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for immediate release



THE 2009 GEOFFREY PARSONS AWARD WINNER ANNOUNCED

Last night (July 9), the Final of the Accompanists' Guild of SA's Geoffrey Parsons Award, named in honour of Australia's greatest accompanist, took place in the Hartley Concert Room at The Elder Conservatorium of Music, University of Adelaide. The Award has become a centerpiece of the annual Festival of Accompanists.

In keeping with the Guild's acknowledgement of the professional aspirations of their competitors, the cash-pool was a significant \$4,000.

For the 2nd year in a row, the Jury has a direct link to Geoffrey Parsons, through the Guild's Pianist in Residence. In 2008 with Malcolm Martineau and this year with Dr Leslie Howard AM who not only performed and recorded with Geoffrey Parsons but is also a Trustee of the Geoffrey Parsons Memorial Trust in London. Chairing the Jury of the Parsons Award was Leslie's final contribution to his Adelaide Residency which included a solo Recital for Recitals Australia, followed by Guild events including a public Masterclass, a duo recital with violinist, Niki Vasilakis and a number of private lessons.

The three Finalists competed for a cash pool of \$4,000. They were selected from auditions earlier this week which included a performance of prepared works with their chosen associates, sight reading and a first rehearsal of the set work, the 1st movement of the Debussy Sonata for Violin and Piano with the Concertmaster of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, Natsuko Yoshimoto.

Leslie Howard was joined in the Final by the audition judges leading South Australian pianists Rodney Smith, Senior Lecturer at the Elder Conservatorium and Frances Wood, Marryatville High School Special Music Centre teacher and accompanist.

Including a performance of the set-work with Natsuko Yoshimoto, each finalist presented a 25 to 30 minute program of works with their chosen associate artists.

In announcing the winners, Leslie Howard, a Trustee of the Geoffrey Parsons Trust in London remarked "I'm sure Geoffrey Parsons would have been impressed that such a competition in his name exists in Adelaide South Australia. It was a pleasure to see some adventurous repertoire choices and such thorough preparation. It was typical of the spirit in which Geoffrey assisted young musicians that we had the very generous participation of such a distinguished artist as Natsuko Yoshimoto with whom all finalists rehearsed and performed."

The 2009 winners were:

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| • FIRST PRIZE (\$3,000) | Mark Sandon | (Gilberton, SA) |
| • SECOND PRIZE (\$600) | Chris Lian-Lloyd | (Paradise, SA) |
| • THIRD PRIZE (\$400) | Janice Jialuo Tan | (Windsor Gardens, SA) |

In his winning program Mark Sandon performed songs by Duparc and Lieder by Wolf with mezzo-soprano, Guila Tiver.

Mark Sandon a graduate of the Elder Conservatorium of Music has undertaken numerous masterclasses and is principal choral accompanist and accompanist for the Conservatorium's Vocal Technique & Repertoire classes. Earlier this year he was the recipient of the Accompanists' Guild's mentorship with David Barnard for State Opera of South Australia's forthcoming production of Wagner's *The Flying Dutchman*.

www.accompanist.org.au

In 2009 The Accompanists' Guild of South Australia is proudly supported by:

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