

In this issue...

- ◆ *Young Accompanists' Showcase 2007*
- ◆ *Festival of Accompanists 2007*
- ◆ *Geoffrey Parsons Award 2007*
- ◆ *2007/ 2008 Register and the Website*
- ◆ *Fundraising Dinner for 2008 Geoffrey Parsons Award*
- ◆ *PD Day – Robert Hower and Brass*
- ◆ *2008 - AGSA's 25th Anniversary and Malcolm Martineau Residency, May 22 to June 1 2008*
- ◆ *Next Guild Broadcast on 5MBS*



2007 Young Accompanists' Showcase (YAS)

Working with professional soloists: Rosalind Martin (soprano), Robert MacFarlane (tenor), William Newbrey and Heather Lloyd (violins) and Meredith Boyle (French horn), six secondary students (age range 12 to 16) took part in intensive preparation for a Masterclass with visiting Victorian pianist, Darryl Coote, and presented the Showcase Concert on June 24.

Our thanks go to AGSA organizers Gina Macri, Leonie Hempton and Julie Sargeant (who secured SAYAB funding for the 3rd year) and also to Jeffrey Kong and Brighton Secondary School for hosting this event. YAS has become a major educational event as well as encouraging future accompanists.

2007 Festival of Accompanists – July 9 to 18

This exciting two weeks added further weight to our aim to promote the status of the Accompanist not only through the professional concerts – Jean Paul Sévilla and Terence Tam gave a stunning recital of French works by César Franck – but also through the provision of performance opportunities for all educational levels, Primary, Secondary and Tertiary.

Our YAS secondary students performed again and showed considerable maturity as a result of the Showcase. President Monika Laczofy

arranged two extremely different concerts – one entirely of primary school accompanists and associates and the other of senior tertiary level students.

The "babies" as we called them were delightful and the seniors proved to us that there is an outstanding future generation of accompanists and chamber musicians ready to uphold our image as a vital component in the music world of tomorrow.

The 2007 Festival demonstrated again the importance of collaboration. In 2006 we collaborated with ANATS, and in 2007 our collaboration with Recitals Australia made it financially possible for us to arrange Jean-Paul's residency including 2 masterclasses (one solo and one duo) and a solo recital.

Another significant collaboration which has been in place now for 7 years, is with the Elder Conservatorium who generously accommodate the masterclasses and the Geoffrey Parsons Award.

We are indebted to Allans Music who were the major sponsors of this year's Festival of Accompanists. Visit them online at <http://www.allans.com.au/>

The Geoffrey Parsons Award (GPA) - 2006 Winner's Recital and 2007 Winner

Now in its 23rd year the GPA has supported careers in accompanying for many of the 24 winners. Our first winner in 1984, *Bernard Depasquale* has had a long career particularly as the pianist in the Tea Rose Duo.

This year's winner is multiple Award and Scholarship winner, Victorian *Amir Farid*, who already performs professionally as an accompanist, chamber musician and soloist. Check out the website for Amir's current activities at www.amirfarid.com.

Last Year's winner, *Anthony Hunt* is about to leave an exciting professional life in SA for a scholarship at the Royal College in London. Noted for his work with singers, Anthony gave his Winner's Recital on June 30th with instrumentalists at the request of AGSA, as we are keen to broaden the repertoire experience for our winners.

Some of the others who have sustained professional careers in the broad field of accompaniment include *Jillianne Bartsch* (1985, repetiteur Opera Australia and MD Queensland Opera), *Julie Sargeant* (1989, now Accompanist with CoOpera and in demand for song recitals) and *Jamie Cock* (1992, a free lance international accompanist recently returned to Adelaide from Europe).

1994 and 1996 winner *Nerissa Pearce* is in demand for singers, opera, theatre, and is formerly with Queensland Opera). *Leigh Harrold* (1998 and 2000) is one of the busiest accompanists/associate artists in Australia, particularly SA and Vic already with considerable international experience.

2007/ 2008 Register

All members – not just those listed - will receive this year's Register. Please keep it near your phone so that you can recommend our members first should you not be available. Remember the Register is already on our website www.accompanist.org.au. Although the hard copy will not be upgraded until 2009, a supplementary list will be provided on the website for new members.

The Register will be distributed to major music houses and educational institutions as well as music teachers who need the services of accompanists.

Website

After an intermittent start in 2006 our website is now really rolling along. If you have internet access do check it out. It's bubbling with information about AGSA's activities as well as including useful links and articles of interest to our members & others.

We have already received international enquiries about the activities of the Guild. One even asked how to set up a Guild!! Our web manager, Nick Turner, has done a splendid job keeping the site informative and as inexpensive as possible.

2007 PD Day- Robert Hower and Brass Accompaniment

Things are well under way in the planning of this Professional Development day at Marryatville HS on Saturday October 27 from 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm.

Leading a masterclass, demonstrations and discussion, Bob will be both a demanding and encouraging presence. He is renowned for his pedagogical strengths as well as for his dynamic leadership so do make the most of this session.

If you haven't played for brass yet this is the chance to observe. If you'd like to be involved as a performer, contact Monika Laczofy on 8395 0407.

There's a big IF to this session. You must apply to be involved. The Guild is not prepared to run PD sessions for only 2 or 3 participants.

If you wish to be part of this one phone Monika or Margie Ferrie 8339 1175 or check out the application form coming soon on the website.

**2007 Fundraising Dinner – Saturday
September 15, 7.00 for 7.30**

Recently this has been to assist in providing the prize money of \$2500 for the Geoffrey Parsons Award. It usually raises about \$1000. We're hoping the special 2008 GPA will offer more like \$6000 - \$5000 for the winner & \$500 each for the Finalists.

So help us raise the money for our very special Silver Anniversary Parsons Award. The dinner's only a \$35 donation but people usually join in with the raffles and even make straight donations.

Don't forget you must bring your own drinks. It's at 35a Orlando Ave, Hampstead Gardens. Phone 8266 4936 to secure a place for one or more.

**AGSA's 25th – Musician in Residence
MALCOLM MARTINEAU**

We are thrilled that one of the world's great accompanists has found time in his extraordinarily busy schedule to join us for over a week and help us celebrate this milestone in the History of the Accompanists' Guild of SA.

Spanning May 22 to June 1, Malcolm's Residency will include masterclasses, workshops & recitals. It will conclude with what will probably be Australia's first Conference of Accompanists & Associate Artists on May 31/June 1.

This will be the most ambitious undertaking yet for the Guild so we will need the support

of every one of our 87 (yes!! biggest membership for quite a while) members to make it a huge success.

It is particularly pleasing that Malcolm was one of the young accompanists influenced by our esteemed Patron, the late Geoffrey Parsons. He will chair the jury of the Parsons Award.

There will be more about plans for 2008 in later newsletters. In the meantime check out Malcolm Martineau's official biography in this mail and also on his own website.

Put May 31/June 1 in your diaries now & promise yourself you'll be in it – there won't be another event like this one for at least another 25 years!!

We're applying for assistance in all directions to make the most of 2008. However, if you'd like to support the efforts of the Guild in raising the profile of the Accompanist particularly during 2008 don't be shy about it!!

Let us know - consider life Membership - give specific donations to the GPAward or Martineau's visit or just donate to help us make ends meet.

Next Guild Broadcast

Don't forget to tune in Monday September 10, 7pm Radio 5MBS, 99.9 FM.

Cheers for now,

Diana J Harris – Secretary – AGSA.