



AGSA NEWSLETTER May 2013

AGSA 2013: First Quarter

AGSA's 2013 is very much: First Quarter - preparing activities; Second Quarter - Educational Projects JEM and YAS underway; Third Quarter- Festival week bookended by the Geoffrey Parsons Award auditions and Final , two Pilgrim Church concerts and the Conference which this year incorporates the recital by **Musician in Residence, David Barnard**, with **soprano Katrina Waters** and the Fourth Quarter - when we concentrate on fund raising & establishing the performers for 2014. While we were exclusively involved with Piano and Wind in 2012, this year our emphasis (not exclusively) is on Piano with Voice, most particularly with the piano in opera and the performance of opera excerpts in recital. This is due to our special association with State Opera this year.

2013 involves 2 additional activities which have required extra effort from Council members:

1. **The AGSA Répétiteur Mentorship with State Opera of SA** - Dale Ringland and I were joined by Opera Australia soprano, Teresa La Rocca, to select a pianist to join mentor David Barnard, SOSA Chief Répétiteur for *Salome*. Pour inaugural Répétiteur mentoree, Andrew Georg, enjoys SOSA employment for both main stage and auxiliary performances. His reputation as an accomplished répétiteur has spread well beyond SOSA.

As AGSA rarely offers this mentorship, we were thrilled to recommend TWO mentorships this year and pleased that both David and Timothy Sexton (SOSA CEO and Artistic Director), agreed with our decision. This did double AGSA's expenditure on the project to \$3,000, but the Council supported the decision.

The winners are **Penelope Cashman** and **Sachiko Hidaka**. Their mentorships start on July 29 and continue right up to the Final Rehearsal before opening night on August 24. Both are already working on the very difficult score. In addition Sachiko is receiving German tutoring from Margaret King (Lecturer in German Studies at Adelaide Uni and a great AGSA supporter and Member). Having studied and lived in Vienna Penny's German is fluent.

Two additional benefits for AGSA members have resulted from our collaboration with State Opera:-

- i. **Salome Rehearsal Observation**: An opportunity for 6 to 8 AGSA Members and recommended students to observe one of the final piano rehearsals beside David Barnard in the pit. If you'd like to join in, or you know a piano student who would benefit from this experience, email me so I can provide more specific information closer to the time. (tbc- Fri/Sat pm/evening Aug 16/17 same)
 - ii. **Salome Double Pass** :SOSA has donated a double pass to *Salome* to be drawn from delegates registering for the Conference (August 18) by the Early Bird closing date (July 25)
2. **The 2013-2015 Register of Accompanists**— Council member Andrew Georg and I are working on it. The **closing date for Register Applications as June 17**. Our aim is a minimum of 50. So far we have 36. If you haven't yet applied for AGSA Membership PLUS the Register Application please do so. It is best to have new Registers printed and delivered during the school vacation (July 8 to 19) so they are available for activities involving accompanists during the second half of the year.

AGSA up to May 2013

AGM—On March 23 was very well attended. Business included electing the 2013 Council which remained the same with the addition of Allegro Music Studio Director, Koula Raptis as well as ratifying some constitutional changes which had been circulated to members. The meeting concluded with a delightful performance from one of SA's busiest collaborative pianists AGSA Member, **Jamie Cock** who was joined by fine young tenor, **Branko Lobrinov**.

JEM – Junior Ensemble Musicians: **Monika Laczofy** has recruited a lovely group of 15 young Primary school musicians who had their Introductory meeting on May 5 at the Conservatorium and are preparing for their Masterclass with Artistic Director of Young Adelaide Voices, **Christie Anderson**, on June 30. Monika has organized many arrangements to suit the various young performers - mostly in trios and several with voices.

YAS – Young Accompanists' Showcase – Coordinated by **Gina Macri**, 7 Secondary school pianists from years 8 through to 11 have by now prepared repertoire with teachers and experienced at least one rehearsal with their soloist. The Masterclass with **Timothy Sexton** is this week (2.30 Sunday June 2 at Marrayville HS). Observers are welcome. The class usually allows 15 minutes for each item. Works by Bartok/violin, Beethoven/tenor, Bellini/soprano, Dvorak/violin, Finzi/clarinet, and two by Mozart for tenor and clarinet will be performed with professional soloists **Teresa La Rocca**/soprano, **Patrick Power**/tenor, **Wendy Heiligenberg**/violin and **Dean Newcomb**/clarinet. This project provides an amazing challenge for the young musicians who will present a small concert on June 23 at 2.30 prior to their Conference performance on August 18 - both at Marrayville HS.

