

AGSA NEWSLETTER JUNE 2001

Just a few items to keep members in touch with the various goings on in the Accompanists' World.

The Geoffrey Parsons Award. As you can see in the enclosed brochure, the final will once again be in the Barossa Music Festival on **October 7** back in Langmeil Church, Tanunda. We welcome Adelaide Symphony Orchestra cellist, Christopher Handley, as our guest soloist and we welcome back Stefan Ammer to the panel.

Please pass details of the Award on to anyone you think is a potential entrant and encourage friends to join you on a wonderful day in the Barossa on October 7.

Fund Raising Dinner—Saturday July 28---7.00 for 7.30 at the home of Diana and Peter Harris. Once again the major fundraiser for the G.Parsons Award is the annual dinner. \$35 per person and **BYO drinks**. Last year's was an outstanding financial success attracting over 40 which necessitated opening up a "back room" in the Harris household. Once again many people have already booked their place for this year's dinner----- before bookings have been called for. So if you want to be in it and spend an enjoyable evening supporting the next Award winner phone or email Diana now and reserve your place. (84633 479 at work and 8431 6030 phone and fax at home email harrisd@senet.com.au).

Merger and the Flinders Street Accompanying Course. We regret to inform members of the Guild that one casualty of the impending merger between the Flinders Street School of Music and the Elder Conservatorium appears to be the BMus Hons in Accompanying currently offered at FSSOM. We know that many of our members have benefited from one or all of the levels of this course. The Committee has written to the CEO of DETAFE, Geoff Spring, expressing their distress at this loss and asking him to support its retention in the new school. It would be great to see support from Guild members for this course in the form of letters to relevant people such as the Minister of Education and Training, Malcolm Buckby, Diana Laidlaw, (Arts), the Press including Tim Lloyd and Elizabeth Silsbury of the Advertiser and the Education Supplement in the Australian and in fact anyone you think is worth lobbying. If you do anything would you mind letting the Guild know. Use Diana Harris's phone/fax/email above.

News of Accompanists. Julie Sargeant, Stacey Bartsch and David Barnard, all Accompanying Graduates of the Flinders Street course, are currently in the news.

Julie, once the Guild's very active Secretary and a winner of the Accompanists' Prize, is now on the staff in the Music Department at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She will be "passing through" Adelaide around July 7.

Stacey, who has for several years been on the staff at the Music School in Graz, has taken leave to further her studies in London. It is great to see she has teamed up with another outstanding young South Australian, baritone Grant Doyle. Stacey will be in Adelaide in early August and will give a class on lieder accompaniment at Flinders Street on Friday August 3 at 2.30 in the Recital Room. Members are welcome to join the class.

David Barnard at 19 has recently survived the most rigorous of auditions to be the first candidate to be accepted into the Master's Degree for Repetiteurs at the Royal Northern College of Music at Manchester. The 2 year course will involve two weekly piano

lessons covering both technique and repertoire as well as harpsichord tuition, orchestral score reading and the study of at least 3 languages. Good luck David!

Coming Events

Nicholas Milton, the brilliant leader of our Symphony Orchestra will be our guest performer on **Tuesday August 21** at 7.30 in the Recital Room. On this occasion he will be joined by 3 lucky young pianists who will workshop with Nick a movement of the Cesar Frank sonata, the Brahms movement of the FAE sonata and a virtuoso work yet to be finalized. This should be an inspiration for participants and audience alike. Please encourage pianists and string players to come along. It was incredibly difficult to find a time when Nick was actually in Adelaide-He is now in great demand as a conductor on the world scene so we should make the most of his talents while he is still here.

Leigh Harrold, our 2000 Geoffrey Parsons Award winner will give his prize-winning recital on **Monday September 10** at 7.30 in the Recital Room. His choice for his associate artist for this recital is South Australia's favourite viola player, Keith Crellin. No longer a member of the Australian String Quartet, Keith might have thought he would have more time for solo performance but he has been kept 150% busy with the orchestra at the Con .SO here is another great musician the Guild is presenting for its members to enjoy. Leigh is of course proving to be one of our most outstanding young accompanists. We hear nothing but praise for the work he is doing and the range of genres he covers.

The Queensland Accompanists' Guild Our Committee was very pleased to give the QAG permission to use the format of our G Parsons Award for their inaugural Accompanists' Prize this year. This has been organized by ex SouthAustralian, Jill Stoll (Bartsch) who has just given up the position of Musical Director of Opera Queensland in favour of motherhood. We wish them all the best in their first prize.

The Register/Membership You won't be able to miss this year's bright red Register. We hope you appreciate the listing by districts. This idea was borrowed from the Queensland Guild. Many thanks to our treasurer, Vivienne Muller, for her efforts in producing the Register.

Would the very few members who have not finalized their membership fees please do so NOW. The Guild depends on membership fees to continue to function so please pay up.

The AGSA Committee looks forward to seeing many of our members at future Guild events.

On behalf of the Committee

Diana Harris
President 2001.