

Adelaide: Tuesday 29 June 2010

for immediate release



THE GEOFFREY PARSONS AWARD 2010 FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

The Accompanists' Guild of SA's 26 year old competition, **The Geoffrey Parsons Award**, named in honour of Australia's legendary vocal accompanist, is the concluding event of the 2010 Festival of Accompanists.

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

On Monday and Tuesday, several pianists competed in the auditions. Three were selected to take part in the Final. All competitors performed works of their own choice with soloist/s of their own choice. They then completed a sight reading test before performing, without rehearsal, the set song, Schubert's *Heimliches Lieben* Op. 106 No 1, with the guest soloist, **Patrick Power**.

Tenor, **Patrick Power**, has enjoyed a distinguished international career. His early successes at home in New Zealand soon led to the principal lyric tenor appointment with the Norwegian Opera in Oslo and similar positions in Krefeld and Munich. In London he debuted at the Glyndebourne Festival Opera in 1979 and the Royal Opera House Covent Garden in 1981. Since then he has amassed some 60 lead operatic roles. He has shared a stage with Kiri Te Kanawa, recorded with Jessye Norman and performed at Covent Garden and La Scala under the batons of Claudio Abbado and Myung Wun Chung. In April 2009 he was appointed Lecturer in Vocal Studies at the Elder Conservatorium, University of Adelaide.

Patrick and his panel colleagues, well known musicians and educators **Stephen Whittington**, pianist, composer, critic and Deputy Director at the Elder Conservatorium, and **Berenice Harrison**, former Co-ordinator of Instrumental Music in Secondary Schools in Victoria and more recently Secretary of Recitals Australia and Vice President of the Accompanists' Guild, judged the competitors' performances in terms of style, technique, presentation and ensemble skills.

Guild Founder and Secretary, Diana Harris remarked, "in this year of the collaborative musician it is fitting that the three Geoffrey Parsons finalists should have the privilege of performing with one of the great tenors of our era. It is also fitting that the Final Jury will be led by one of the most influential musicians in the world of opera, Opera Australia's Anthony Legge."

The three Finalists performing in the Final on Saturday evening, who will be competing for cash-prizes totalling \$4,000, are:

- Karl Geiger (Linden Park, SA)
- Andrew Georg (Pt Pirie, SA)
- Chris Lian-Lloyd (Paradise, SA)

The Jury for the Final of the Geoffrey Parsons Award will be chaired by the Guild's pianist in residence for the 2010 Festival of Accompanists, **Anthony Legge**. He will be joined by Stephen Whittington and Berenice Harrison. The Finalists will perform a 25 to 30 minute recital with their own associate artist(s) as well as including the set song with Patrick Power.

For further information,
please contact

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ENDS

Who, What, When & Where?

WHO & WHAT Accompanists' Guild of SA in association with the Elder Conservatorium of Music presents
The 2010 Geoffrey Parsons Award

WHEN Saturday July 3, 7.00pm

WHERE Hartley Concert Room, The University of Adelaide, Kintore Avenue, Adelaide

TICKETS \$15/\$10/\$5 Festival and Conference ticket holders free

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BOOKINGS No pre-bookings, tickets at the door.

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The 2010 Festival of Accompanists is proudly supported by:

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