
AGSA NEWSLETTER MARCH 2004

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM, held on Sunday March 7 at 6.00pm, was well attended. It was followed by a delicious shared meal after which 20 members and friends attended a Fringe performance by "The Idea of North". It was great to see local girl, Naomi Crellin, performing so brilliantly with this talented vocal quartet. Nice to know her keyboard skills have been an asset in rehearsals.

Amongst the apologies for the AGM was one from Jenny Donovan (a founding member of AGSA and on the inaugural interim committee) who expected to reach Mount Everest base camp at the time we were holding our meeting. Amazing places you can find an accompanist. (Jenny is on a fundraiser for disabled children – we hope she is fit as there were 5 rope bridges forging raging rivers to be crossed, as well as unbelievably steep slopes.)

The 2004 Committee was elected and includes:

President	Margie Ferrie
Vice President	Berenice Harrison
Secretary	Diana Harris
Membership Sec.	Robert Hunter
Treasurer	Peter Harris
Members	Alexander Hanysz, Nicole Hare, Monika Laczofy, Mary Le Page, Julie Sargeant.

Guild members were honoured as follows:

- Certificates for Geoffrey Parsons Award Finalists in 2003 were awarded to Ashley Hribar (winner), Fiona Corston (2nd), Larissa Schneider and Yuh T'sun Wu (=3^d).
- Retiring Committee members Vivienne Muller (treasurer), Margaret White, Frances Wood and Dorothy Zweck were suitably thanked by the President for their contributions to the Guild.
- Diana Harris was awarded Life Membership in recognition of her service to the Guild.

THE GUILD'S 21ST BIRTHDAY 1983 - 2004

It seems only yesterday that Diana Harris arranged the first meeting of people interested in establishing an Accompanists' organization. Held in Room 16 at 8.00pm on Tuesday August 16 1983 at the Flinders Street School of Music, the meeting was attended by over 80 pianists. Elizabeth Silsbury was the guest speaker encouraging the formation of an association of Accompanists. An interim committee was established and included Malcolm Anderson, Romola Costantino, Jenny Donovan, Kaye Fitton, Kerry Gallant, MaryLeigh Hand, Diana Harris, Rosalie Hastwell, Shirley Hicks, Alison Holder, Noreen Stokes, Diana Weekes, Audrey White and Heather Wray.

The first program was presented by Stephen McIntyre (our inaugural Patron) on Monday October 24, 1983, at 8.00pm in the Recital Room at Flinders Street. The advertised singer, baritone Dean Patterson, contracted 'flu a couple of days before and couldn't perform. In true unruffled accompanist fashion, Stephen arranged a replacement singer, Christopher Bogg, who happened to be with State Opera at the time. This required a total change of program - no problem for Stephen.

Now, 21 years later, the Accompanists' Guild of SA Inc is flourishing. We have spawned Guilds in Queensland (10 years this year) NSW and soon in the Northern Territory. The Guild has presented well over 100 concerts, master classes, interviews and radio broadcasts as well as 18 major prizes for the Accompanist known variously as *The Accompanist's Prize*, *The Associate Artist Award* and *The Geoffrey Parsons Award* in honour of the great Australian Accompanist (as he preferred to be called) and the Guild's first International Patron. The Award is currently worth \$2000 to the winner. In serving its members the Guild has produced, in alternative years, The Register of Accompanists.

Our most recent venture has been to promote the status of the Accompanist through a concert series where the Accompanists received top billing. We called the July 2003 series of 10 concerts *The Month of Accompanists* and will repeat it in 2004.

TURNING 21 DESERVES A CELEBRATION and the Committee hopes that Members and Friends will join us for the Birthday Party at our annual Dinner on Saturday August 28, 7 for 7.30 at 35a Orlando Ave, Hampstead Gardens. The Committee will provide the food. All you have to do is make a \$40 donation and bring whatever you wish to drink. Book now – singles, doubles or full tables (6,8,10) by phoning 8266 4936.

PHILLIP MOLL VISIT – July 14 to 17.

