

Accompanist Guild Of SA

Newsletter: June 2006

The AGM - February 27th - and the 2006 Committee

It's hard to believe but once again we had a well attended AGM this year at the Stables at Marryatville High School thanks to new Committee member, Leonie Hempton. No doubt coupling the AGM with an outstanding concert is an ideal way to encourage attendance. The following committee members were elected: President/Margaret Ferrie, Vice President/Berenice Harrison, Secretary/Diana Harris, Membership Secretary/Angela Welsh, Treasurer/Peter Harris, Joan Atkinson, Leonie Hempton, Monika Laczofy, Mary Le Page, Gina Macri, Julie Sargeant and Publicist/Christopher Wainwright. The President welcomed the new members Leonie Hempton and Angela Welsh, and thanked retiring members who will stay very much in touch with Guild happenings, Alexander Hanysz our website liaison and Jeffrey Kong who continues to support us in the Young Accompanists' Showcase. Committee member Julie Sargeant launched our exciting 2006 program reminding all that membership subscriptions and donations to the Guild were essential for us to continue to promote the significance of the Accompanist.

The Opening Concert - Vale Three Inspirational Musicians, Elizabeth Angove, Rae Cocking and Lance Dossor

The Showcase Soloists' Recital was an exhilarating concert by the four professional soloists working with our secondary school pianists in the Young Accompanists' Showcase in June. Bogdan Kazimierczak (violin) performed Prokofiev with Jeffrey Kong; David Perry and Jillian Chatterton from Co*Opera were joined by Julie Sargeant in songs by Vaughan Williams, Schumann, Mozart and Britten as well as a riveting performance of the Letter Duet from Madama Butterfly; and ASO flautist Lisa Gill with Alexander Hanysz performed Bach and Reineke. Tributes were offered to Elizabeth Angove by Margaret Ferrie, Rae Cocking by Jillian Chatterton and Lance Dossor by Diana Harris in recognition of their significant roles in the musical life of South Australia and their unqualified support of Accompanists and the Guild.

The Young Accompanists' Showcase - June 4 and June 25 - Educating the next Generation of Accompanists

Julie Sargeant managed to get a second year of funding from the South Australian Youth Arts Board to run this project for a second year. SAYAB have warned us though, that even though our efforts have been "A" rated it is unlikely they will fund again for a third year. This year's Young Accompanists, Warwick Ambrose, Mariam Grynchuk, Robin Parkin, Mark Stefanoff, Caitlin Thomas, Vivanna Wan and Alice Wharldall are all 15 to 17 year olds in years 10 to 12 from Concordia College, Marryatville High School, Pembroke School and Pulteney Grammar. Given tutoring by their teachers plus at least one session with their professional soloist the Young Accompanists have already performed in a Master Class conducted by Diana Weekes, the Head of the Bachelor of Music Program at the Elder Conservatorium. Given less than 15 minutes with each pair and concentrating almost solely on the pianists Diana provided thought provoking comments for each of them - different in each case - but in total providing a wide spectrum of considerations for all performers and audience to contemplate. These young people are our future accompanists and chamber musicians and are even now well worth listening to. They have two more appearances with the Guild - show your support for them on:

- 1.Sunday June 4 at 3.00pm in the Hudson Room at Brighton Secondary School when they present the official Concert associated with the Young Accompanists' Showcase; and
- 2.Wednesday July 12 at 12.10 in Pilgrim Church when they will present the "curtain-raiser" to the

highlight of the July Festival of Accompanists, the 1.10 Recital by our distinguished Guest Accompanist, **David Miller**, and one of Australia's finest singers, **Elizabeth Campbell**.

The July Festival of Accompanists - Pilgrim Church Concerts, David Miller Residency, Geoffrey Parsons Award

Our annual tribute to Accompanists becomes more exciting each year. Do check out the flyer included in this post out and show your support for the Guild's efforts by patronizing the month's events. There are **eight concerts in the Pilgrim Church Series** which, for the first time, present pianists as accompanists from all levels of participation - from primary school students through to one of the most experienced of Australian accompanists (David Miller) and many levels in between. The **David Miller Residency** really covers the three Master Classes and the **Geoffrey Parsons Award** as well as David's concert with Elizabeth Campbell on July 12 at 1.10 pm. Because this concert is in the existing Pilgrim Church Lunch Hour Series we have retained the same cost structure and entry is a mere \$5 or \$3 concession/students (for two concerts if you come to the 12.10 Young Accompanists Concert). The price is an absolute steal for performers of this calibre. We are prepared to make it available in the hope that our members will recognize in doing so we are making the significance of the accompanist known to a broad public - the committee needs your support in patronizing these concerts and encouraging others to attend. **David's three Master Classes** (Mon 10th 7.30, St Michael's Mitcham for ANATS, Wed 12th at 4.00 and Thurs 13 at 2.00 both in the Hartley Concert Room) will be the truly educational part of his visit as he will offer guidance and advice to the audience as much as to the participants. In the Geoffrey Parsons Award Final also in Hartley, at 7.00pm on Thurs 13, David as chair, will be joined by Keith Hempton (representing the Elder Conservatorium) and Alexander Hanysz (for the Guild) in choosing the winner. Details of the **Auditions on Mon 10 and Tues 11** are not known at this point as entries do not close until June 19th but it is 99% sure that both days will be used. Entry is free. Note that because of interstate interest in the Award over the past two years the Final is now in the same week as the Auditions to save excessive travel and accommodation costs for interstate applicants. Check the website or phone 8431 6030 for details of times closer to the day. Entry Forms are available on the website $\text{\textcircled{D}}$ late deciders will just make the deadline.

