

## SEASON OF SONG 2009

In 2009 Art Song Canberra will present six 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 OAM 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 2009*; and
- conducting **Members' Soirées**, social gatherings of members to sing and play together, taking us back to the origin of Lieder societies.

Throughout its life the society has presented a series of six or seven vocal recitals each year. A great many of the society's artists over the years have been highly accomplished both in Australia and internationally. Among the many artists who have performed for the society are such noted Australian singers as Eleanor Houston, Michael Martin, Sally-Anne Russell, Warwick Fyfe, Christopher Allan, Angela Giblin, Louise Page and Christina Wilson as well as Susan Burghardt from the USA and Thomas Weinhappel from Vienna. Pianists have included Andrew Greene, Phillipa Candy, Alan Hicks, Anthony Smith, Vivienne Winther, Margaret Legge-Wilkinson, Nigel Butterley, Darryl Coote and the renowned British pianist Roy Howat. 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 2009

*Season of Song 2009* will begin with a recital by distinguished Canberra artists Rebecca Collins and Vivienne Winther. In May, four of Canberra's finest musicians, Louise Page, Christina Wilson, Phillipa Candy and Alan Hicks, will present duets, trios and quartets from the art song and piano repertoire. The third concert will feature a group of highly talented voice students in a varied and delightful recital, the next in a popular series of such concerts. In September, the renowned counter-tenor Tobias Cole and accompanist Andrew Greene will perform a passionate recital of German and English love songs and arias. Art Song Canberra prizewinner Amy Corkery will perform with the distinguished accompanist David Miller AM in October. The Season will end with a recital by Rachael Duncan and Alan Hicks; Rachael has recently returned to her home town, Canberra, after ten years of great accomplishment in Europe.

More extensive information is given below. **Hi-res pix are available from [www.artsongcanberra.org](http://www.artsongcanberra.org)**

**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 2009 the seventeenth 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 15<sup>th</sup> March** **FROM STAGE TO SALON**

3pm, Wesley Music Centre, National Circuit, Forrest

**Rebecca Collins, soprano, and Vivienne Winther, piano**

A program of recital repertoire by great operatic composers: Puccini, Massenet, Donizetti, Gounod and others. These small-scale masterpieces make for fascinating listening, with echoes and themes from their dramatic stage works often emerging for the first time in the form of more intimate salon songs. Hear some of the most famous melodies from *La Bohème* in their original setting.

**Rebecca Collins** is a winner of the National Aria Competition and has appeared in principal roles for Opera Queensland, Opera Australia and OzOpera, including Gilda in *Rigoletto* and Marzelline in *Fidelio*. She pursued further vocal studies in Germany and Austria, funded by an Australia Council grant and a Goethe Institut scholarship. She has also performed at international festivals such as the Colorado Music Festival and the AIMS Festival in Graz, Austria, in repertoire ranging from Monteverdi to John Adams' controversial opera *Nixon in China*. In 2005, her performance as the heroine, Jane, in Stopera's Australian premiere production of *Jane Eyre* was acclaimed as stunning in reviews nationally and internationally. In 2006, Rebecca starred as Sophie in Stopera's Australian premiere of the jazz opera *Nigredo Hotel*. Concert performances for Rebecca include major events for the National Gallery of Australia, National Multicultural Festival and the Canberra International Chamber Music Festival, as well as gala concert appearances for Opera Queensland. Rebecca was a soloist in Stopera's *Opera by the Lake* in 2007 and 2008.



**Vivienne Winther** is Artistic Director of Stopera and has played a leading role in the production and performance of more than twenty notable opera and concert events for the company since 1997. She is also Artistic Director of Music For Everyone, the ACT's community music organisation, and a part-time lecturer in piano at the ANU School of Music. She was an opera repetiteur with Canberra Opera until moving to Hong Kong, where she was Chief Repetiteur for the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts Graduate Opera School, assisting Opera Australia conductor Carlo Felice Cillario and the Head of Vocal Studies Margreta Elkins. Vivienne has appeared in concert for the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra International Chamber Music Festival, Sydney Schubert Society, and as a recording artist for ABC Classic FM. Vivienne has accompanied and coached singers from Opera Australia, Victorian State Opera, Beijing Central Opera and Cologne Opera. In November 2005, Vivienne was named The Canberra Times Artist of the Year for her uncompromising vision and achievement in gaining recognition for opera in the ACT.