We are thrilled that our international patron, PHILLIP MOLL, is once again able to visit Adelaide. This time he will be here for at least 5 days. Phillip is probably best known in Australia for his association with James Galway whom he has accompanied in concert and recordings since 1975. Born in Chicago, Phillip has lived in Berlin since 1970. In 1978 he was employed as a repetiteur with the German Opera in Berlin. Since then he has been active as an accompanist and ensemble pianist performing with such diverse artists as Kathleen Battle, Hoken Hagegard, Jessye Norman, Kurt Moll, James Galway, Kyung Wha Chung, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Akiko Suwanai and Kolya Blacher. He also works frequently with various Berlin Ensembles, including the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, the German Symphony Orchestra, the RIAS Chamber Choir and the Berlin Radio Choir. He has performed throughout Europe, North America and the Far East, and has appeared as soloist with the Berlin Philharmonic, the English Chamber and Major Australian Orchestras.

Among the more recent of his many recordings are Dvorak and Suk piano Trios with the Berlin Philharmonic Piano Trio, baritone duets with Paul-Armin and Peter Edelmann, Gypsy Songs with Renee Morloc, Rossini's Petite Messe Solonennelle with the RIAS Chamber Choir, Opera Fantasies with the wind soloists of La Scala, Schubert violin sonatas and Bartok compositions with Andrea Loewenstein and shorter pieces for young flautists with Galway.

Darwin will be sharing Adelaide's luck as Phillip loves train travel. He will travel to Darwin on the Ghan after his Adelaide visit with a group like minded locals including 2 AGSA committee members. He will also give classes and a concert in Darwin at the Charles Darwin University. Post Darwin he will travel to Melbourne to give another concert.

Phillip will be joined by his wife, the soprano YUKO TAKEMICHI, who was born in Miyazaki, Japan. Yuko started singing at age 16 and soon won several youth competitions. After receiving a degree in vocal studies at Kunitachi University she joined the studio of the Nikkai Opera Company in Tokyo, subsequently becoming a regular member of the company. Aside from diverse opera and musical comedy roles, she performs various styles of music in concert, including ethnic, spirituals and contemporary. In addition to her performance activities, Yuko Takemichi and a Japanese partner founded an agency, T & M music Projects, which promotes Western musicians in Japan.

Phillip and Yuko will be joined in concert by Adelaide flautist, ELIZABETH KOCH, who needs little introduction. Churchill Fellow, former flautist with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, current Head of Woodwind Studies at the Elder School of Music, Honorary Life Member and past President of the South Australian Flute Society and organizer extraordinaire of Music Camps and overseas tours, Elizabeth met Phillip through James Galway. She will also join Phillip and Yuko in recital and teaching in Darwin.

Phillip's Itinerary in Adelaide.

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| • Wed | July 14 at 1.10 | Pilgrim Church | Recital with Yuko Takemichi and Elizabeth Koch |
| • Thurs | July 15 at 7.00pm | Hartley Concert Room | Master Class Accompanists/Ensemble Pianists |
| • Fri | July 16 at 7.00 | Hartley Concert Room | Geoffrey Parsons Award Final – Jury |
| • Sat | July 17 at 7.00 | Dinner with AGSA Committee, Members and Friends – venue to be announced. | |
- If you are interested let the Secretary know.

GEOFFREY PARSONS AWARD 2004

The 2003 Award was the most popular and most competitive in the Guild's history. We will once again offer a first prize of \$2000 in the hope of attracting the same number and standard of applicants. We urge members and friends to encourage prospective applicants for the experience as well as for the chance of winning. The preliminaries will for the first time be open to the public. The added bonus for the Final will be the presence of Phillip Moll on the Jury.

QUESTIONNAIRE

The committee is keen to respond to the needs and wishes of our membership and our loyal friends. Please fill out and return the questionnaire included in this posting so we have something to work on. Please do it straight away or it's likely you won't do it at all. If there are enough positive responses to the question of producing the Register annually we will go ahead for 2004.

MEMBERSHIP

See Geoffrey Parsons Award for Membership Application Form

We cannot exist without your support for our annual program. 2003 saw the highest membership for years. Please renew your subscriptions so we can continue to fulfil our objectives "to promote the status of the Accompanist, to encourage and assist in establishing a unity of purpose and the maintenance of high ideals amongst accompanists in South Australia."