

SEASON OF SONG 2008

In 2008 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 2008*.

Throughout its life the society has presented a series of six or seven vocal recitals each year. 2008 is the twelfth 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, Darryl Coote and the renowned British pianist Roy Howat. 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 2008

Season of Song 2008 will begin with a recital by the celebrated Australian mezzo-soprano Sally-Anne Russell accompanied by Canberra pianist Phillipa Candy. The second concert, *Vive la France*, will feature Rosalind Martin of Adelaide's Elder Conservatorium and the internationally-renowned British pianist Roy Howat. Both artists are specialists in French art song. The next two recitals will be given by first-class local artists Louise Page with Phillipa Candy and Christina Wilson accompanied by pianist Alan Hicks. In September the superb Austrian baritone Thomas Weinhappel, touring Australia with Vienna-based Australian pianist Stephen Delaney, will give a recital of wonderful German Lieder. In October, a group of highly talented voice students from the ANU School of Music together with accompanist Alan Hicks will perform a varied and delightful program of fine art song. The *Season* will conclude with a highly entertaining recital by Canberra artists Michael Martin and Rowan Harvey-Martin with Queensland pianist Narelle French.

More extensive information is given below.

Admission to the concerts includes a complimentary program and light refreshments:

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

In 2008 the sixteenth 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.

Sunday 9th March
FROM THE SUBLIME TO THE RIDICULOUS

3pm, Wesley Music Centre, National Circuit, Forrest

Sally-Anne Russell, mezzo-soprano, and Phillipa Candy, piano

An entertaining and varied program including Haydn's *Arianna a Naxos*, songs by Purcell, Mozart and Schubert and De Falla's *7 Canciones Populares Espanolas*. It will conclude with Britten's stylish and diverting Cabaret Songs.

Sally-Anne Russell appears regularly in the U.S.A., Canada, Europe, Australia, New Zealand and Japan on both the operatic stage and the concert platform. CDs include *Bach Arias and Duets* which was nominated for an ARIA Award, Handel's *Semele*, Purcell's *Fairy Queen* and the *Swoon DVD*. Sally-Anne Russell appears with all the Symphony Australia Orchestras, Australian Chamber Orchestra, Australian Bach Ensemble and at all the major Australian festivals. She is a resident principal singer with Opera Australia.

Phillipa Candy has Master's degrees from Hobart and Philadelphia. Since 1984 she has been an accompanist, teacher, coach, repetiteur and conductor. She was the founding pianist with the group Austral Skies. She was guest musical director for Canberra City Opera and conducted the Harmonie German Choir from 1994 to 2004. She studied with the celebrated accompanist Geoffrey Parsons and in 1992 was inducted into the Pi Kappa Lambda Society for musical excellence.



Sunday 25th May
VIVE LA FRANCE

3pm, Wesley Music Centre, National Circuit, Forrest

Rosalind Martin, soprano, and Roy Howat, piano

These renowned artists, last heard in Canberra in 2002, return with a program including a variety of French art song, a field in which both are specialists. While offering the delights of Debussy and Duparc, this is also a chance to discover the tenderness, humour and musical richness of Chabrier's songs, a major influence on Ravel and Poulenc.

Rosalind Martin won the Melbourne Sun Aria before studying opera in Germany. She performed with several opera companies in Britain including Glyndebourne Festival Opera. She studied song repertoire with renowned recitalists including Suzanne Danco, Kurt Equiluz and Anthony Rolfe Johnson and performed oratorio and song widely in Europe. Rosalind has given recitals at the Elder Hall, for Recitals Australia and for the ABC. She often appears with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra and for the State Opera of South Australia. Rosalind is a lecturer in voice at the Elder School of Music.

Roy Howat is renowned as both a pianist and a scholar whose concerts, broadcasts and lectures regularly take him worldwide. He is one of the few British artists repeatedly invited to teach and play French music at the Paris and Geneva Conservatoires and on French radio. His championship of Chabrier has led to recordings and a Dover edition of Chabrier's marvellous piano music. Roy has conducted professionally and played violin in major London chamber orchestras.



Photo: Bridget Elliot

Sunday 22nd June
MOTHER AND CHILD

3pm, Wesley Music Centre, National Circuit, Forrest

Louise Page, soprano, and Phillipa Candy, piano

The joy and pain of motherhood will be expressed in song, along with the exuberance of childhood. There will be songs and lullabies by Strauss, Brahms, Bax and others, as well as Mahler's *Kindertotenlieder* (Songs on the death of children) and *The Mystery* by Carlisle Floyd.

Louise Page was named Canberra Times Artist of the Year in 2007. She won the 1989 ABC Young Performer of the Year vocal final, the 1995 inaugural Mietta's Song Recital Competition and the Robert Stolz/Apex scholarship to Vienna. As a member of the young artist program of the Vienna State Opera, Louise performed widely in Europe. She has sung throughout Australia in opera, oratorio, cabaret, recital and broadcasts. Louise regularly appears with groups such as Art Song Canberra, Stopera, Canberra Choral Society and the Sydney, Canberra and other Symphony Orchestras.



Phillipa Candy has Master's degrees from Hobart and Philadelphia. Since 1984 she has been an accompanist, teacher, coach, répétiteur and conductor. She was the founding pianist with the group Austral Skies. She was guest musical director for Canberra City Opera and conducted the Harmonie German Choir from 1994 to 2004. She studied with the celebrated accompanist Geoffrey Parsons and in 1992 was inducted into the Pi Kappa Lambda Society for musical excellence.