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## **Sunday 3rd May** **DOUBLE TROUBLE**

3pm, John Lingard Hall, Canberra Grammar Junior School, Alexander Street, Red Hill

**Louise Page, soprano, Christina Wilson, mezzo-soprano, Phillipa Candy and Alan Hicks, piano**

Come and hear what two pianists and two singers can get up to, when well-known Canberra duos Louise Page and Phillipa Candy and Christina Wilson and Alan Hicks combine to present a concert of all possible combinations. Solos, duets and quartets by composers such as Schumann, Chausson, Franck, Mendelssohn and Fauré.

**Louise Page** is one of Australia's most highly regarded singers, delighting audiences in opera, operetta, oratorio, cabaret, recital and broadcasts. She is a lecturer in voice at the A.N.U. School of Music.

Louise won the 1995 inaugural Mietta's Song Recital Competition and the 1989 ABC Young Performer of the Year vocal final. As winner of the Robert Stolz/Apex scholarship to Vienna and as a member of the young artist program of the Vienna State Opera, she performed throughout Europe and Australia, including roles at the Vienna State Opera.

Louise regularly appears with groups such as Art Song Canberra, the Royal Military College Band, Stopera, Canberra Choral Society and the Wesley Music Centre. She frequently performs in various regional music centres and for groups in Sydney and Melbourne. She has appeared as a soloist with the Sydney, Queensland, Canberra and Central Coast Symphony Orchestras and the National Capital Orchestra. She performed for the 2007 Canberra International Chamber Music Festival as Nellie Melba: Queen of Song – a show that earned her and accompanist Phillipa Candy a standing ovation and many repeat performances. Louise was named 2007 Canberra Times Artist of the Year.

**Phillipa Candy** has Master's degrees from Hobart and Philadelphia. She was a state final winner in the ABC Vocal and Instrumental Competition in 1982. Since 1984 she has worked as a professional accompanist, private teacher, repetiteur and coach.

She was the founding pianist with the group Austral Skies which toured for Musica Viva in 1988. Phillipa worked as an accompanist and repetiteur for the Philadelphia Singers and for the studio of Robert MacFarland, an internationally recognised operatic baritone. In 1992 she was inducted into the Pi Kappa Lambda Society for musical excellence and went to London for further studies with the celebrated accompanist Geoffrey Parsons.

After returning to Australia, Phillipa formed an artistic partnership with soprano Louise Page to promote and foster art song. They have produced two CDs, *Louise Page sings Richard Strauss* and *Eternity – The Song Cycles of Erich Korngold*.

**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, at venues such as the Royal Albert Hall, the Wigmore Hall, St John's Smith Square, the Temple Square and the Paris Conservatoire. Reviewed by the Elgar Society as "...a voice to drool over", her recording of Elgar's *The Music Makers* was released in 2003.

Christina has sung many operatic roles in Australia and Britain, including with the State Opera of South Australia, Glyndebourne Festival Opera, Belfast Festival Opera and the Mananan International Festival.

Since returning to Australia performances have included Vivaldi's *Gloria* at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney, "Opera by the Lake" with Stopera and a *Sunday Live* broadcast for ABC FM from the Llewellyn Hall with Alan Vivian, clarinet, and Alan Hicks, piano. She has given four recitals for Art Song Canberra. Christina is Lecturer in Voice at the ANU School of Music.

**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. His CD recording with Kate Romano, *20<sup>th</sup> Century Music from the British Isles for clarinet and piano* received critical acclaim and was BBC Music Magazine's Chamber Music Pick of the Month. As pianist with the King Piano Trio he worked on Lord Menuhin's Live Music Now! scheme and appeared at the 2000 Three Choirs Festival in Hereford. Alan was pianist with the London-based



Australian contemporary music group the Bennelong Ensemble, appearing live on BBC Radio3, at the Cheltenham Festival and in concert on tours of Italy and the UK.

