

PAST EVENTS

The Art Song to Opera Seminar/Recital March 22 – was a great success. Simon Kenway proved a fund of information for both pianists and singers and both his lecture/demonstration (ably illustrated with the help of Teresa La Rocca) and the master class were conducted with infectious enthusiasm. The piano/voice duos – Melanie Redden & Tahlia Ries (sop), Mark Sandon and Blake Parhan (lyric baritone), Jamie Cock and Greta Bradman (sop) and Malcolm Day and Eva Butcher (sop) clearly enjoyed and benefitted from working with Simon. Simon's recital with Teresa La Rocca included the Aaron Copland Cycle 12 Poems of Emily Dickinson plus art songs by Granados, Strauss and Rodrigo as well as arias by Puccini and Mozart. Teresa is now of operatic proportions as needed for her position with Opera Australia and the arias nearly raised the roof of Cynthia Poulton Hall. Simon - on very little notice - managed with ease the enormous stylistic changes between composers as well as moving from piano to orchestral mode. What an exciting recital it was. We are grateful to ANATS for their cooperation in making this event such a success.

The AGM – was sandwiched in between the masterclass and the recital on March 22 and was close to the best attended AGM we have ever had. (takes a larger event to press members in to attending an AGM!). Our 2009 committee is Monika Laczofy (Pres) , Berenice Harrison (V Pres) Diana Harris (Sec) Peter Harris (Treas) , Julie Sargeant (Membership Sec) and Joan Atkinson, Margie Ferrie, Leonie Hempton, Mary Le Page, Gina Macri and Frances Wood. Fortunately for Chris Wainwright but unfortunately for us he has a new and very busy job as Manager of the Adelaide Youth Orchestra. He is still advising us on publicity, preparing some of our programs and media releases the latter with assistance from publicist, Sheila Bryce.

The Register - is now printed and available to AGSA members in the current post out. Non members who would like a copy should contact the Secretary on 8431 6030 (cost \$10) The hard copy Register will be distributed to known users over the next few weeks as well as in music business houses. It is already available on the website. You will notice some interesting historical information in this Register. Given that we've reached the ripe old age of 25 it seemed appropriate to include something from our past.

CURRENT EVENTS

The Young Accompanists' Showcase June 7, June 21, July 8– The June 7th masterclass led by Leigh Harrold was outstanding. Leigh is an extraordinarily perceptive musician and a fine teacher. Without intimidating the young pianists in any way he provided them with background knowledge and valuable suggestions which in every case resulted in improved execution and more perceptive understanding of the varied roles of the accompanist. What a shame there was such a poor member turn out. These education sessions are meant to be of value to observers as well as participants and on this occasion there were few of the former. Many thanks to our professional soloists who have worked with the young accompanists with great understanding :- Peter Handsworth (clarinet) with Jacqueline Raymond (Lutoslawski) and Matthew Nguyen (Tartini), Naomi Hede (soprano) with Brenna Mackay (Quilter & Hahn), Samantha Hennessy (flute) with Helen Zhou (Roussel) and Imants Larsens (violin and viola) with Matthew Chu (Fallavln) and Natalie Leung (Schubert/vla). The Guild greatly appreciates the sterling effort of AGSA Committee Member, Gina Macri, in bringing YAS together.

The Young Accompanists' Showcase is not yet complete. There are TWO chances to hear their concert.

1. June 21 at 2.30 at Marryatville High School - members free - a short concert followed by afternoon tea. (Free for members and performer's guests)
2. July 8 at 12.10 at Pilgrim Church to a much larger public and on a more prestigious occasion when they are the "curtain raiser" to the main event in the July Festival of Accompanists, the performance of our musician in residence, Leslie Howard, with violinist Niki Vasilakis in their performance of the César Franck sonata and a Liszt *La lugubre gondola*. (members FREE)

COMING EVENTS

The Accompanists' Festival July 6 to 15

While not nearly of the magnitude of the 2008 Silver Anniversary Festival and Conference there are some extremely attractive events in this year's Festival. Our Musician in Residence, **Leslie Howard**, is involved in a number of events - nearly all FREE to AGSA members

- Mon July 6 Masterclass, 1.30 to 3.00pm Bishop Hall
- Wed July 8 Concert 1.10 to 2.00 Pilgrim Church & Niki Vasilakis , violin \$15, \$10, \$5
- Thurs July 9 times tba - limited private lessons (phone 8431 6030 if interested \$100 ph and 50% reduction for AGSA members)
- Thurs July 9 7.00pm Geoffrey Parsons Award Final, Hartley Concert Room \$15, \$10, \$5

Other Festival Events include

- Mon July 6, Geoffrey Parsons Award Open Auditions 3.30 to 6.00pm Bishop Hall Elder Con
- Tues July 7 , Open Auditions cont
- Wed July 15, Juniors Concert 12.10 Pilgrim Church - all Primary School musicians - \$5 and \$3
- Wed July 15 , Conservatorium Chamber Musicians - \$5 and \$3

State Opera Repetiteur Mentorships

This has been such a positive venture. AGSA began by agreeing to sponsor one mentorship - in SOSA's production of Wagner's *Dutchman* (the mentor being ex Adelaidian, David Barnard). In the auditions conducted by SOSA General Manager, Stephen Phillips, Margie Ferrie, Rosalind Martin and yours truly we concluded that there were 2 applicants who were ideal for mentorships. Stephen agreed that this would be possible in Puccini's *Girl of the Golden West* if we could find an additional sponsor. So I got straight on to the Wagner Society who very quickly agreed to sponsor the Wagner mentoree, Mark Sandon, which left it to AGSA to sponsor the Puccini mentoree, Andrew Georg. Language coaches Margaret King (German) and Mira Marchi (Italian) have been arranged - both are donating their services to this project. A pleasing addition to this is that Stephen Phillips asked the Friends of State Opera to support a third mentoree (Dennis Agafonov) for their July production of Offenbach's *Tales of Hoffmann* which was agreed. Dale Ringland will mentor Andrew & Dennis. This is great news for the 3 trainees and for the future for State Opera. AGSA got it all going as part of our educational program.

The Guild Dinner - Friday August 28, 7.00 for 7.30 35A Orlando Ave, Hampstead Gardens

In 2008 the committee was so exhausted after all the effort that went in to the May/June Festival which continued in July, the Conference and the late Young Accompanists' Showcase that we abandoned the annual dinner. We can't afford to do that in 2 successive years so we are once again calling for some action from AGSA Members and Friends in ensuring we have a profitable dinner in 2009. As you know this is the main fundraiser for our Geoffrey Parsons Award. Following the Parsons Trust one off \$5000 donation in 2008 which allowed us to offer a \$6000 prize pool we have reduced the prize money to \$4000 this year much as we would like to have kept it at \$6000. The Parsons Award is now one of the most recognized prizes for the accompanist in Australia - it's not yet the most valuable. If someone can come up with a generous sponsor for it we'd rejoice. In the meantime we must raise the money ourselves as no government source will support a prize.

Please support our fundraising by attending the dinner.

Make up a table if you can. Singles and doubles are equally welcome.

Cost? \$35 donation and BYO drinks (or drink water). Book by August 21

phone 8266 4936 or email bfha@optusnet.com.au

Support Accompanists!

Diana Harris - Secretary