

AGSA 2013: First Quarter

AGSA's 2014 follows our usual pattern: *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 Flinders Street Baptist Church concerts and the Conference, the Bartok/Bernstein Recital featuring FOUR of Australia's most outstanding "percussionists"- PIANISTS **Michael Kieran Harvey & Arabella Teniswood Harvey** and **percussionists Claire Edwardes & Vanessa Tomlinson** and the *Fourth Quarter* - when we concentrate on fund raising & establishing the events and performers for 2015. While we were concerned with Piano as Orchestra in 2013, this year our emphasis is on PIANO with PERCUSSION—a bold, exciting & challenging proposal by new AGSA Council Member, Koula Raptis. We have taken this on with great energy and have not only secured the four wonderful musicians already mentioned but also South Australian, world travelled vibes virtuoso, **Nick Parnell** as our Geoffrey Parsons set work soloist and for a concert in Flinders Street Baptist Church (Pilgrim not available on our chosen day) when he will be joined by exuberant AGSA Council member & Co-Opera pianist, **Julie Sargeant**.

AGSA up to June 2014

AGM—On March 30 in Vice President Berenice Harrison's studio was very well attended. The 12 strong Council continues to be packed. Long standing member Joan Atkinson retired and Treasurer Peter Harris withdrew as an official Council Members (he remains ex-officio as Treasurer thank goodness) to make space for **Margie Ferrie** to come back and new member **David Barnard** to join. David was recently appointed Head of Music & Chorus Master at State Opera of SA & although he doesn't live permanently in Adelaide is here almost 50% of the time. He will undoubtedly offer some fresh ideas for AGSA's future activities. After over a decade in the UK & Europe & involvement in over 50 opera productions David is already performing frequently in Adelaide and Melbourne as well as fulfilling overseas commitments.

JEM – Junior Ensemble Musicians: **Monika Laczofy** has recruited another lovely group of young Primary school musicians who will have their first meeting on June 15 at the Conservatorium in preparation for their Masterclass on July 20 with one of Adelaide's busiest freelance classical percussionists, **Jamie Adam**. Jamie has performed in Malaysia, England, Germany and the USA as well as giving the world premiere of Slavko Suklar's marimba concerto in Slovenia. In Australia he has performed with the Sydney, Queensland and Adelaide Symphony Orchestras. JEM will give their major concert during the Accompanists' Festival on Wednesday September 17 at 12.10 at the Flinders Street Baptist Church (to be followed at 1.10 by a concert crafted especially for the JEMS and their supporters by Vibes Virtuoso **Nick Parnell** & Co-Opera pianist **Julie Sargeant**)

YAS – Young Accompanists' Showcase – Coordinated by **Gina Macri** who selected 7 Secondary school pianists from many more applicants to take part in YAS 2014. The Masterclass with **Frances Wood** took place on June 1 and Frances was extremely pleased with the result of the students' preliminary work with their professional soloists – **Jamie Adam**/ percussion, **Anna Coleman**/ clarinet, **Christopher Handley**/ cello and **Lynnette Harris** /soprano. The students accompanied works by Dupin, Pye & Lawrence for percussion, Lutoslawski & Poulenc for clarinet, Schumann & Fauré for cello and Puccini, Satie & Loewe for soprano. Their first concert is on 22 June at 2.30 at Marryatville HS and they perform after lunch during the Conference on September 20, also at Marryatville.

Soirées – in association with Recitals Australia began with a splendid double open lesson in April at Prosser Ave presented by Tamara-Anna Cislowska for pianists and Elena Kats-Chernin for composers with both groups joining after the classes for a shared meal and much animated conversation. The next one will be on August 26 at Berenice Harrison's Studio with duo pianists Kevin Hunt (jazz) and Simon Tedeschi (classical) and will combine an open lesson with demonstrations by Kevin & Simon. Interested Participants (duo pianists) and Observers should contact Berenice (8266 4936, 0401 544 417, bfh35a@optusnet.com.au)

Composition Commission- Members of the Guild Council have donated a \$500 award for a composition using the instrumentation of Bartok's Sonata for 2 pianos & percussion to be selected for performance at the Elder Perspectives Recital on September 20. Conditions have been forwarded to advanced student composers through teachers between the ages of 17 and 26. We are keen to encourage our emerging composers to write in their own style for the piano in chamber music.

