



AGSA NEWSLETTER March 2007

2006 Coverage

Last year was one of the busiest AGSA years on record – not just in terms of public presentations but also in terms of advances in a variety of directions. In relation to our public face here follows a brief summary:

AGM & Showcase Soloists' Concert

A fitting opening to the year reminding all of the professional soloists AGSA arranges for our Young Accompanists' Showcase secondary pianists. Also a fitting memorial to three outstanding SA musicians –Elizabeth Angove, Rae Cocking and Lance Dossor. We used the Marryatville HS performance room for the first time. (good to have Marryatville staff member Leonie Hempton on the Committee!)

The Young Accompanists' Showcase

Once again demonstrated we are serious about providing first class educational opportunities for secondary school pianists. Contrary to the usual SAYAB practice, AGSA received funding for a second year running. Our most grateful thanks got to the soloists – Jillian Chatterton, (sop) Lisa Gill (fl), Bogdan Kazimierczak (vln) & David Perry (bar), Master Class director, Diana Weekes and of course the continuing support of Jeffrey Kong and Brighton Music Centre for our venue.

The July Festival of Accompanists

This was an amazing event – 8 Concerts, 3 Master Classes (one in collaboration with ANATS) and the Geoffrey Parsons Award. Note we called it a “Festival” this time. ABC Classic FM gave us valuable support – clearly responding to the term & giving us almost daily coverage.

David Miller's senior master class was recorded by ABC Radio National for supporting material to be used in a radio doco on the Accompanist featuring pianist, Iain Burnside and soprano, Yvonne Kenny. This will be broadcast on Saturday March 24, 2007 at 7.05pm.

David Miller's presence in July was wonderful. Not only is he considered to be Australia's premier accompanist and responsible for all Accompanying & Ensemble Studies at the Sydney Con, but he is an untiring worker and generous to boot (donating all his services – 2 Master Classes, the Parsons Award judging and his fabulous recital with mezzo-soprano, Elizabeth Campbell).

David is President of the NSW Accompanists' Guild and acknowledged us for establishing the template for Accompanists' Guilds in his articles & addresses in the first AGNSW newsletter.

Other significant aspects of the Festival included concerts by: Primary School accompanists & associates (arr by Committee member Monika Laczofy an AMEB examiner in touch with teachers of youngsters), Secondary School YAShowcase musicians, Elder Conservatorium students, (2 concerts) past Parsons Award winner, Leigh Harrold with flautist, Alexandra Castle and a double performance by 2006 Parsons Award winner Yuh T'sun Wu at 12.10 with violinist, Imants Larsens and 1.10 with soprano, Jillian Chatterton.

We aim to provide opportunities for accompanists at all levels & in 2006 we certainly did. We received support as follows: All concerts including the Parsons Final (won by Anthony Hunt) were recorded by 5MBS, Allans Music sponsored the Miller/Campbell concert, all Hartley Concert Room events including the Geoffrey Parsons Award, were held in collaboration with the Elder Conservatorium and we continue to receive support from donors who wish to remain anonymous.

On the social side there was a delightful dinner in the Ayers House Library in David's honour and what a meeting of musicians it proved to be. Look out for it again in 2007 – only 22 places and a night of musical repartee to remember.

The September Fundraising Dinner

Considering the busy lives of all the committee members, we still manage to put on a great annual fundraising dinner! We raised \$1000 which is earmarked for the next Geoffrey Parsons Award. As usual we thank Berenice Harrison & Maurice Wills for making their home available for this occasion and to the helpers - particularly Berenice's sister



Accompanists'
Guild of S.A. Inc.
www.accompanist.org.au

who comes from Victoria for the occasion!! (Great sisterly love)

November Professional Development Workshop

Due to “circumstances beyond our control”, this was one of the rare cancellations we have had in our 24 year history. There will be a Workshop in 2007 as we believe providing an annual inservice session for practising accompanists & students of accompanying is a legitimate part of our brief. The 2005 collaboration with the singers in the ANATS Spring School was such a success we will continue to support this idea.

Final Committee Meetings 2006

Our enthusiasm to look to the future was summed up in the business of the last two committee meetings which

2007 and Beyond

In terms of our public profile 2007 may appear slightly less active but be assured there will be much background activity to ensure 2008 is a bumper year so we can celebrate our 25th in style.

What's Significant in 2007 ?

It's a Register Year.

Our Register is distributed to Institutions, Schools and Business Houses free of charge advertising the services of our performing members. High Schools, the AMEB and the Conservatorium have directed 100s of enquiries to the Secretary over the past 2 years. There are even enquiries from interstate for students doing auditions in SA.

