

Adelaide: Saturday 3 July 2010

for immediate release

THE 2010 GEOFFREY PARSONS AWARD WINNER ANNOUNCED



Earlier this evening (3 July), the Final of the Accompanists' Guild of SA's 25th Geoffrey Parsons Award, named in honour of Australia's greatest accompanist, took place in Adelaide at the Elder Conservatorium of Music, The University of Adelaide.

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

For the 3rd year in a row, the judging panel has a direct link to Geoffrey Parsons, through the Guild's Pianist in Residence, Anthony Legge, who was a student, then later a friend and a colleague of Geoffrey's.

Geoffrey Parsons was an internationally acclaimed Australian accompanist particularly for singers. He regularly accompanied, Elizabeth Schwarzkopf, Victoria de los Angeles, Dame Janet Baker, Olaf Bär, and Barbara Bonney.

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, Schubert's *Heimliches Lieben* Op. 106, no. 1 with New Zealand tenor, Patrick Power.

The Final was judged by a panel, chaired by the Guild's Pianist in Residence for the 2010 Festival of Accompanists, Opera Australia's Assistant Director of Music, Anthony Legge. He was joined by leading SA pianists and educators, Stephen Whittington and Berenice Harrison.

As well as performing the set-work with Patrick Power, each finalist presented works of their own choice which demanded great technical, interpretative and ensemble skills, including: Britten's *On This Island*, Ravel's *Cinq Mélodies Populaires Grecques* and Messiaen's *Thème et Variations pour Violon et Piano*.

In announcing the winners who are all graduands or students of the Elder Conservatorium of Music, Chairman of the Jury, Anthony Legge said, "In choosing the prize-winner it came down to key factors, the musician's poetic ability and their future potential as a professional accompanist. In making the decision, the panel were in agreement it was a very close competition."

The 2010 winners were:

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| • FIRST PRIZE (\$3,000) | Karl Geiger | (Linden Park, SA) |
| • SECOND PRIZE (\$600) | Christopher Lian-Lloyd | (Paradise, SA) |
| • THIRD PRIZE (\$400) | Andrew Georg | (Pt Pirie, SA) |

2010 Geoffrey Parsons Award Prizewinner, Karl Geiger performed Britten's *On This Island* with soprano, Desiree Frahn and Schumann's *Fantasiestücke* with cellist, Ashleigh Geiger.

Karl Geiger is a graduate of the Elder Conservatorium of Music and The University of Melbourne where he studied piano with Monika Laczofy and Benjamin Martin. He has had extensive experience as a choral accompanist on both piano and organ. He is also an active vocal accompanist, Karl works as a répétiteur, studio/session rehearsal pianist and as a performance artist.

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