



AGSA NEWSLETTER June 2012

2012 Year of Piano with Wind

During 2012 AGSA is emphasizing Piano in ensemble with Wind instruments. This will be at its most intensive during the Festival **Week of Winds** – September 24 to 30 when no less than 9 professional and 9 student wind players will join a bevy of pianists at events during the annual Accompanists' Festival.

AGSA Educational Programs are already well under way

JEM- the Junior Ensemble Musicians (a group of Primary School "gems") assembled by Monika Laczofy are busy working towards a Masterclass with Anna Coppens of St Andrews School, (2.30 July 29, 35A Orlando Ave), a Dress Rehearsal (Sept 9 at the Con) and a Festival concert (12.10 on Wed Sept 26 Pilgrim Church).

YAS – the Young Accompanists' Showcase - secondary school students convened by Gina Macri- have already completed- with their professional soloists Samantha Hennessy/flute, Amanda Lovelock/clarinet, Josie Hawkes/bassoon & Howard Parkinson /trombone- an outstanding Masterclass with Assoc Prof Elizabeth Koch (Head of Woodwind, Elder Conservatorium) and a concert- both at Marryatville H.S. The culmination of the YAS project is their Conference concert. (Saturday Sept 29, 1.45pm Cynthia Poulton Hall)

A new initiative – "Friday Sessions"

Suggested by one of our younger members with a view to accompanists "in the field" sharing their experiences with members and friends in an informal setting, the Guild has included 2 Friday Sessions.

Accompanists' Professional Expectations saw 18 members on an extremely wet & windy May 25 for a fascinating one hour interactive discussion /presentation by busy SA accompanists Alexander Hanysz, Andrew Georg and Monika Laczofy who each presented their perspectives on the topic. There were many regretful apologies by members who were teaching at 6pm. We may have to reconsider the time for 2013

DON'T MISS THIS - COCKTAIL HOUR WITH DALE RINGLAND 6pm on Friday July 27 at 9 Prosser Ave. Our most recent Honorary Life Member and AGSA Committee Member, Dale intrigued delegates during the 2011 Conference with coverage of his early life as SSO French hornist, pianist and conductor. Many wanted to hear more so July 27 is it. Free for members, a donation for non members plus \$5 for drinks (hard or soft). **BUT there's a limit on numbers & bookings** have already been taken so **RSVP** on 8431 6030, SMS 0407 818 838 or email diana.harris@museco.id.au Enjoy a delightful cocktail hour with Dale chatting from the piano.

The 2012 ACCOMPANISTS' FESTIVAL September 24 to 30

Musician in Residence TIMOTHY YOUNG

This year we have been so lucky to attract the extremely busy Coordinator of Piano at the Australian Academy of Music – **Timothy Young**- as our **Musician in Residence**. Check his bio in the Festival brochure. Timothy's AGSA residency fits in neatly with his visit to Adelaide to perform with international superstar clarinet virtuoso, Michael Collins. The arrangement with Timothy which was made in November 2011 has played a significant role in focussing the Guild's 2012 activities on **Piano with Wind**. (JEM, YAS and even the set work of the Parsons Award all use Wind instruments).

Events during the Festival Week

Geoffrey Parsons Award -- Auditions - Mon/Tue Sept 24/25, 5.30 in Bishop Hall in association with the Elder Conservatorium. **Peter Handsworth/bass clarinet** plays the set work with each applicant and joins judges Assoc Professor Elizabeth Koch (Head of Woodwind) and AGSA Committee member and Co-Opera pianist, Julie Sargeant, in selecting the 3 Finalists.

Timothy Young will chair the **Parsons Final (Sat Sept 29 at 7, Hartley Concert Room)**. For the second time (Silver Anniversary in 2008) the winner will receive \$5,000 due to the generous \$2000 donation by the Royal Commonwealth Society of SA. The closing date for applications is Monday September 10. If you know of any likely candidates urge them to enter not only with the aim of winning but even more for the experience of preparing for and taking part in this demanding competition. It's now considered to be the most significant award for accompanists in Australia and is an excellent CV entry for those who reach the Finals. The application form is available on the website or by contacting me or our secretary, Frances Wood. (see below)

Clarinet Masterclass Class – Michael Collins - Tuesday Sept 25 at 11am Hartley Concert Room—An ASO Elder Conservatorium presentation but fitting so well with our Week of Wind. Remember it is school vacation so make full use of events during the week. I am currently negotiating with the Con for a discount for AGSA Festival/Conference delegates with their Festival pass as identification.

