

SEASON OF SONG 2007 (AMENDED 15TH OCTOBER 2007)

In 2007 Art Song Canberra will present seven recitals of fine art song by an outstanding array of award-winning, highly-accomplished artists, many of them widely experienced on the world stage.

Background

Art Song Canberra is a dedicated group of volunteers and lovers of art song. It was founded as the A.C.T. Lieder Society in 1976 by a small group of devotees of art song led by Eleanor Houston of Covent Garden fame. The society's purpose is to foster and extend the love of art song. This is done mainly by:

- presenting high quality concerts to its members and the general public. The annual series is called the **Season of Song**;
- conducting an annual **Festival of Song** in which aspiring singers perform to an audience in a relatively relaxed and friendly environment and receive advice and encouragement from an acknowledged expert;
- providing opportunities for concert performance for dedicated and talented amateur singers. This format has met with considerable audience approval and Art Song Canberra has scheduled another such event in its *Season of Song 2007*.

Throughout its life the society has presented a series of vocal recitals, usually six, each year. In 2007 there will be seven. 2007 is the eleventh year in which the series has been announced as a year's program and presented under the collective title of *Season of Song*.

Among the many artists who have performed for the society are such noted Australian singers as Michael Martin, Sally-Anne Russell, Warwick Fyfe, Christopher Allan, Angela Giblin and Louise Page as well as Susan Burghardt from the USA. Pianists have included Phillipa Candy, Alan Hicks, Anthony Smith, Vivienne Winther, Margaret Legge-Wilkinson, Nigel Butterley and Darryl Coote. A great many of the society's artists over the years have been highly accomplished both in Australia and internationally. Recital programs have ranged widely from such classics of the Lieder repertoire as song cycles of Schubert and Schumann to fine art song by contemporary composers such as the noted Australian Nigel Butterley.

Season of Song 2007

Artists in the Season of Song 2007 include highly-reputed local singers and pianists, the great majority with substantial international experience: Louise Page, Christina Wilson, Rebecca Collins, Catriona DeVere, Phillipa Candy, Alan Hicks, Colin Forbes and Carl Rafferty. In May, four highly talented young Canberra amateur singers including one who made the final twenty in *Operatunity Oz*, will together sing a varied and delightful program of fine art song.

Visiting artists will include Kent McIntosh, tenor graduate of the Canberra School of Music, and renowned conductor and accompanist Andrew Greene, both from Opera Australia. The final concert of the Season will be given by soprano Karen Cummings, French baritone Didier Frédéric and pianist Alan Hicks.

Admission includes a complimentary program and light refreshments:

Full price \$25; Seniors, Friends of the National Library of Australia, Friends of Wesley Music (except at first concert) and Musica Viva subscribers \$22; Members and pensioners \$18; Full-time students \$10.

In 2007 the fifteenth annual **Festival of Song** will take place. It aims to help and encourage developing singers of art song. The Festival provides an excellent opportunity to singers of all ages to sing to an audience in a friendly, non-competitive, informal setting and receive expert, encouraging comment and advice both oral and written. It is a feast of art song for participants and audience members alike.

Brochures describing the *Season of Song 2007* – its concerts and artists – are now widely available in Canberra. More extensive information is given below.

Sunday 25th March

John Lingard Hall, Canberra Grammar Junior School, Alexander Street, Red Hill, at 3pm
Christina Wilson, mezzo-soprano, and Alan Hicks, piano

Location, Location, Location

Where do we fall in love? Under a tree, by the sea or in a garden on a summer's evening? Over the ages poets and composers have been inspired by the settings of love and the poignant images they evoke. Whether a past infatuation or present desire or future hope, love happens somewhere ... Come and discover, in songs and arias by Elgar, Berlioz, Brahms, Wolf, Fauré and Rossini.