The Accompanists' Guild of NSW Inc

Australia's most populous state followed our lead in 2000 and set up its own Guild. Its venerable motto, *Fidelitas Comes Veraque* (Fidelity and True Partnership), features prominently in their Autumn Newsletter Vol. 1 Issue 1, and their 2006 Register. The Register includes 70 entries, all of whom perform at a professional level. Membership is not automatic and the executive auditions prospective members if they are unable to provide reliable evidence of their capabilities. Members "undertake to be thoroughly prepared, share their knowledge and expertise, promote rapport and encourage confidence in musical performance and uphold professional standards at all times" (2006 Register). At both the 2006 Annual General Meeting and in the Newsletter AGSA was well acknowledged as their "Sister Guild...and model for our own Guild". At this point they do not have an annual program of events as we do as they were set up "for the purpose of raising the profile of the art of accompaniment and to provide a much needed register of accompanists" (Newsletter Vol. 1, No.1) Our own Festival of Accompanists Guest Artist, David Miller, is the President of the Accompanists' Guild of NSW. Check out their website on www.accompanistsguildofnsw.org.au

AGSA's Website: www.accompanist.org.au

Our website is now in operation so please use it and refer others to it. Last year's members are still listed on the website but if members wish to remain listed they must renew their subscriptions by the end of June. Formerly the Register has been the sole source of accompanists' details; now people are already using the website. We have automatically experienced reduced membership numbers each year the Register was not produced so we are hoping that now the site is available membership will remain static (or preferably increase) each year. Membership application Forms are available on the website as are details of the Geoffrey Parsons Award and the program for the July Festival of Accompanists. If you have

problems using the website there is a contact email provided.

AGSA Membership

In 2005 - a "Register year" we had 89 members - the most we have ever had This year, a "non Register year", we are well short of that target Don't forget we need your subscriptions to assist us in pursuing our objectives, "to promote the status of the accompanist, to encourage and assist in establishing a unity of purpose and the maintenance of high ideals amongst accompanists in South Australia" (2005-2006 AGSA Register). If you haven't renewed your subs please do (particularly if you are in the Register!!) Donations will always be welcome.

2006 Program yet to come

- Sunday June 24 at 3.00 - Young Accompanists' Showcase Concert, Brighton Secondary School.
- July - Festival of Accompanists - see flyer enclosed
- September 2 at 7.00 for 7.30 - Fundraising Dinner ph 8266 4936
- November 11 at 1.00 - Professional Development - Howard Parkinson - Brass Accompaniment - Elder Con

Fundraising - A Quarter Century \$10,000 Geoffrey Parsons Award??

The Fundraising sub-committee of Guild member, Jenny Donovan, Treasurer, Peter Harris and Publicist, Christopher Wainwright is coming up with a series of fundraising activities to support our current activities as well as our future plans. In 2008 the Guild will be 25. The Committee wishes to mark our quarter century with a really special Geoffrey Parsons Award of at least \$5000 first prize. (We'd really like it to be \$10,000 but will need an amazing effort to reach that). Well - the fundraisers are on the move. They have a supply of really cool looking T shirts, black, Large & Medium sizes sporting our distinctive logo in white. First seen at the Young Accompanists' Showcase conducted by Diana Weekes who designed our unique logo in the early days of AGSA - several were snapped up by generous audience members. Each sale earns the Guild \$10. So you pay \$20, get a great T shirt and donate \$10 to the Guild. So be in it! Order your T Shirt now. The current supply is limited but we can always order more - \$20 only and \$25 if you require Extra Large. Fill in the tear off and forward as indicated.

AGSA T-SHIRT ORDER FORM - please return to the Treasurer AGSA, 9 Prosser Ave, Norwood, 5067. Cheque or Money Order made out to "The Accompanists' Guild of SA". **PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.**

Name _____ ph _____
e _____

Address _____ PostCode _____

Order () Medium/\$20, () Large/\$20, () Extra Large/\$25 Total \$ _____ Postage \$5 (or pick up at the next AGSA event Yes/No) Grand Total \$ _____