- **Pilgrim Church Lunch time Concerts** – Wednesday September 26
 - At 12.10 we have our “lovely littlies” JEMs – all Primary School students, performing in one of our most popular concerts.
 - At 1.10 Former Geoffrey Parsons Award winner and now one of Australia’s busiest pianists, Leigh Harrold, will join Natalie Zwar/flute in a concert for the JEMs which includes short works by Ibert, Copland, Bozza, Sancan, & the Borne Carmen Fantasy.
- **Michael Collins-Timothy Young Recital**- Wednesday September 26 Elder Hall at 7.30- Another ASO collaboration - this time with Recitals Australia. Works by Finzi, Poulenc, Martinu, Muczynski, Weber and Debussy, (also to be performed with the ASO on Friday 28). For those of you who know the clarinet & piano repertoire this program is a *tour de force* of some of the most popular & challenging. Timothy will no doubt enlighten us about preparing for this recital in his conference presentation *Two Major Recitals in Five Days*. Note again - I have just secured a 50% reduction for Festival/Conference ticket holder for this recital.
- **Individual Lessons with Timothy Young** – solo or duos. We always like to link up our Musician in Residence with local musicians for lessons. This time Timothy’s diary is so packed there are not many times available. Thursday and Friday 27/28 are the most likely days but there may be gaps on Monday & Tuesday. Contact me if you would like to follow this up. Geoffrey Parsons Award Finalists will not be eligible!!
- **Michael Collins with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra**- Friday September 28 at 8pm Town Hall while this is not an official part of the Accompanists’ Festival the Guild encourages Festival and Conference delegates to attend. Michael will perform John Adams’ *Gnarly Buttons* and the Debussy *Première Rhapsody*. Concert repeated on Saturday at 6.30 but Accompanist Festival delegates will be at the Parsons Award Final at 7.00!

The Conference Saturday September 29

Check the brochure for details. Needless to say this Conference is packed with events highlighting the pianist in ensemble with wind instruments. I am thrilled that Celia Craig can join Timothy in his 10.30 session on *Two Major Recitals in 5 Days*. She has ASO commitments the previous night and later that day. The Piano & Wind masterclass with Timothy still has room for 2 ensembles - preferably duos – If you are interested let me know soon After the YAS concert which will be a beauty this year, the soloists will join Timothy for a discussion on *What wind players want from pianists? . and vice versa!* The Conference ends with a rare cor anglais and piano recital of works by SA Composer Peter Webb (former ASO oboe, now Unley Symphony Orchestra conductor) performed by Sydney musicians Rachel Tolmie /cor anglais and John Martin /piano .We appreciate support from ADRS (Double Reeds) and Richard Craig (Woodwind Repairs & Sales). As always Anne Hutchesson will provide excellent refreshments.

Celebrity Recital- CELIA CRAIG oboe

We have been equally lucky to attract the ASO principal oboe, **Celia Craig** (an international star - check her bio in the Festival brochure) to perform the Celebrity Recital with Timothy Young on the last day of the Festival, September 30. They will be joined in the Poulenc Trio by ASO principal bassoon, **Mark Gaydon**. The recital is once again at ABC Studio 520 Collinswood. Those of you who joined the packed house last year with Michael Kieran Harvey & Natsuko Yoshimoto will recall the terrific atmosphere created in Studio 520. As we attracted string players last year we aim to enthuse wind players to join us and enjoy what will be a memorable performance. Don’t forget - there’s easy parking at Collinswood.

In Conclusion

We have put an immense amount of work in to this year’s program of events. Our best reward would be to see first of all our AGSA Members supporting our efforts and signing up for the Festival. Members’ cost is so generous- Total Festival /Early Bird is a mere \$50. Then of course we’d love to attract lots of wind players. ADRS, ClariSax & Flute Society Members are Affiliates Early Bird /Total Festival is just \$80. It’s school vacation during the Festival- more reason for members, friends & music lovers to make the most of our Week of Winds.

AGSA memberships - Because this is a non Register year we are lagging in membership numbers - past members please renew now. Your membership subscription is needed to support our annual program.

Keep supporting accompanists. If we don’t who will? Just remember (to paraphrase a very famous politician)

We play far too big a role for such small recognition

See you with Dale for cocktail hour at 6pm on July 27 and also during the September Accompanists’ Festival.

Diana

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