Christina Wilson is a graduate of the Canberra School of Music, the Royal Northern College of Music and the National Opera Studio, London. Winner of the Australian Singing Competition's prestigious Marianne Mathy Award, she has been broadcast and appeared in concert and recital in Australia, the USA, Europe and throughout the UK. Concert engagements have included Elgar's *Sea Pictures*, Mahler's *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen* and Rückert Lieder and Brahms' *Vier ernste Gesänge* performed with the London Mozart Players. Recordings include Elgar's *The Music Makers*, reviewed by the Elgar Society:

"...a voice to drool over: powerful, majestic... a perfect 'line', impeccable diction..."

Since her return to Australia after twelve years abroad she is in demand as a recitalist, concert soloist and singing teacher.



Alan Hicks studied and worked in the UK for fifteen years as pianist, teacher and vocal coach, appearing at major concert venues including the Wigmore Hall, Purcell Room and St John's, Smith Square. He is Vocal Coach and Accompanist at the ANU School of Music. In 2005 he was Assistant Musical Director, Repetiteur and Language Coach for the School of Music's productions of *Suor Angelica* and *Gianni Schicchi*. Alan performs regularly with singers and instrumentalists and is a member of the Sydney-based contemporary group Kammer.

Sunday 27th May

Wesley Music Centre, National Circuit, Forrest, at 3pm
Sheena Smith, soprano, and Colin Forbes, piano
Lainie Hart, mezzo-soprano, and Noela Bermingham, piano
Richard Phillips, tenor, and Colin Forbes, piano
with an unscheduled appearance by Louise Page, soprano (replacing a sick singer), and Phillipa Candy, piano

Four Canberra Songsters

This concert is the next in a popular series given by advanced amateur singers. The program will include Schubert Lieder, six Irish folk songs arranged by Geoffrey Pratley and English art song by composers such as Ivor Gurney, Roger Quilter and Vaughan Williams (including *Songs of Travel*).

Sheena Smith's performances include Susanna in *The Marriage of Figaro* (CAMRA), as a soloist in *Old Time Music Hall* (Canberra Repertory) and Mad Margaret in *Ruddigore* (Queanbeyan Players) for which she received a CAT Award nomination. She studies singing with Pat and Colin Forbes and spent some months in Berlin studying with Juliette Lee.

Colin Forbes is a keyboard performer and teacher. He was on the staff of the Canberra School of Music until 1998 when he became Director of the Canberra Academy of Music and Related Arts.

Lainie Hart has appeared in plays and musicals in Canberra. She sang in Canberra Philharmonic's *Cabaret* and gave an outstandingly good performance in the lead role of Maria in Queanbeyan Players' production of *The Sound of Music*. Lainie studies voice with Judith Bauer.

Noela Bermingham arrived in Canberra in 1959 and became involved in the musical life of our city as a piano teacher and church organist. A sought-after répétiteur and accompanist, she has enjoyed a long association with the Woden Valley Youth Choir. Noela has worked with Canberra Philharmonic Society on several productions. She is active as a singer and pianist with U3A Warrani Chorale. Noela enjoys working with singers, particularly young people, and is vocal coach to several voice students.

Richard Phillips has appeared in many productions over the last ten years including *Les Misérables* (twice), *Dido and Aeneas*, *Chess* and *Così fan tutte*. He sang *Kuge* in the successful Japanese opera *Kaguyahime*. He has recently sung as tenor soloist in two performances of *Messiah*. He studies with David Reedy.

Louise Page has performed in operas, oratorios and concerts in Austria, Germany and Belgium and throughout Australia. She won the inaugural Mietta's/City of Melbourne Song Recital Competition in 1995. Louise has appeared for Musica Viva and broadcast for the ABC. She has appeared with the Canberra Symphony Orchestra, Canberra Choral Society, Art Song Canberra, the National Capital Orchestra, Stopera and the Royal Military College Band. She and Phillipa Candy have made CDs of Lieder by Richard Strauss and the song cycles of Erich Korngold.