Accompanists' Festival Week September 15 to 21

Artist in Residence – for a change our Musician in Residence is not primarily a pianist (although she is a good one) but better known as a percussionist, improviser, chamber musician, composer and educator. **Dr Vanessa Tomlinson** began her tertiary studies here in Adelaide at the Flinders Street School of Music then the Elder Conservatorium, followed by studies in Freiburg, San Diego (Masters & Doctorate) and Chengdu China. She is now an Associate Professor at the Queensland Conservatorium, Griffiths University, Head of Percussion and Supervisor of Honours, Masters, DMA and PhD students. She has performed at festivals around the world including Wien Modern, London

Jazz Festival, Green Umbrella Series LA, Bang-on-a-Can Marathon NY, The Adelaide Festival of Arts, and Shanghai Festival. She is the recipient of 2 Green Room Awards, the 2011 APRA/AMC Award for Excellence by an organization or individual, and has been awarded artist residencies through Asialink (University of Melbourne), Civitella Ranieri (NY/Italy), Banff (Canada) and Bundanon (NSW). Vanessa is co-founder and artistic director of Clocked Out, one of Australia's most important and eclectic musical organisations, artistic director of percussion quartet Early Warning System and the percussionist for The Australian Art Orchestra. Vanessa has commissioned, inspired and premiered more than 100 works and has collaborated with visual artists, dancers, and actors in a variety of settings. She will be involved in selecting the student composition, presenting at the Conference, the Elder Perspectives recital and she will chair the Jury of the Geoffrey Parsons Award.

The Festival week includes:

- Mon/Tues Sept 15/16 from 5.30 in Bishop Hall—Parsons Award Auditions
- Wed Sept 17 at 12.10 & 1.10 in the Flinders Street Baptist Church- JEM Concert followed by Concert for JEMS by Nick Parnell and Julie Sargeant
- Saturday Sept 20 from 9.30 to 4.00 at the Stables Marryatville HS – Conference Morning involving the Bartok/Bernstein performers including a master class and afternoon with the YAS concert plus sessions on aspects of piano with percussion from Nick Parnell (what a percussionist expects of the pianist) and Monika Laczofy (accompaniment in the new AMEB Percussion syllabus)
- Saturday at 6.30 in Elder Hall Bartok /Bernstein recital (Just \$15 for Conference delegates)
- Sunday Sept 21 at 7pm in the Hartley Concert Room - the Final of the Geoffrey Parsons Award once again valued at \$7,500

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

Yet to Come

Fund raising Dinner: Saturday November 29 at 6.30 for 7.00 -Help AGSA help accompanists/collaborative pianists in their future careers and enjoy an evening out all in a good cause. We had a great 30th birthday party in 2013 and raised an invaluable \$2,000 for the Parsons Award. Help AGSA do it again. Phone Berenice on 8266 4936 to book - singles to tables— and it doesn't matter how early you book- the earlier the better!

Membership Subscriptions: touchy subject - we've decided to send those of you who have not yet signed up an Invoice (just like other societies do but AGSA never has!) Please respond as memberships are our most significant income.

Donations: AGSA is constantly searching for additional finance beyond memberships. We've had some very generous donations this year particularly from Life Members as well as those wanting to support our efforts. 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.

Sponsorships: we continue to receive significant & much appreciated support from the Royal Commonwealth Society (SA Branch). This year we welcome once again support from Allans Billy Hyde after several changes of ownership. An application for support for the main Festival performers has been made to the Australia Council but we are yet to know the outcome. I should also mention that individuals on the AGSA Council have donated in excess of \$2,000 in support of various AGSA projects.

Vale

It is with considerable sadness that we learnt of the passing of two fine pianists who were associated with AGSA from the very first meeting way back in 1983. **Alison Holder** OAM was our first Vice president and a significant contributor to our events as performer, judge and encouraging spirit. She was an honorary Life Member of the Guild, conferred in recognition of her years of service and support. **Audrey White** OAM, while much more involved as President of both the Music Teachers' Association and Recitals Australia, never forgot the significance of the Accompanist and supported us for many years as both a Member and more recently right up to 2013 as a Friend.

Near Future Dates for your diary:

August 11 Composition Award Entries due
August 22 Geoffrey Parsons Award Applications close
August 25 Festival/Conference Early Bird Applications Close

World Piano Teachers' Conference Novi Sad Serbia June 27 to July 3

I thought you might like to know that I will be presenting a paper at this Conference on – can you believe? --- Pianists Who Play With Others—Educating and Supporting Collaboration---- As I am presenting this very much from what has happened in South Australia AGSA is strongly featured.

Hope you are having a satisfying 2014 and continue to SUPPORT ACCOMPANISTS!

Diana Harris OAM, President, AGSA, 0407 818 838, diana.harris@museco.id.au

Frances Wood, Secretary, can be contacted on 8379 1298, 0410 512 414, fdwood@adam.com.au