

ADELAIDE: Wednesday 28 May 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2008 Geoffrey Parsons Award Finalists Announced

The Accompanists' Guild of SA's 24 year old competition, The Geoffrey Parsons Award, named in honour of the late leading Australian accompanist par excellence for singers, such as Elizabeth Schwarzkopf, Victoria de los Angeles and Olaf Bär, is taking place this week in Adelaide.

For the first time ever, the cash-pool has increased from \$2,000 to \$6,000 as part of the Guild's 25th anniversary, which has been made possible thanks to the support of The Geoffrey Parsons Memorial Trust Fund in the UK.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, seven pianists undertook their Stage One auditions, where they performed works with their soloist/s, sight read music and performed without rehearsal the set work, *Wolf - Kennst du das Land* (G flat) with soprano, **Rosalind Martin**.

Rosalind Martin regularly performs with the State Opera of South Australia and the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra and lectures in voice at the Elder Conservatorium. She has recently given performances at the Coriole Music Festival with Roy Howat.

At the auditions, the panel comprising of well-known pianists and educators, Diana Harris, and Elizabeth Koch, judged with Rosalind, the competitors' performances of the work in terms of style, technique, presentation and ensemble skills.

Guild Founder and Secretary, Diana Harris remarks, "Performing their well-rehearsed works with their soloists and then struggling with the set-works and sight-reading means almost automatic exclusion from the Final. The reason behind that is that the goal of The Geoffrey Parsons Award is to ensure that the pianist which potentially wins has well-rounded abilities as an Accompanist."

Selecting the three Finalists for the 2008 Geoffrey Parsons Award, as often is the case, was no easy task.

The three Finalists performing in the Final on Thursday evening, who will be competing for cash-prizes totalling \$6,000, are:

- Alexander Hanysz (Hyde Park, SA)
- Amanda Hodder (Melbourne, Victoria)
- Janice Jialou Tan (Windsor Gardens, SA)

Judging the Finalists who will perform the set-work, plus their program of works with their soloist/s will be the Guild's pianist in resident, Malcolm Martineau, Stephen McIntyre, David Miller, Diana Harris and Elizabeth Koch.

Come and hear these fine young musicians compete for this unique Australian music prize.



The Accompanists' Guild
of South Australia Inc.

MEDIA RELEASE

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Who, What, When & Where?

WHO & WHAT	Accompanists' Guild of SA in association with the Elder Conservatorium of Music presents The 2008 Geoffrey Parsons Award
WHEN	Friday 30 May 2008m 7.30pm
WHERE	Hartley Concert Room, The University of Adelaide, Kintore Avenue, Adelaide
TICKETS	Adults \$15, Concessions \$10 and Students \$5.
BOOKINGS	No pre-bookings, tickets at the door.
PUBLIC ENQUIRIES	Accompanists' Guild of SA (08) 8431 6030
MEDIA ENQUIRIES	Christopher Wainwright 0438 829 728, cmwain@gmail.com

The Accompanists' Guild Festival and Conference of Accompanists is proudly supported by:
The University of Adelaide, Elder Conservatorium of Music | Recitals Australia | Arts SA |
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