Soirées – at 9 Prosser Ave, Norwood, began unexpectedly early with an Open Lesson on March 14 given by our 2012 Musician in Residence, **Timothy Young** who was in Adelaide for two Elder Hall recitals. Year 11 pianist, Isabella Frisan, was joined by postgraduate clarinetist, Charise Altmann, in works by Saint Saens and Lutoslawski. A second Open Lesson on May 2, in association with Recitals Australia, was conducted by visiting New York based Australian pianist, **Lisa Moore**. Solo works by Bartok and Janacek (both in Lisa's RA recital) were performed by year 11 student, Madeleine Stewart, and second year Uni student, Sarah Klein. Opportunities such as these 2 splendid open lessons

with outstanding visiting artists tend to arise at the last minute and we grab them!! However, there is a limit to observer numbers. So, if you wish to be on the invitation list for the future please let me know and your name will be added. \$10 towards expenses is requested. Our next Soiree is Part 3 of **Dale Ringland's** life as a Musician in the Theatre. (July 7 at 7pm - the first 15 to book places will be accepted). **Ashley Hribar** has indicated his interest in contributing to our small classes in September. Now resident in Germany, he enjoys a busy career as pianist, teacher and composer. Ashley won AGSA's Geoffrey Parsons Award in 2003 and the Michael Kieran Harvey Scholarship in 2008. He returns to Australia periodically, this visit includes a performance for Recitals Australia.

Accompanists' Festival Week August 12 to 18

Artist in Residence - As has happened over the past few years, our Festival content arises out of a particular expertise of our Musician in Residence. (Anthony Legge/2010 vocal coaching, Michael Kieran Harvey/2011 chamber music, Timothy Young/2012 piano with wind) This year Adelaide trained, **David Barnard**, has been temporarily relocated from the UK to SA by State Opera as Chief Répétiteur for their production of *Salome*. AGSA has been lucky to secure him as our **Artist in Residence** with assistance from Arts SA. David began his career (when still a student) with State Opera SA just over a decade ago with *Così* and since then has répétiteured some 50 operas. He has returned to Adelaide for SOSA productions of *Dutchman* and Jake Heggie's *Moby Dick*. David is also in demand as a recital accompanist- often for vocal recitals. AGSA is indebted to SOSA for bringing David to Adelaide and supporting AGSA in presenting him at our Conference. During the packed rehearsal schedule David's only clear day is Sunday August 18 so we have squeezed everything involving him into it ---Interview, Lecture Demonstration, Masterclass, and Recital as well as judging the Geoffrey Parsons Award Final with Dale Ringland and Guila Tiver. David's Conference appearances will emphasize the work of the Répétiteur, accompanying operatic arias and excerpts in recitals as well as dealing with orchestral reductions - something we all face in instrumental and vocal recitals, exams and auditions.

Our delightful Wednesday **Pilgrim Church Lunch hour concerts** are by youth and for youth. These are: at 12.10 the JEM concert and, at 1.10, a lovely program especially for our JEM performers and their friends and relations. **Julie Sargeant** and singers from Co-Opera led by soprano **Lisa Cannizzaro** are crafting a concert suitable not just for our Primary School JEMS but also for a general audience – light and fluffy and fun.

Opera on the Move: Julie has been the Co-Opera accompanist for many years and, on their most recent tour, stepped in for the Director, Brian Chatterton, as pianist, conductor and general manager. She will present her experiences from this and other tours when she joins **Emma Knights** in a Conference segment on Travelling Opera Companies. Emma was the pianist (and much more) for Opera Queensland's 2012 tour of the children's opera, *Space Encounters*. She's now back in SA. You can catch up with her production company on Popeye during the Cabaret Fringe in June.

Please check the Application brochures for more about the Festival/Conference and the Geoffrey Parsons Award.

More

Fund raising Dinner: December 1 at 6.30 for 7.00 - last year's was the most lucrative yet and helped us make this year's Geoffrey Parsons Award the most valuable yet. Help AGSA help accompanists/collaborative pianists in their future careers and enjoy an evening out all in a good cause. 2013 marks AGSA's 30th birthday. Let's celebrate. Phone Berenice on 8266 4936 to book - singles to tables— and it doesn't matter how early you book- the earlier the better!

Flute Accompanying: We've been contacted by Rosalie Bourne who runs the free website www.flutetutor.com.au for flute players of all levels around Australia and has started an accompanist directory. If you wish to join, check out <http://www.flutetutor.com.au/new-accompanist-directory-listing-request/>

Memberships: at 74 are still lagging on our best ever 95 in 2012—if you've not signed up we need your support! Think not what AGSA can do for you -think what you can do for AGSA and support us through your Membership.

Sponsorships/Donations: AGSA is constantly searching for additional finance beyond memberships so we can extend our activities in support of greater recognition of the significance of the Accompanist and collaborative pianist. If you know ANYONE who is likely to support us with a bequest or with direct sponsorship of one of our projects, please encourage them. Suggest they contact me or any AGSA Council Member to discuss. Tax deductible donations are possible through AbaF. Their new application form will be on the website soon.

Recitals Australia: Three AGSA Councillors are also on the RA Council (Berenice Harrison, Monika Laczofy and Diana Harris). It is inevitable that there is mutual support between the two societies. Two RA events in the near future should interest AGSA Members. 1) The Natsuko Yoshimoto/ Denis Kozhukhin recital in Elder Hall at 8pm on June 11, 2) The \$5000 Peter Schodde Memorial Scholarship- applications close June 25 through the Helpmann Academy on www.helpmannacademy.com.au and 3)

Near Future Dates for your diary:

June 17	Register Applications close
July 25	Festival/Conference Early Bird Applications close
July 30	Geoffrey Parsons Award Applications close
August 8	Festival/Conference Applications with lunch

Hope you are having a great 2013 and are still SUPPORTING ACCOMPANISTS!

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