Sunday 27th July

MEDITERRANEAN MAGIC

Spanish passion, French sophistication, Italian romance.

3pm, Wesley Music Centre, National Circuit, Forrest

Christina Wilson, mezzo-soprano, and Alan Hicks, piano

Around this mass of water three continents meet whose cultures and history have inspired poets and composers over the centuries. In a program celebrating the European experience of this sun-drenched region, works will include songs by De Falla, Rodrigo and Granados, Ravel's *Cinq mélodies populaires grecques*; a selection of *Mignon* Lieder by Schubert and Wolf, Neapolitan songs and works by Noel Coward and Richard Rodney Bennett.



Christina Wilson was awarded the Friends Prize on graduation from the Canberra School of Music. She won the Marianne Mathy Scholarship and studied at the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester and the National Opera Studio, London. She has appeared as a soloist and recitalist in Australia, the USA, Europe and throughout Britain. Christina has sung many operatic roles in Australia and Britain, including with Glyndebourne Festival Opera.

Alan Hicks graduated from the Newcastle Conservatorium and the Royal Northern College of Music. He studied and worked in the UK for 15 years as pianist, teacher and vocal coach, appearing at major concert venues including the Wigmore Hall, Purcell Room and St John's, Smith Square. Vocal Coach and Accompanist at the ANU School of Music, Alan is a member of the Sydney-based contemporary group Kammer.

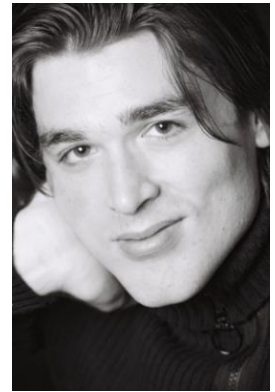
Sunday 14th September
A FEAST OF GERMAN SONG

3pm, Wesley Music Centre, National Circuit, Forrest
Thomas Weinhappel, baritone, and Stephen Delaney, piano

This Liederfest, sung by the superb Austrian baritone Thomas Weinhappel, will include Beethoven's song cycle *An die ferne Geliebte* and beautiful Lieder by three other masters of this exquisite art form – Schubert, Schumann and Strauss.

Thomas Weinhappel graduated with honours from the Vienna Conservatorium and won first prize at the Vienna Regional Competition "Prima la Musica" and the Conservatorium Competition "Fidelio". He has participated in masterclasses with Walter Berry, Gundula Janowitz and other noted artists. Mr Weinhappel's Lieder recitals throughout Europe have included three of Schubert's song cycles. He gave a recital in London in 2005 at the invitation of accompanist Roger Vignoles.

Stephen Delaney graduated with high distinction from the University of Sydney and received his Diploma with high distinction at the Vienna Conservatorium, specialising in accompaniment. He worked as a vocal coach in the faculties of both the Vienna Conservatorium and the Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst Wien. He has played and taught at various Austrian festivals and masterclasses, often working with Gundula Janowitz. Stephen has performed widely in Europe and Canada.



Tuesday 21st October
RISING STARS OF VOICE

6 for 6.30pm, Wesley Music Centre, National Circuit, Forrest
Nina Birkel, Ben Connor, Karen Fitz-Gibbon and Paul Cambridge with Alan Hicks, piano

This twilight concert features four advanced students of the ANU School of Music accompanied by Head of Voice, Alan Hicks. They will perform songs by Kurt Weill, Rodrigo, Chausson and Wolf together with Keel's *Saltwater Ballads* and other sea songs. The recital will be preceded by complimentary wine, orange juice and cheese at 6pm.

Alan Hicks graduated from the Newcastle Conservatorium and the Royal Northern College of Music. He studied and worked in the UK for 15 years as pianist, teacher and vocal coach, appearing at major concert venues including the Wigmore Hall, Purcell Room and St John's, Smith Square. Head of the Voice Area at the ANU School of Music, Alan is a member of the Sydney-based contemporary group Kammer.



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Sunday 30th November

REFLECTIONS

3pm, Wesley Music Centre, National Circuit, Forrest

Michael Martin, tenor, Rowan Harvey-Martin, violin, and Narelle French, piano

A welcome return by this highly entertaining trio with an afternoon of reminiscence involving music that has a special place in the artists' lives and careers. The program will include music by Britten, Quilter, Kreisler, Sarasate, Gounod and others.

Michael Martin is a Principal Guest Artist with Opera Australia and all state companies. He won the Sydney Morning Herald Aria Competition in 1988 and the National Aria in 1989. He studied with the great tenor Carlo Bergonzi in 1988-9. He has sung numerous roles for Opera Australia and for state opera companies. Michael is a highly sought-after concert performer and has appeared with all state symphony orchestras and many of Australia's leading choirs.



Rowan Harvey-Martin studied at the Eastman School of Music, New York. She has had extensive orchestral experience with the Eastman Virtuosi in New York and The Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra. Principal Violin with the Canberra Symphony Orchestra, Rowan is also Concertmaster of The Haydn Bande and leader of the Linnaeus String Quartet. Music Director of the Llewellyn Choir, she has also worked in the same capacity with the Oriana Chorale since 2005.



Narelle French is Head of Music and Director of Young and Developing Artist programs with Opera Queensland. In music theatre, cabaret, ballet and chamber music she conducts, com-poses, arranges, accompanies and devises concert programs. She has worked for the ABC, Sydney Theatre Company, The Australian Ballet, Victoria State Opera and Sydney Symphony Orchestra.
