild on their formation and wish them the best for the future. Now there are 3 Australian Accompanists' Guilds the possibility of a national association may be closer.

THE 2002 AGM AND "OLD WICKED SONGS"

What an excellent idea for an AGM. Well in excess of a quorum turned up for a delicious buffet at Joan Atkinson's. This was interspersed with the formal AGM and followed by a great night at the theatre. The committee was returned with approximately the same personnel----newcomer and recent Accompanying Graduate Dorothy Zweck will replace Joan Atkinson who will be overseas during 2002. The committee is now :

President – Diana Harris, Vice President – Margaret Ferrie, Secretary – Berenice Harrison, Membership Secretary – Robert Hunter, Treasurer – Vivienne Muller, Assistant Treasurer – Lyn Brislan, Committee – Bonnie Claassen, Nicole Hare, Mary le Page, Margaret McDonald, Frances Wood and Dorothy Zweck.

GUILD HISTORY

My move from Flinders Street to the University necessitated moving the accumulated and rather badly maintained Accompanists' Guild records. Rather than relocate them in my Uni office, I asked for assistance from the committee in putting them in order. Joan Atkinson and Mary le Page are now the official minders of the Guild history. Over the next year or so they will be organizing a suitable filing system for our records. We are almost 20 years old and can be proud of the contribution we have made to the music scene in South Australia. Our history is well worth preserving.

FROM THE AGM----PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2001

Events not in my last 2001 newsletter include

- **Masterclass with Nicholas Milton** – August 21 – Recital Room FSSOM

The news is now public that Nick will be leaving Adelaide and his position with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra at the end of 2002. We were indeed fortunate to pin him down for one night. The 3 pianists who prepared works for the evening – Catherine Stanley (Brahms FAE Sonata) Alexander Hanyasz (Cesar Franck sonata –finale) and Michael Ierace (Falla/Kreisler Danse Espagnole) were given an experience of a lifetime and the large audience of string players as well as pianists were both educated and entertained.

- **Leigh Harrold, 2001 Geoffrey Parsons Award Winner with Keith Crellin (Viola)** – September 10 – Recital Room FSSOM

It is so satisfying for the Committee of the Guild to witness a recital of this calibre from the winner of our annual award. It makes all the hard work worth it and encourages us to keep going. It also assures us that the future of our art is in good hands. Particular tribute should be paid to Keith Crellin. Leigh's own words in his enlightening program notes say it all----"I feel very privileged to have been able to

rehearse and perform such wonderful music with such a wonderful soloist----I've had an absolute blast preparing for this recital."

- **Final—Geoffrey Parsons Award 2001** – September 30 – Langbein Theatre.

Our 2 finalists, Agnieszka Szepiola-Oudendijk (with Michael Milton, violin, and Gordon Combes, male soprano) and Irina Lioubimova (with Carolyn Lam, violin) performed splendidly. Both were joined by

Christopher Handley (cello) in the set work, Schumann's Fantasy Piece no. 3, which fully tested the pianists. Irina was declared the winner. Amongst the audience to offer congratulations were Brenton Langbein's sister, Jeanette, and Dawn Wallace of the 3D's who donate so generously each year to the Award.

- **Margaret McDonald** who has been such a pillar of strength as Guild Secretary

met her match in the form of a truly persistent bout of pneumonia, which forced her withdrawal from active duty. The committee closed ranks and produced secretarial relief via Berenice and Joan so Margaret's work could continue. We are pleased to see her once again looking like her old self and sufficiently on top of things to host the Chatterton Soiree later this year.

- **The merger ---between the FSSOM and the Elder Conservatorium** caused us consternation on at least 3 fronts
 1. The FSSOM Accompanying Degree
 2. The loss of Flinders Street facilities
 3. The housing of AGSA files.

The degree is being phased out-----there are 10 continuing students most of whom will complete the course by the end of 2002.

The Guild Committee is using Uni facilities for meetings in 2002—other arrangements may have to be made for beyond 2002.

Joan Atkinson and Mary le Page are dealing with the Files – see Guild History above.

THE 2002 AGSA PROGRAMS

- **Tuesday May 21 Bishop Hall Elder School of Music 7.30 pm**

An Evening with Professor Charles Bodman Rae. This will include an address from the professor, question time and a short Master Class. Convenor –D Harris

- **Wednesday September 11 Pilgrim Uniting Church Flinders Street 7.30**

Geoffrey Parsons Award winner, Irina Lioubimova, with soprano, Rosalind Martin

It is the Guild's aim to provide our winners with challenging partnerships for their Award recitals. Last year Leigh Harrold had the experience of a lifetime working with violist, Keith Crellin. We are thrilled that Rosalind has agreed to perform with Irina. This will be an outstanding recital. Convenor - B Harrison

- **Sunday July 21 43 Alpha Rd Prospect 4.30**

A Soiree with Brian and Jillian Chatterton.

Margaret McDonald has a delightful music room, ideal for an intimate musical gathering. What better than to have the founder of Co*Opera, Australia's most active travelling opera company, and his leading lady to entertain us? Added to the musical experience is the supper to follow. This will cost \$ 7.50. Places are limited so bookings are essential. (8334 5941). Convenor – M McDonald.

- **October on a date to be notified –**

Geoffrey Parsons Award 2002 - Final – in the Barossa Festival – Tanunda

Members will be notified as soon as this is clear. See program date changes above. In the meantime keep an eye out for any likely candidates and tell them to contact me for further information. The Prize brochure will be available soon. Convenor – D Harris.

FUNDRAISING 2002

- **Saturday August 17 - 7.00 for 7.30. – The Dinner**

This year there is a change of venue from the Harris home to the new home of our secretary, Berenice Harrison. Last year the dinner grossed \$1300---second only in income to members' subscriptions. For the sake of maintaining the Guild's activities we need this event to not only be a great dinner but also a financial success. The committee currently provides the food – the drinks are BYO. Book your places now with Berenice - \$35 each. (8266 4936)

- **The Raffle**

It is amazing that such a simple thing as a raffle contributes 10% of our annual income. Thanks to Mary le Page and her team this is always a winner. We can still do with support in selling tickets beyond the committee so if you can sell tickets let Mary know. The basket of goodies is always first class.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Elder Professor's evening on Tuesday May 21 – have questions prepared.

Last reminder----send your membership subscriptions to Robert Hunter---now.

Diana J Harris

President

AGSA Inc.

harrisd@senet.com.au