



**The Accompanists' Guild  
of South Australia Inc.**

**AGSA Newsletter January 2008**

---

Happy New Year for 2008 the **25th Anniversary** of the **Accompanists' Guild of SA.**

To celebrate this milestone the committee has planned an exciting year with the major focus on the **Festival of Accompanists** in May - which will feature not only one of the world's foremost accompanists from the UK - **Malcolm Martineau** - but also prestigious visitors from within Australia - Graham Abbott ( ABC Classic FM) , Stephen McIntyre (Melbourne University) , David Miller (Sydney Conservatorium) & Suzanne Witham (Qld Guild) to mention only a few of the contributors to Australia's first **Conference of Accompanists & Associate Artists**. We look forward to huge support from our members & friends during this our most adventurous year yet.

**How can you help?** Please think of what the Guild has done for accompanists over the past 25 years and consider how you can help the Guild during 2008. (Not what it can do for you but what you can do for it!!). We need your support in terms of your attendances, encouraging others to participate & your generosity in our fundraising efforts particularly in one off donations for our 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Who else is helping?** We have already made great strides in attracting support principally from the Elder Conservatorium and Recitals Australia. We have for the first time in many years received a small Arts SA grant and an application to the Adelaide City Council to support our May 28 Young Accompanists' on Show has been successful. AllansMusic continues to support AGSA. The Australian Business Arts Foundation has accepted our 2008 Festival for tax deductible donations and already over \$3000 has been donated by individuals through AbaF (details on the website & there is a form in the January posting to save you looking it up) ANATS is sponsoring one of Malcolm Martineau's Masterclasses and we are negotiating with Yamaha to sponsor another. Musica Viva and Opera SA are assisting with our advertising particularly of the Martineau/Lemalu Recital. All very positive to date - but we still need much much more. So please - support wherever you can. Attend, attract others and donate.

#### **Annual Program**

1. **February 17** Saturday at 4.00 **AGM** followed by 4.30 **"High Tea" and Fundraiser**. \$15 for an old fashioned and elegant high tea so we can enjoy the AGM and at the same time raise funds for what will be the Guild's biggest year of celebration. At Berenice Harrison's Studio - 35a Orlando Ave, Hampstead Gardens 5086. Let her know you're coming - ph 8266 4936 - or just turn up!!
2. **May 26 - June 1** A very special **Festival of Accompanists** at the Elder Conservatorium. This week is jam packed with activities. Martineau Masterclasses, Young Accompanists on Show at Pilgrim Church, The Conference of Accompanists & Associate Artists , The Geoffrey Parsons Award, a superb concluding Recital (Lemalu & Martineau) and more\*.
3. **July 9 & 16 Pilgrim Church Concerts** at 12.10 & 1.10 Featuring South Australian Accompanists in concert. Primary, Secondary, Tertiary and Professional performers show once again that accompaniment is alive and well in South Australia.
4. **August/September Young Accompanists' Showcase** - when the Guild continues its education program providing the opportunity for 6 to 8 young secondary students to work with professional soloists and tutors leading to a Masterclass and a public performance. Dates to be advised.

5. **September - Geoffrey Parsons Award Fundraising Dinner** - Saturday 20th - once again at Berenice Harrison's Studio. This dinner has for many years raised substantial funds for the Parsons Award. Since the 2008 Award has been raised to \$6000 in honour of the 25th Anniversary we want a special effort for this one. Put it in your diaries now. Phone 8266 4936 & book your place now.

**\*More about the Festival of Accompanists - May 26 to June 1**

Our principal guest, **Malcolm Martineau**, is one of the world's most celebrated vocal accompanists. He will be in Adelaide from May 22 and will work with Conservatorium students during the day. For further information about Malcolm check the Guild website.

Malcolm's commitments for AGSA include the following

- Four 7.00pm **Master Classes** for professionals and very advanced students on Mon to Thurs May 26/7/8/9 in Bishop Hall & Elder Hall. If you'd like to be considered for inclusion in a duo - voice and piano -apply to the Secretary with full details. \$50 a duo)
- A limited number of **private lessons** can be arranged through the secretary, (Thurs 22 late afternoon, Fri 23 and Wed 28 am are possible - \$100 for individual or duo)
- The **Elder Hall lunch time concert** on Friday May 30 (If you register for the first day of the Conference this will be included)
- The \$6000 **Geoffrey Parsons Award Final** Fri May 30, 7.30pm Hartley Concert Room -chairing the Jury (also part of the Conference)
- The **Conference of Accompanists & Associate Artists Fri May 30 to Sunday June 1** when Malcolm will conduct a masterclass, be interviewed by Graham Abbott, take part in discussions and present the **concluding recital** at 2.30 on Sunday June 1 in Elder Hall with the young international star of opera and concert stage, bass-baritone, **Jonathan Lemalu**.
- We'll be farewelling Malcolm and our other guests and celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Accompanists' Guild of SA at a galah dinner in Ayers House (7.00pm June 1 \$60 & purchase your drinks). All the past AGSA Festival dinners have been wonderful evenings. For reservations contact the Secretary or wait until you register for the Conference.

**The Full Conference Program**

Complete details will not be available until early March when the "call for presentations" is finalized. We are seeking short presentations (20 mins plus 10 mins question time) highlighting the multi faceted careers of pianists who might be considered "accompanists". So far we have received a number of interesting proposals (choral, travelling opera, modern dance, film accompaniment, specific vocal repertoire, language coaching and more). For the final detailed program check the website but be assured the Conference content will be stimulating and challenging and highlight the significance of the accompanist in a variety of situations.

Check the website [www.accompanist.org.au](http://www.accompanist.org.au) for more information.

**Current Members** please renew your membership NOW & if you have any ideas about Life Membership now would be a really useful time to join.

**Friends** can be members too.

**Tax Deductible Donations** can be made through the Australia Business Arts Foundation.

Be part of our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations.

**Support Accompanists!!**