



MEDIA RELEASE

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for immediate release

THE GEOFFREY PARSONS \$6,000 AWARD BECOMES A NATIONAL COMPETITION

Australia's longest and most significant prize celebrating the art of collaborative piano performance, **The Geoffrey Parsons Award** will now become a truly national competition.

Geoffrey Parsons was without doubt one of the world's finest collaborative pianists. After successfully performing Schubert's *Winterreise* with Gerhard Hüsch, he quickly became in demand by leading singers of the day, including Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, Victoria de los Angeles, Rita Streich, Birgit Nilsson, Hans Hotter, Janet Baker and Jessye Norman. Although best known as a vocal accompanist, he also joined many of the great instrumentalists of the day such as violinists Nathan Milstein, Wanda Wilkomirska and Ida Haendel and cellist Paul Tortelier.

The Accompanists' Guild of South Australia has presented Awards for Accompanists since 1984 (won by Bernard Depasquale) and The Geoffrey Parsons since 2006, the year after Geoffrey's untimely death. (won by Nerissa Pearce) In 2015 the Guild set in motion a review of the Award aiming to maximise the prize's profile, and make it what it deserves to be — a truly national prize.

While there have been several interstate winners in the past, to make it simpler for applicants living beyond South Australia who are 36 years or under, applicants will now submit the first stage as a live filmed audition. Interstate applicants selected for the Finals will be eligible for a \$200 grant to help defray travel costs. Private accommodation will be provided by SA Guild members as needed. Interstate Guild colleagues (Qld and NSW) have been approached seeking support for any of their members reaching the Final.

The Final of the Geoffrey Parsons Award will use the same format as previous competitions. Each finalist will present a 20 to 25 minute recital, which includes the works submitted in Round 1 with their chosen associates plus two Brahms Lieder to be performed with the acclaimed South Australian mezzo soprano, **Elizabeth Campbell**.

Elizabeth Campbell is one of Australia's most distinguished singers. Since making her operatic debut as Carmen with the West Australian Opera, she has performed internationally, including memorable performances with Geoffrey Parsons himself. She makes regular appearances with the state opera companies and Opera Australia. One of Australia's leading concert artists and recitalists, Elizabeth last performed for the Guild in a memorable recital of French and Spanish songs with Sydney pianist, David Miller AM. She also joined David in 2005 in the Sydney Conservatorium of Music's Geoffrey Parsons Memorial Concert.

The Jury for the Final of the Geoffrey Parsons Award will be chaired by the renowned collaborative pianist, soloist and educator, **Timothy Young**. Timothy is one of Australia's most prominent and versatile pianists. He is currently Head of Piano at the Australian National Academy of Music in Melbourne. In judging the \$6000 Award, Timothy will be joined by-guest artist, **Elizabeth Campbell** and respected Adelaide educators and

For further information, images and interviews, please contact:
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collaborative pianists, founder of the Guild, **Diana Harris OAM** and recently retired Elder Conservatorium of Music lecturer **Diana K Weekes**.

To prevent any conflict of interest, any applicant who in the previous two years has studied with any of the judges may not enter the Award.

Application Forms and Information about the 2017 Geoffrey Parsons Award are now available on the Accompanists' Guild of SA's website: <http://www.accompanist.org.au>. Written Applications close: **Midnight CST, Saturday 1 July 2017**.

ENDS.

2017 Geoffrey Parsons Award Key Dates

WRITTEN APPLICATIONS CLOSE MIDNIGHT CST, SATURDAY 1 JULY 2017

ROUND 1 APPLICATIONS DEADLINE MIDNIGHT CST, MONDAY 31 JULY 2017

FINALISTS ADVISED OF ROUND 1 RESULT BY MONDAY 14 AUGUST 2017

FINAL SUNDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2017, 2.30PM
CARCLEW, NORTH ADELAIDE, SA

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[accompanist.org.au](http://www.accompanist.org.au)

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