Alan is Head of the Voice Area at the ANU School of Music. In 2005 he was Assistant Musical Director, Repetiteur and Language Coach for the School of Music's production of *Suor Angelica* and *Gianni Schicchi*. Alan has been vocal coach and repetiteur for the ANU Choral Society (SCUNA) since 2004. As a member of the Sydney-based contemporary group Kammer, he has broadcast for the ABC and toured for Musica Viva. Alan joined the board of Wesley Music Foundation in 2008.

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## Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June LOVERS OF SONG

3pm, Wesley Music Centre, National Circuit, Forrest

**Judith Colquhoun, Gemma Dashwood and Judith Swanson, (sopranos), Janene Broere (mezzo-soprano), Max Spencer and Greg Wallace (tenors), Peter Smith (baritone), Colin Forbes and Jennifer Groom (piano)**

This concert is the next in a popular series given by advanced amateur singers. These experienced Canberra artists are united by their love of song. Their varied and highly entertaining program will include Liza Lehmann's *In a Persian Garden*.

**Judith Colquhoun** has been singing since a very early age. With jazz and the Beatles being early influences, she now has an eclectic repertoire that also includes music theatre, Gilbert and Sullivan, classical music and music hall. She studies voice with Pat Davey. Over about fifteen years, Judith has appeared in stage productions by many companies in Canberra and Queanbeyan in both ensemble and leading roles. She has sung in lunch-time recital performances at Pilgrim House, Canberra.



**Gemma Dashwood** studies singing with Pat Whitbread and uses music to stay sane while she works full time as a doctor! She has a strong choral background extending back into primary school and spent several years singing with the Newcastle Cathedral Choir, and the BBC Symphony Chorus in London. She has sung solo parts in Vivaldi's Gloria and Handel's Messiah with the University of Canberra Choir, and sings regularly with CAMRA (Canberra Academy of Music and Related Arts). Gemma is the assistant organist at All Saints' Church, Ainslie. Once a year Gemma blows the dust off her cello and plays with the Australian

Doctors' Orchestra.

**Judith Swanson** studies with David Reedy and works regularly with Colin Forbes, repetiteur and accompanist. Her interest include church music, opera, oratorio, Lieder and art song. She has performed in productions including Irene, The Grand Duke and Messiah. Recently Judith appeared in Melbourne Opera's Canberra performances of Puccini's *La Bohème*. She has appeared as a soloist with community choirs and was highly commended in the 2008 Australian National Eisteddfod.



**Janene Broere** studies with Judith Bauer and Colin Forbes. She completed her L.Mus.A. in 2003 and is a regular singer at eisteddfods and recitals in Canberra. She has performed several Gilbert and Sullivan roles for the Queanbeyan Players. Her favourite form of music is Lieder.

**Max Spencer** began studying singing with David Reedy in 2004. He also receives vocal coaching from Colin Forbes. Max has appeared in a number of local productions for CAMRA including *The Sorcerer* and *Messiah*. A member of the Canberra Opera Chorus, he appeared as a chorus member for the Melbourne Opera's productions of Puccini's *La Bohème* and Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro*.





**Greg Wallace** has recently completed a Master's degree in Singing Performance at the ANU School of Music. He has appeared in opera productions at the School of Music and sung several principal roles for the Queanbeyan Players.

**Peter Smith** has performed in many local musical productions with Queanbeyan Players and other companies including several Gilbert and Sullivan roles, most recently Captain Corcoran in *HMS Pinafore* and the Sergeant of Police in *The Pirates of Penzance*.

He has also taken the lead role in *Kismet*, *Man of La Mancha*, *The Fantasticks* and *Calamity Jane*. He has a special enthusiasm for the drawing room ballad style of the Victorian era and performs this music often with tenor David Reedy and accompanist Noelene Ackroyd.



