

NEWSLETTER – 2018 ACCOMPANISTS' FESTIVAL

From the Festival Convenor and Guild Founder Diana Harris

Dear AGSA Members and Friends,

It's an absolute pleasure to let you know that next year's Festival – **TWO PIANOS TWO PIANISTS** - is shaping up beautifully --- well enough in fact for our honorary publicist, Christopher Wainwright, to have already posted our early, "Save the Date" Release to his contacts in the Media. Do check the release and the information following it on our website--- <http://accompanist.org.au/2017/11/28/save-the-date-festival-of-accompanists-2018-2-pianos-2-pianists-13-17-june/>

My negotiations with our guest artists, **LISA MOORE & SONYA LIFSCHITZ**, were in place months ago. Confirming other aspects has taken much longer. Many thanks to the team - Chris W (publicity) , Anna Mackenzie (graphic artist – posters , website etc) and my personal assistant , Dani Raymond who set up the ticketing through TryBooking (quite complex as the Festival offers three different packages--- see BOOKINGS below)

Some of the problems in presenting a TWO Piano Festival which have arisen along the way have provided some puzzling challenges and fascinating solutions.

- **TWO** Pianos—Elder Hall /OK, Pilgrim Church /OK, rehearsal spaces in 2 AGSA Council members' private studios / any offers from AGSA Members and Affiliates who have 2 pianos & would like to have them use would be appreciated.
- **ONE** Piano --Marryatville HS – Just ONE grand piano --- PianoMax - has come on board as a principal sponsor to provide Marryatville HS with a second , matching grand for activities on Fri/Sat June 15/16 – including the Conference. As part of their sponsorship
- **THIRTY TWO** Pianos —**PianoMax** will host (on Thursday June 14 late afternoon) a Multi Piano Extravaganza – not just TWO pianos but, on last count, THIRTY TWO pianos. Our resident conductor extraordinaire, Leonie Hempton, has already jumped at the opportunity to conduct at least 32 pianists (more possible) on 32 pianos in a couple of items during the Extravaganza. Performances will involve students and professionals on two pianos plus. We've lots of repertoire possibilities. We'll be getting in touch for volunteer pianists later –would love to receive expressions of interest from AGSA Members and Affiliates & your students.
- **FIVE DAYS** our recent Festivals have generally covered THREE , 2018 covers FIVE
 - **Day 1** Wednesday 13- **Pilgrim Church Lunch hour concerts** 12.10 by the JEMS (Monika's versatile Primary School students' Junior Ensemble Musicians) followed by professional musicians 1.10 **FOR JEMS** with the focus is on Saint Saens' Carnival of the Animals for 2 pianos and instrumental ensemble.
 - **Day 2** Thursday 14 – Thursday June 14, 5pm **PIANOMAX** Magill Showrooms – **Multi Piano Extravaganza** – 2 to 32 pianos and Pianists
 - **Day 3** Friday 15 - Friday June 15 Marryatville HS Lisa Moore & Sonya Lifschitz -- **Educational Outreach** -- with invited performers and observers plus rehearsals for Lisa & Sonya
 - **Day 4** Saturday 16 9.30 to 4.00 Marryatville HS **2018 Accompanists' Conference** – full details available early in 2018 – much on the planning

slate—with such extraordinary guest musicians at the centre too many possibilities really!! – Lisa & Sonya master classes , demonstrations, rehearsing the winning work in the composition award , duo repertoire old and new , current trends in performer expectations for duo piano performance including using the professional toy piano, Q&A and more

- **Day 5** Sunday 17 - 2.30 Elder Hall **Piano Duo RECITAL – Lisa & Sonya** – in association with Recitals Australia- Bach Goldberg Variations arranged by Australian pianist/composer Stephen Emmerson (remember he joined us for the 2016 Festival with the Endeavour Trio) – AND recent works by Martin Bresnick *Handwork*, John Adams *Hallelujah Junction* PLUS the premiere of the winning AGSA Composition Competition by an SA young composer. Martin Bresnick, Lisa’s husband and Head of Composition at Yale, intends joining us so there’ll be the opportunity for interested musicians – young & old - to meet him)
- IN BETWEEN – We will be encouraging as much 2 PIANO playing and rehearsing in private studios as possible – if you have 2 acoustic pianos or one & a keyboard do encourage your students to play 2 piano music with you or with student colleagues
- PD CERTIFICATES will be available for delegates attending the Full Festival, the weekend events or the Conference (not the recital alone)
- **EARLY BIRD BONUS** – the ASO has generously donated **TWO** x A reserve double passes for Friday 22nd June--Program includes Stephen Hough performing Rachmaninov's - Rhapsody on Theme of Paganini. Each double pass is valued at \$205! Great pianist—great value – applications for Full Festival or Weekend events or Conference deadline **March 1** to go in to the draw for this fabulous concert.
- **BOOKINGS** are open : book at www.trybooking.com/TCLR or check out www.accompanist.org.au for more information and booking link -- in 3 Packages
 1. Full Festival (everything)
 2. Weekend events (Conference & Recital)
 3. Conference only

For Sunday Recital ONLY book via <https://recitalsaustralia.org.au/whats-on/lisa-moore-and-sonya-lifschitz/> however I hope you will buy one of the packages that includes Accompanist Festival events -- Two packages include the Recital ie Festival Package (everything), Weekend Package (Conference & Recital)

The 2018 Festival will be my last for the Guild so naturally I would love to see a huge number of delegates attending. It is definitely time I bowed out and time we ALL encouraged others to join the Guild and “Keep Supporting Accompanists” (and ALL collaborative pianists)

Cheers

Diana

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