Phillipa Candy is a graduate of the Canberra School of Music and has Master's degrees from Hobart and Philadelphia. Since 1984 she has been a professional accompanist, private teacher, répétiteur, vocal coach and conductor. She was the founding pianist for the group *Austral Skies* which toured for Musica Viva. Phillipa has studied with the celebrated accompanist Geoffrey Parsons and in 1992 was inducted into the Pi Kappa Lambda Society for musical excellence.

Tuesday 26th June

Wesley Music Centre, National Circuit, Forrest, at 6 for 6.30pm

Rebecca Collins, soprano, and Carl Rafferty, piano

Lettin' Loose

Following their recent collaboration presenting the songs of Vera Lynn for the *Mrs Prime Minister* exhibition at Old Parliament House, Rebecca Collins and Carl Rafferty again join forces, this time exploring the influence of jazz, pop and folk on conventional classical art song. The program will include works by Gershwin, Walton, Stravinsky, Satie and Rousset. It will surprise and delight, containing quirky unfamiliar works as well as some of the best loved jazz standards of all time!

Rebecca Collins, National Aria winner, has performed principal operatic roles with Opera Queensland, Opera Australia, Oz Opera and Stopera. She has performed at international festivals such as the Colorado Music Festival, USA and the AIMS Festival Graz, Austria. In recital Rebecca has presented a diverse, adventurous and stimulating range of programs. A keen interpreter of contemporary works, Rebecca recently appeared in the Australian première of the Canadian Opera *Nigredo Hotel* and earlier premièred the title role in Stopera's Australian premiere of *Jane Eyre* to national critical acclaim.

Carl Rafferty, trained as a classical pianist, is equally comfortable with jazz and music theatre. Acclaimed as a piano soloist, he enjoys accompanying and chamber music. In 1994 he recorded his CD *Moonlight & Blues* which earned him international recognition. He was invited to play Rachmaninov's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini* at Brisbane's *Warana Festival* to an outdoor audience of more than



20,000. Carl's recent projects have included salon concerts in period styles for the National Museum and Old Parliament House.

Sunday 29th July

Wesley Music Centre, National Circuit, Forrest, at 3pm
Louise Page, soprano, and Phillipa Candy, piano

Only in America

Songs by quintessential American composers and others who made their home there (including spirituals and songs by Foster, Barber, Ives and Porter). The program will present the songs that were being sung as America was shaped – through the early days of British rule, Stephen Foster and the American Civil War, spirituals, the influence of immigration on classical song and the establishment of an American identity.

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Tuesday 11th September

Wesley Music Centre, National Circuit, Forrest, at 6 for 6.30pm
Catriona DeVere, soprano, and Alan Hicks, piano

Women on the Edge

Songs and arias which tell the story of women on the edge – of a nervous breakdown, of falling in love, of death ... The program will encompass Schumann's song cycle, *Frauenliebe und Leben*, Sondheim's *I know things now* (from *Into the Woods*), *My man's gone now* by Gershwin, *Come scoglio* (Fiordiligi's aria in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*) and the Embroidery Aria from Britten's *Peter Grimes*.

Catriona DeVere studied with Merlyn Quaife and, in Germany, with Martino Stamos. Her career began in 1996 with the Victoria State Opera's Schools' Company and later Opera Australia and Opera Factory. Since moving to Canberra in 2002, Catriona has performed as a soloist with the Wesley Music Foundation, A.C.T. Lieder Society, SCUNA and the Canberra



Choral Society. She has performed a wide variety of operatic roles and oratorio solos. In 2005 Catriona graduated M.Mus. (Performance) from the ANU School of Music where she is now both teaching and enrolled in the Ph.D. program.

Alan Hicks – see page 2.

Sunday 7th October

Wesley Music Centre, National Circuit, Forrest, at 3pm
Kent McIntosh, tenor, and Andrew Greene, piano

Romance in Song

The program will include two song cycles – Schumann's *Dichterliebe* (Poet's Love) and *On This Island* by Benjamin Britten. Other songs will be by Fauré (*Après un rêve*), Hahn (*A Chloris*), Saint-Saëns (*Aimons-nous*) and Debussy's *Noël pour des enfants qui n'ont plus de maisons*, presenting a child's perspective on the horrors of World War I. Folk songs arranged by Britten will complete the program.