**Colin Forbes** studied and later taught piano at the New South Wales State Conservatorium. He gave numerous concerts in Germany and taught at the Music School in Oldenburg. While on the staff at the Canberra School of Music Colin performed on harpsichord, clavichord, fortepiano and piano. He has given many solo recitals and performances with the Canberra Symphony Orchestra, Llewellyn Choir, Canberra Choral Society and Canberra Community Orchestra. In 1998 Colin was appointed Director of the then new Canberra Academy of Music and Related Arts and is its principal piano

teacher and repetiteur.

**Jennifer Groom** is a highly respected musical director working in musical theatre in Canberra. She has conducted the orchestra and taught the cast for a wide range of musicals from Gilbert and Sullivan operettas to *Kismet*, *Man of La Mancha* and *Annie*.



## Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September

### THE PASSIONATE COUNTER-TENOR

3pm, Wesley Music Centre, National Circuit, Forrest

**Tobias Cole, counter-tenor, and Andrew Greene, piano**

A diverse, entertaining program of Schubert and Schumann Lieder, Dvorak Gypsy songs, Britten's *Charm of Lullabies*, Purcell love songs and arias from opera and music theatre.

**Tobias Cole** is one of Australia's most successful counter-tenors, having performed throughout Australia, as well as in the United Kingdom and the United States.

In 2002 Tobias won the Metropolitan Opera Young Artist Study Award, consequently spending three months studying in New York at The Met. With the Chicago Opera Theatre in 2004-05 he played Ottone in their highly praised production of *L'Incoronazione di Poppea*, Apollo in *Death in Venice* and Oberon in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Also in 2005 he appeared in John Adams' *El Nino*, Orff's *Carmina Burana* and various Bach cantatas (recorded by ABC) all for Sydney Philharmonia, and covered the title role in *Rinaldo* and the Voice of Apollo in *Death in Venice* for Opera Australia. Tobias has also sung with West Australian Opera (*Orlando*), Opera Queensland (*Giulio Cesare*), The Renaissance Players, The Song Company, Kent Opera (*Masque of Dioclesian*), The Australian Ballet (Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*), at the London Handel Festival (*Deidamia* with director Keith Warner) and the English Bach Festival (*The Fairy Queen*).



In both Australia and the United Kingdom Tobias has sung many of the great Baroque oratorios including Bach's *St. John Passion* and Handel's *Messiah* on several occasions, to great public and critical acclaim. Recent engagements have included the title role in *Julius Caesar* for Opera Australia in both Sydney and Melbourne, *Dido and Aeneas* for Sydney Philharmonia. In 2008 he appeared in *This Show is About People* for Sydney Festival, in a Handel Gala and Bach *B Minor*

Mass with Sydney Philharmonia, concerts with Salut! Baroque and Medoro (*Orlando*) with Opera Australia in both Sydney and Melbourne seasons.

**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.



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**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October**

## **A TASTING PLATE OF EUROPEAN ART SONG**

3pm, Wesley Music Centre, National Circuit, Forrest

**Amy Corkery, soprano, and David Miller, piano**

Sit back and enjoy a banquet of Grieg Lieder, Massenet mélodies, Respighi arias and 20th-century English art song. This exciting musical and poetic tour of Europe will offer something for every artistic palate.

**Amy Corkery** began her vocal studies and passion for classical singing while growing up in Orange, NSW. In 2006 she moved to Sydney to further her professional training at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music under the guidance of Maree Ryan, Head of Vocal and Opera Studies. She is currently (2008) in her third year of a Bachelor of Performance (Advanced Voice). Amy plans to continue studying at the Sydney Conservatorium and complete a Diploma in Opera.



While in Sydney, Amy has performed in various competitions, scholarships, awards and concerts. She has given concerts for the Schubert Society and Ryde Performing Arts, won the Margaret Henderson Scholarship in 2006 and the Art Song Canberra Prize at the Australian National Eisteddfod 2007, where she was also a finalist in the National Aria. Amy recently performed in concert with the Central West Symphony Orchestra.

**David Miller AM** is widely recognized as one of Australia's leading chamber musicians and vocal accompanists. His distinguished career has included partnerships with many internationally renowned singers and instrumentalists including Marilyn Richardson, Lauris Elms, Elizabeth Campbell, Luigi Alva, Peter Coleman-Wright, John Mark Ainsley, Joan Carden, Boris Belkin, Christopher Kimber, Raphael Wallfisch, Meir Rimon, Igor Osim, Alain Marion, Geoffrey Collins, Diana Doherty and James Kortum.

