

## NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2017

Happy New Year,  
I hope you've all had a refreshing holiday.

2017 for AGSA is off to a good start with the Council organising a varied range of activities for the year. One significant inclusion is a **PD Day** focussing on professional matters for accompanists. Scheduled for JUNE 3, 2pm-5pm, at Allegro Music 116 Anzac Highway, Glandore, it is being organised by Council member **Koula Raptis**. This offers you a chance to chat with Mark Sandon and several of our other 'home-grown' active, experienced and respected accompanists, about the many accompanying issues you've met yourselves.

The **Young Accompanists' Showcase (YAS)** has confirmed dates for a masterclass at 2pm on JULY 2 and concert at 2.30pm on JULY 30, both at Marryatville High School. The Young Accompanists will then give a final performance during the Festival Conference in Cynthia Poulton Hall on AUGUST 5. The YAS project is a most popular exercise managed by **Gina Macri**, through which many young pianists have discovered the joys of associate playing.

**Festival 2017**, AUGUST 2 to 6, accents Keyboard Accompaniment In Choral Music .

Plans are well under way in the capable hands of Council member and Conference /Recital curator, **Leonie Hempton**, Head of Music at St Peter's Cathedral, who has just returned from a tour of Japan with Marryatville High School choristers.

Choral accompanying is something we've never tackled before but is an area that most accompanists approach quite early. There are many amateur choirs 'out there' all needing help from a pianist, not necessarily technically brilliant but with reading skills above all else and an ability to piece together vocal lines to coach and support the singers who are often quite untrained but obviously dedicated and enthusiastic.

It provides an opportunity to explore a wide repertoire otherwise not met by the average piano student. ....an exciting, musically broadening experience and an excellent training ground for accompanying professional choirs in concert/recording work.

Beginning with two Pilgrim Church Lunch Hour concerts involving the **Junior Ensemble Musicians (JEMs)** followed by a Concert '**FOR JEMS**' on Wednesday AUGUST 2 , the **Conference** will take place on Saturday AUGUST 5 from 9am - 5pm in Cynthia Poulton Hall, closing with a final concert on Sunday AUGUST 6 at 3pm in Elder Hall.

Since our decision to hold the **Geoffrey Parsons Award** only every second year, we've taken time to reconsider and somewhat restructure this event. **Penny Cashman**, vocal coach and accompanist at the Elder Conservatorium has recently joined the AGSA Council , contributing with fresh ideas on modernising!

This year it will be held on Sunday SEPTEMBER 10, no longer a part of the Conference as in the past. Judges for the final will be headed by pianist **Timothy Young** (head of keyboard at the Australian National Academy of Music) with AGSA members **Diana Weekes** and **Diana Harris**, as well as singer for the set work, **Elizabeth Campbell** .

Details of requirement conditions and application are about to be published on the website. The venue for this is also a 'first' – the ballroom of the very beautiful house '**Carclew**', 11 Jeffcott St, North Adelaide.

Last year we welcomed graphic artist **Anna McKenzie** to our 'team' – she takes care of our website and publicity with ease & expertise, as well as designing our posters and flyers !

Our annual **Dinner** will be held again by courtesy of our **Vice-President Berenice Harrison**, on NOVEMBER 18, at her home.

As this is our one fundraising event and promises to be another 'feast of good things', we hope to see your strong support. You can already make a booking for a table or for individuals with Berenice by email [bereniceharrison@hotmail.com](mailto:bereniceharrison@hotmail.com) or phone 8266 4936.

Recently there have been retirements from our Council, including the resignation of our hard-working and much valued **secretary Frances Wood**, leaving a few empty chairs.

If any of you might be willing to make a contribution of time/organisational skills/goodwill/any other support, do please register your interest in joining the Council by contacting me on either [mlaczofy1@bigpond.com](mailto:mlaczofy1@bigpond.com) or phone 0411 271 215.

The **2017 Annual General Meeting** will be held at 2pm on MARCH 26 at 35a Orlando Ave, Hampstead Gardens – you will receive notification about the AGM well before March 26.

For further developments and information please check the website or the facebook - [www.accompanist.org.au](http://www.accompanist.org.au) AND [www.facebook.com/1AGSA](http://www.facebook.com/1AGSA)

Best wishes to all, hoping to see you during 2017 at any or all AGSA events!  
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