Kent McIntosh graduated M.Mus. from the Canberra School of Music in 2001. He has since been a full time chorister with Opera Australia. He has sung as soloist in many oratorio performances in Canberra and in NSW, including *Messiah*, *St John Passion* and the C.P.E. Bach and J.S. Bach *Magnificats*. Kent has given several song recitals including one for the A.C.T. Lieder Society in 2000. He performed live with Andrew Greene on ABC Classic FM's 2002 *Treasury of Song* series.



Andrew Greene is Director of the Young Artists Program for Opera Australia. He has conducted over fifty productions of operas, operettas, musicals as well as much of the symphonic and choral repertoire. He has conducted operas also for the Covent Garden Festival, London, State Opera of South Australia, Lyric Opera of Queensland, Mercury Theatre (New Zealand), Canberra School of Music and Canberra Opera. He has appeared in concert with the symphony orchestras of Taiwan, Beijing and Shanghai and has been a regular conductor of the New Year's Eve concerts in Sydney and Melbourne with the Australian Pops Orchestras.



Sunday 18th November

Wesley Music Centre, National Circuit, Forrest, at 3pm
Karen Cummings, soprano, Didier Frédéric, baritone, and Alan Hicks, piano

Voyage à Paris

A feast of delightful 20th-century French song from Debussy to Brel, Ravel to Brassens, Poulenc to Weill. The program will include Ravel's *Don Quichotte à Dulcinée* and Debussy's *Chansons de Bilitis*.

Karen Cummings has since 1998 pursued a varied career as a performer and teacher. She is a regular recitalist specialising in new and cross-genre works and is a member of Kammer Chamber Music Australia which specializes in contemporary repertoire. She has premiered several new Australian works. Karen has recorded several CDs and is currently recording a CD of contemporary Australian compositions by women including several world première recordings.

In 2005 Karen premiered her show, *When my ship comes in*. She created and performed in cabaret shows for the Adelaide and Sydney Festival Fringes. She is now devising a piece using tango and French chanson of the 1930s for performance on tour later in 2007.



Karen has regularly performed with the Spring Festival of New Music with Roger Woodward and broadcast through ABC Classic FM. She devised and broadcast several programs of contemporary music for the ABC. Karen has recorded sound tracks for film and television, including *Day of the Roses* for Channel 10. She has performed as a principal singer for Opera Australia and the Victoria State Opera and in the arena spectaculars of *Carmen* (Melbourne Tennis Centre) and *Turandot* (Sydney Stadium, Randwick).

Didier Frédéric graduated from the Marseilles and Paris Conservatoires and Paris Opera's École d'Art Lyrique. He has studied with Ileana Cotrubas, Régine Crespin, Victoria de los Angeles and Gérard Souzay.

He sang in recital in Paris, Nancy, Kaiserslautern, Salzburg, Budapest and Rome, in Sydney and in the Blackwood River Chamber Music Festival in Western Australia. He participated in concerts in Paris and other French cities and in Sydney. He premièred Lee Bracegirdle's *Ammerseelieder* with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and sang several roles in the orchestra's concert performances of *La Rondine*.

Didier has performed many operatic roles in Paris, Lyon and for Opera Australia. For Pinchgut Opera he performed as La Voce (Oracle) in *Idomeneo*. With the Sydney Philharmonia Choirs he performed as Pontifex and Pontius Pilate in *St Matthew Passion*.

Alan Hicks studied and worked in the UK for fifteen years as pianist, teacher and vocal coach, appearing at major concert venues including the Wigmore Hall, Purcell Room and St John's, Smith Square. He is Vocal Coach and Accompanist at the ANU School of Music. In 2005 he was Assistant Musical Director, Repetiteur and Language Coach for the School of Music's productions of *Suor Angelica* and *Gianni Schicchi*. Alan performs regularly with singers and instrumentalists and is a member of the Sydney-based contemporary group Kammer.