Mr Miller's performing schedule has taken him to the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Indonesia, Japan, China, Saudi Arabia, New Caledonia, Korea, Vanuatu, Thailand and Vietnam, as well as through most parts of Australia. He has toured and recorded regularly for the ABC and is on the Artistic Review Panel for Musica Viva Australia.



Mr Miller has been on the staff of Sydney Conservatorium of Music since 1980 and in 1995 was appointed the first chair of the Ensemble Studies Unit, with responsibility for Chamber Music/Accompaniment tuition and administration throughout the institution. He is currently the president of the Accompanists' Guild of NSW and very active in the promotion of piano accompaniment as an independent art form worthy of professional recognition and academic research.

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**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November**  
**MEMORIES OF GERMANY**

3pm, Wesley Music Centre, National Circuit, Forrest

**Rachael Duncan, soprano, and Alan Hicks, piano**

Canberra soprano Rachael Duncan pays tribute to her years singing in Germany with a recital of Lieder inspired by the beauty of that country. Joined in this recital by accompanist Alan Hicks, the romantic world of German song comes alive with much-loved favorites including *Die Forelle* by Schubert, and *Abendempfindung* by Mozart. Also included will be works by Richard Strauss, Kurt Weill and Joseph Marx.

**Rachael Duncan** returned to Canberra in 2008 after five years in Germany where she was contracted to the Stadttheater, Gießen, for two years and the Mecklenburgisches Staatstheater, Schwerin, for three years. In Gießen, Rachael's repertoire included Zerbinetta, Rosina, Martha, Frasquita and Stella in the German premiere of *Streetcar Named Desire*. At Schwerin, Rachael sang *Blonde*, *Oscar*, *Arsena*, *Romilda*, *Gilda*, *Königin der Nacht*, *Nanetta*, and *Musetta*. For her performances as *Gilda* and *Queen of the Night*, Rachael was awarded the Conrad Ekhof 2005 Award for Outstanding Performances by a young artist, an award given by the Friends of the Mecklenburgisches Staatstheater, Schwerin. The roles of *Königin der Nacht* and *Rosina* were familiar ones, as Rachael had performed both roles in Australia and had toured the USA with the London City Opera's production of *Magic Flute*.



Rachael is originally from Canberra but received her Graduate Diploma of Music from the Queensland Conservatorium in Brisbane. With Opera Queensland, she debuted as *Norina*, followed by the roles of *Ida* and *Rosina*. After moving to London in 1998, she performed with the Wexford Festival Opera, Ireland, London City Opera, Central Festival Opera in Northampton and Kentish Opera. Rachael has also appeared in concerts and oratorio in England, Australia, Germany, Italy, the USA and Fiji Islands.

Since returning to Canberra, Rachael has performed in gala concerts with Stopera and a benefit concert in Sydney with many of the stars of Opera Australia.

**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. His CD recording with Kate Romano, *20<sup>th</sup> Century Music from the British Isles for clarinet and piano* received critical acclaim and was BBC Music Magazine's Chamber Music Pick of the Month. As pianist with the King Piano Trio he worked on Lord Menuhin's Live Music Now! scheme and appeared at the 2000 Three Choirs Festival in Hereford. Alan was pianist with the London-based Australian contemporary music group the Bennelong Ensemble, appearing live on BBC Radio3, at the Cheltenham Festival and in concert on tours of Italy and the UK.



Alan is Head of the Voice Area at the ANU School of Music. In 2005 he was Assistant Musical Director, Répétiteur and Language Coach for the School of Music's production of *Suor Angelica* and *Gianni Schicchi*. Alan has been vocal coach and répétiteur for the ANU Choral Society (SCUNA) since 2004. As a member of the Sydney-based contemporary group Kammer, he has broadcast for the ABC and toured for Musica Viva. Alan joined the board of Wesley Music Foundation in 2008.

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