

THE 2019



Geoffrey Parsons Award

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 15

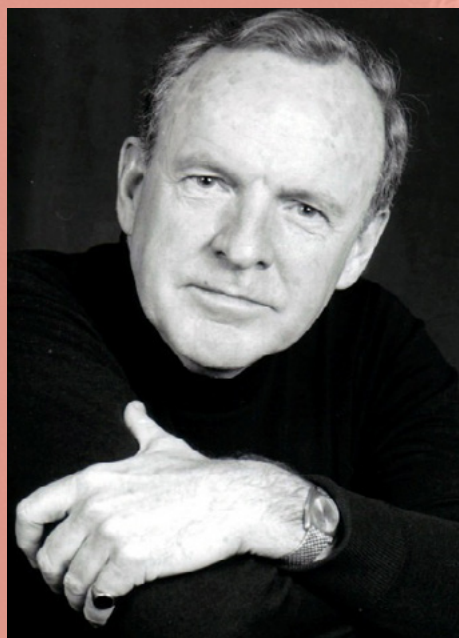
2.30PM / HARTLEY CONCERT ROOM

HARTLEY BUILDING, KINTORE AVENUE, ADELAIDE

JUDGES: DAVID MILLER AM (CHAIR FOR FINAL)

DIANA HARRIS OAM / KEITH CRELLIN OAM / DEAN NEWCOMB

\$6000



GEOFFREY PARSONS (1929-1995) PIANIST, ACCOMPANIST

Born in Sydney, he studied with Winifred Burston at the NSW State Conservatorium from 1941 to 1948, and Friedrich Wührer in Munich in 1956. Geoffrey won the ABC Concerto Competition in 1947 with the Brahms B-flat Piano Concerto. In 1950 he performed with bass baritone Peter Dawson in Britain. Remaining in London, Geoffrey earned a living mainly as a cocktail lounge pianist until a successful performance of Schubert's Winterreise with Gerhard Hüsch led to Geoffrey being invited to Munich where he became Hüsch's permanent accompanist. Soon after he performed with Elisabeth Schwarzkopf at the Royal Festival Hall and later became her principal accompanist. Other great singers with whom he worked include Victoria de los Angeles, Nicolai Gedda, Rita Streich, Birgit Nilsson, Hans Hotter, Janet Baker and Jessye Norman.

Although best known as a vocal accompanist, Parsons also joined many of the greatest instrumentalists of the day such as violinists Nathan Milstein, Wanda Wilkomirska and Ida Haendel and cellist Paul Tortelier. These and other artists quickly

appreciated his exemplary standards of musicianship and pianistic command which was totally new to the accompanist's role at the time. He was recognised as the ideal accompanist. During his career he performed in over 40 countries in six continents, including all the major international music festivals. He also recorded widely throughout his career, leaving a vast output.

The encouragement of younger artists became a feature of the latter part of his career. He partnered younger singers Olaf Baer Barbara Bonney, Felicity Lott, Australian Yvonne Kenny and many more. Musically supportive and pianistically polished, Parsons was the consummate accompanist. As the leading exponent of the accompanist's art, he became Prince Consort Professor of Piano at the Royal College of Music. He was made an honorary member of the Royal Academy of Music in 1975, also the Guildhall School of Music in 1983, received the FRCM in 1987, was named the Royal Philharmonic Society's Instrumentalist of the Year in 1992 and was further honoured with an OBE in 1977 and an AO in 1990.

Geoffrey toured Australia 31 times between 1957 and 1993. In 1973 he gave the first recital at the Sydney Opera House with Birgit Nilsson, and his last performance in Australia was with Olaf Baer in Winterreise in the University of Melbourne's Melba Hall in 1993. Regrettably Geoffrey never performed in Adelaide but he nevertheless had strong connections with South Australian musicians in particular violinist, Beryl Kimber as well as the many pianists and singers who travelled to the UK to have lessons with him.

Geoffrey was a strong supporter of the Accompanists' Guild of SA and lent his name to our endeavours as our international Patron from 1985 to his untimely death in 1995. The Guild immediately arranged a Memorial Concert in Geoffrey's Honour, held on Thursday May 4, 1995 at the Flinders Street School of Music. The program included performance and spoken contributions from Beryl Kimber, Elizabeth Silsbury, Sarah and Bernard Depasquale, Len Amadio, Guila Tiver and Diana Harris, Greg Roberts and Leonie and Keith Hempton.

After offering Accompanists/Associate Artist Awards since 1984 (won by Bernard Depasquale – now CEO of the AMEB) in 1995 the Guild presented the Geoffrey Parsons Memorial Associate

Artist Award on October 14, 1995, in Tanunda's Langmeil Church during the Barossa Festival. It was won by Esther Mae Wong. From 1996 on it has been called simply "The Geoffrey Parsons Award" when it was won by Adelaide pianist, Nerissa Pearce, who has since been one of Adelaide's busiest professional accompanists.

