

Adelaide: Tuesday 6 January 2009 **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



THE GUILD'S CELEBRATIONS CONTINUE

Following the Guild's wonderful 25th anniversary year with the coup residency by leading UK vocal accompanist, Malcolm Martineau, the Guild continues from strength to strength, with an inspiring program for 2009.

The 2009 program includes concerts, masterclasses, a seminar and workshop presented by leading Australian and international artists. South Australian performers from students to professionals, young and old, will be involved in presenting many aspects of the accompanist's art.

In March former South Australian, now Irish based vocal coach, **Nicole Panizza** will lead the **American Song Seminar**. Joined by fellow South Australian, Opera Australia artist, soprano, **Teresa La Rocca**, the pair will present a three-tiered seminar which includes a lecture demonstration, a masterclass for voice/piano duos and a recital all related to Nicole's PhD research. Since leaving South Australia Nicole has worked in the UK and Ireland and studied with world famous vocal accompanists including Malcolm Martineau and Roger Vignoles. In 2008 Teresa performed major roles in *The Marriage of Figaro* and *Turandot* to great critical acclaim for the State Opera of South Australia

Returning in 2009 are two of the Guild's staple programs, **The Young Accompanists' Showcase** in June and the **Festival of Accompanists** in July. These events provide educational programs for young pianists as well as raise awareness of the significance of the accompanist in the concert going public.

The Young Accompanists' Showcase will see six specially selected secondary school students working with leading South Australian soloists: **Peter Handsworth** *clarinet*, **Naomi Hede** *soprano*, **Samantha Hennessy** *flute* and **Imants Larsens** *violin and viola*. During the young pianists' month of intensive study, they will take part in a masterclass with South Australian pianist and Australian National Academy of Music accompanist-in-residence, **Leigh Harrold**, as well as perform in two public concerts.

Following Malcolm Martineau's hugely successful 2008 residency the Guild was fortunate to discover that London based Australian pianist, **Leslie Howard**, a Geoffrey Parsons Memorial Trustee, was planning an Australian tour in 2009. In its third successive collaboration with Recitals Australia the Guild was delighted to secure Leslie's participation in the **July Festival of Accompanists**.

Dr Leslie Howard is one of Australia's most successful pianists. He has recorded all the works of Liszt for Hyperion and has annual engagements on 5 continents. His performances of chamber music and Lieder include collaborations with some of the greatest artists of our time, including the Amadeus, Britten and Endellion String Quartets, Salvatore Accardo, Augustin Dumay, Erick Friedman, Ani Kavafian, Benny Goodman, Charles Neidich, Steven Isserlis, Nathaniel Rosen, Torlief Thedeen, Geoffrey Parsons, Sir Thomas Allen, Yvonne Kenny and Dame Felicity Lott.

Guild founder and secretary, Diana Harris OAM remarks, "We are delighted that Leslie Howard has agreed to be our artist-in-residence for the 2009 Festival of Accompanists. To have a chamber musician of his calibre will add special significance to another stimulating and enjoyable Festival."

From 6 to 9 July, Leslie as artist-in-residence will present a masterclass, a recital with young South Australian violinist, **Niki Vasilakis** of TriOz and chair the Jury for the 2009 Geoffrey Parsons Award.

ENDS.

*For further information,
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2009 Accompanists' Guild's Calendar of Events

Sunday March 22

AMERICAN SONG SEMINAR & RECITAL

Presented in association with the Australian National Association of Teachers of Singing

Nicole Panizza, pianist, vocal coach

Teresa La Rocca, soprano

Cynthia Poulton Hall, St Peter's Cathedral, King William Road, North Adelaide

- Lecture demonstration & Masterclasses 2.00 – 5.30pm
- Recital 6.00pm

Full seminar including recital \$50, Concession & Student \$40

Recital only \$20, Concession \$15, Student \$10 Tickets at the door

Sunday June 7 at 2.30pm

YOUNG ACCOMPANISTS' SHOWCASE MASTERCLASS

Marryatville High School Special Interest Music Centre, 170 Kensington Road, Marryatville

Masterclass led by Leigh Harrold

Adult \$15, Concession \$10, Student \$5, Family of 4 \$20 Tickets at the door

Sunday June 21 at 2.30pm

YOUNG ACCOMPANISTS' SHOWCASE CONCERT

Marryatville High School Special Interest Music Centre, 170 Kensington Road, Marryatville

Adult \$15, Concession \$10, Student \$5, Family of 4 \$20 Tickets at the door

Monday July 6 – Wednesday 15 July

2009 FESTIVAL OF ACCOMPANISTS

Presented in association with the Elder Conservatorium of Music & Recitals Australia

with international artist-in-residence, distinguished pianist, **Leslie Howard**

- **Monday 6 July:** Leslie Howard Masterclass 1.30 to 3.00pm Elder Con
Adult \$15, Concession \$10, Student \$5, Tickets at the door
- **Wednesday 8 July:** Young Accompanists' Showcase 12.10 Pilgrim Church
Leslie Howard and Niki Vasilakis 1.10pm Pilgrim Church
Adult \$15, Concession & Student \$10 Tickets at the door
- **Thursday 9 July:** Leslie Howard Private Lessons am Elder Con
Geoffrey Parsons Award Final 7.00pm Hartley Concert Rm
Adult \$15, Concession \$10, Student \$5, Tickets at the door
- **Wednesday 15 July:** Junior Accompanists 12.10 Pilgrim Church
Conservatorium Chamber Musicians 1.10 Pilgrim Church
Adult \$5, Concession & Student \$4, Tickets at the door

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The Accompanists' Guild of South Australia is proudly supported by:

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