The secretary usually points out a minimum of 3 accompanists who might be appropriate for the enquiry. It helps if the entry indicates the accompanist's strengths.

So sign up NOW for AGSA membership and listing in the 2007-08 Register (to be published in Term 2). **New** – i. the full Register will be on the Website & ii. New members rating themselves as **Professional may be required to complete a short audition** with 2 of more members of the Committee. (Note - all members of the NSW Guild are auditioned)

Website

This is undergoing considerable upgrading. Right now it is experiencing growing pains but keep in touch with it and

established our plans for the next two years giving due emphasis to the fact that **2008 will mark AGSA's 25th Anniversary.** (see p 2 of this Newsletter)

The Committee always winds up the year with a boisterous Christmas dinner for Committee and partners – and this year was no exception. The current committee continues to work together amicably & with typical ensemble like co-operation.

At this point we have no problems filling the Committee membership but the time will come soon when others will be needed. So if you are interested in furthering the ideals of our profession keep in touch and offer your assistance. If you are not a performer but value our services **join up as a FRIEND.**

feel free to contact the Secretary with suggestions. (8431 6030 or e-mail diana.harris@museco.id.au)

We have attracted international attention via the website. A young Canadian “collaborative artist” posted a large reference to us (AGSA) on 16/12/06 as a result of a Google search. He concludes the reference with “Kudos to the AGSA and what they have accomplished--let's hope that more organizations of this sort start popping up.” Check it out on

<http://collaborativepiano.blogspot.com/2006/12/accompanists-guild-of-south-australia.html>

Friends of AGSA

We have long been aware that there are many supporters of Accompanists who are not in fact practitioners so the Committee has decided to test the possibility of making the Associate membership a way people can donate to the Guild (with no restriction on how much) and be recognized as members. Check out the 2007 application form in your post out or on the web.

Application to Arts SA

The Committee has decided to apply to Arts SA for assistance for the 2007 Festival of Accompanists in order to make our activities better known to Arts SA & with a view



Accompanists'
Guild of S.A. Inc.
www.accompanist.org.au

to applying for more substantial funding for 2008. We have employed a professional to prepare the application.

Preparing for 2008 & our 25th

Next year needs a major injection of funds so we can offer a much more substantial Parsons Award and cover expenses involved in bringing accompanists back to SA for an enlarged Festival of Accompanists. Major and minor fundraising efforts will be needed in 2007 as well as 2008. If you are prepared to host dinners, quiz shows, film evenings or just donate, naturally we'd like to hear from you.

AGM

The AGM will be a low key but fun event this year – no bells & whistles – just an excuse for an early evening get together in the home of the Secretary/Treasurer. Monday March 19 at 6.30. Drinks (soft & hard) & nibbles provided and you'll be away by 7.30 unless you want to stay & chat!! **Why not pop in and swell the numbers so we have a quorum?** See Committee Nomination form in the mailout or on the website.

Young Accompanists' Showcase 2007

It's on for the third year, miraculously with continued funding from the SA Youth Arts Board. Students will prepare a work to perform with a professional soloist, participate in Master Class with visiting Victorian accompanist Darryl Coote (June 3) and perform in a concert (June 24) with a chance to perform in the Festival on July 11. No wonder SAYAB continues its support!

Festival of Accompanists 2007

The Festival has been concentrated into a 2 week span this year. The highlight is the residency of French pianist, Jean-Paul Sevilla, who will give a recital with concert master of the ASO, Terence Tam, (who once played for Jean-Paul as a pianist!) as well as Master classes and judging the Geoffrey Parsons Award. J-P's visit is in conjunction with the National Pedagogy Conference in Canberra and Recitals Australia (Solo Master Class and Recital). We will continue to present concerts by primary and secondary accompanists as well as former G Parsons winners.

Professional Development Workshop 2007

Brass veteran, raconteur & experienced lecturer, Robert Hower, has agreed to lead a workshop concentrating on the intricacies of brass accompaniment on Saturday October 27 at 2.30pm at Marryatville High School. He will arrange the brass players & Monika Laczofy the pianists. Interested in playing or just attending? Applications for attendance appreciated - Monika, 0411 271 215 or Margie Ferrie 8339 1175.

Fund Raising

2007 must be a year of fund raising so we can arrange an outstanding 25th Anniversary in 2008. The annual dinner is on Saturday Sept 15 and can seat 50 – put it in your diary now. Is there anything you can do to assist the Committee in fundraising? Go for it. We won't have another chance until our 50th. (think about that !)

**Renew your membership/register entry,
become a new member or a friend – NOW
SUPPORT ACCOMPANISTS!**