(Compiled by Diana Harris, with thanks to *The Oxford Companion to Australian Music*, pp 446- 447)

ACCOMPANIST GUILD AWARDS PREVIOUS WINNERS

- 1984 – Bernard Depasquale
- 1985 – Jillianne Bartsch (Stoll)
- 1986 – Jennifer Campbell
- 1987 – Kaye Fitton
- 1989 – Julie Sargeant
- 1990 – R. Robinson
- 1991 – Michael Seifried
- 1992 – Jamie Cock
- 1993 – Inna Fursa
- 1994 – Josephine Gillespie and Nerissa Pearce
- 1995 – Esther Mae Wong
- 1996 – Nerissa Pearce (inaugural *GPA* winner)
- 1997 – Cheryl West
- 1998 – Leigh Harrold
- 1999 – Alexander Hanysz
- 2000 – Leigh Harrold
- 2001 – Irina Lioubimova
- 2003 – Ashley Hribar
- 2004 – Michael Ierace
- 2005 – Yuh T'sun Wu
- 2006 – Anthony Hunt
- 2007 – Amir Farid
- 2008 – Amanda Hodder
- 2009 – Mark Sandon
- 2010 – Karl Geiger
- 2011 – Szu Yu Chen
- 2012 – Yuh T'sun Wu
- 2013 – Tully Brookes
- 2014 – Andrew Georg
- 2015 – Robin Parkin
- 2017 – Jonathan Wilson

REGULATIONS

- **Proof of age:** Applications are welcomed from pianists residing in Australia who are 36 years or under on the date of the final. Proof of age must be provided in the form of a statutory declaration, copy of birth certificate, passport or drivers' licence.
- **Proof of Australian residency:** A statutory declaration or photocopy of driver's licence indicating a minimum of one year of Australian residency is required.
- **Associates:** The applicants are responsible for providing their own singer and/or instrumentalist.
- **Set work:** The Guild will provide the soloist for the set work. Finalists will be entitled to a 40 minute rehearsal with the soloist for the set work during the two days prior to the final as arranged by the convenor.

- **Copyright:** Original music must be sighted by the convenor and appropriate copyright rules must be followed.
- **Finalist selection:** AGSA judges shall select the finalists from Round 1 applicants who will be notified by Monday August 12.
- **Finalist's order:** AGSA judges shall decide the order of performers in the final.
- **Judges' decision:** The judges' decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into with any applicant or with any other person.
- **No Award:** The judges reserve the right not to award any prize. Such a decision will be final. Should there be insufficient applicants of a high enough standard to warrant granting the Award, the Award will be cancelled & applicants notified.
- **Recording:** AGSA shall reserve the right to record, televise, photograph or film any performances in the Final.

- **Once only:** Previous winners (*see list overleaf*) of the Geoffrey Parsons Award or its precursors may not enter the Award again.
- **Conflict:** Pianists who have studied with any of the judges during the two years previous to the date of Final will not be eligible to apply.
- **Support:** The AGSA Council will arrange private accommodation with rehearsal facilities for interstate finalists and their associate artist(s).
- **Travel grant:** The AGSA council will assist interstate finalists by granting up to \$200 to help defray travel costs.

AGSA reserves the right to alter dates, venues or personnel as necessary.

ROUND 1:

Applicants must submit a verified and dated video, clearly marked with the names of the applicant, the associate artist(s), titles of the works and date(s) of recording as:

- I. a link to a private YouTube video, or
- II. a DVD sent by post or
- III. a USB stick sent by post

The Round 1 recorded program must include:

- I. minimum of two works by different composers for piano and either voice or one other instrument. May include single movements of a larger work. Only one may be an orchestral reduction. *Time limit: 10-15 mins.*
- II. a quick-study work designed to assess the entrant's capacity to prepare a work within a limited period of time. This will be emailed to the entrants by Friday July 12.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The recorded material should be accompanied by:

- I. a completed written application form
- II. full details of the round 1 program
- III. full details of the applicant's proposed program for the Final which must include:
 - a. the collaborative works from Round 1
 - b. the set work : Brahms Clarinet Sonata no.1 in F minor, first movement only, total approx. 8 mins.
 - c. additional works
 - d. timings of each work in the program totalling between 20 and 25 mins.
- IV. biographies and high resolution headshots suitable for publicity of all the performers
- V. a verified/signed statement by the performers and recordist that the performance of each item was filmed in a single take
- VI. verification of age and residency (*see Regulations*)
- VII. entry fee or Accomp. Guild membership details
- VIII. a letter of support for the applicant by a recognised teacher or performer in the area of

collaborative piano performance indicating the suitability of the applicant for the Award.

ROUND 1 CLOSING DATE:
MIDNIGHT CST MONDAY JULY 29

FINALISTS: Applicants will be notified of Round 1 results via email by Monday August 12. Three or four will be selected as finalists. The Convenor will arrange the following rehearsals for each finalist:

- a 40 min. rehearsal with guest clarinettist Dean Newcomb on September 13, 14 (or 15 if necessary) in a private studio
- a 40 min. rehearsal with the applicant's associates at Hartley Concert Room on September 14 afternoon

FINAL: Sunday September 15, 2.30pm in Hartley Concert Room

FINAL PROGRAM: *See details outlined in Round 1 Additional Information, point III. a ,b,c,d.*

2019 / WRITTEN APPLICATION FORM

Name

Address

Email Date of Birth

Phone Mobile

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND ENQUIRIES: Please call Monika Laczofy on 0411 271 215 or visit our website: www.accompanist.org.au

PLEASE FORWARD APPLICATIONS TO:

Postal: The Convenor, Geoffrey Parsons Award, 1 Rawlings Road, Modbury North SA 5092

Email: The Convenor, mlaczofy1@bigpond.com

ENTRY FEE: \$75 **OR** proof of current (2019) membership of the Accompanists' Guilds of South Australia, NSW, Queensland or Canberra
Payable by cheque, money order or by EFT to:

The Accompanists' Guild of SA Inc.
BSB 105 148
Account number 554 159 740

CLOSING DATE: WRITTEN APPLICATIONS MUST REACH THE CONVENOR BY 12 MIDNIGHT CST SATURDAY JUNE 29