



Art Song Canberra Inc.

www.artsongcanberra.org

SEASON OF SONG 2011

In 2011 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 OAM of Covent Garden fame. The society changed its name to Art Song Canberra in 2006. Its 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**;
- providing opportunities for concert performance for dedicated and talented amateur singers. Concerts of this kind have met with considerable audience approval and Art Song Canberra has scheduled another such event in its *Season of Song 2011*;
- conducting **Members' Soirées**, gatherings of members to sing and play together in a social setting, in the manner of the earliest Lieder societies; and
- presenting each year the **Art Song Canberra Prize** in the Singing Division of the Australian National Eisteddfod. This substantial prize is awarded to the singer receiving the greatest aggregate mark in any three of five art song sections in the competition.

Over many years society has presented an annual series of recitals – the **Season of Song**. Most 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, Tobias Cole, Warwick Fyfe, Christopher Allan, Angela Giblin, Louise Page and Christina Wilson as well as Susan Burghardt from the USA, Australian Sally Wilson, Tanya Aspelmeier and Knut Schoch from Germany and Thomas Weinhappel from Vienna. Pianists have included Andrew Greene, David Miller AM, Phillipa Candy, Alan Hicks, Mark Kruger, Anthony Smith, Margaret Legge-Wilkinson, Nigel Butterley, Darryl Coote, Stephen Delaney 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 2011

Season of Song 2011 will begin in February with a recital by distinguished Melbourne artists Greta Bradman and Leigh Harrold. Sally-Anne Russell will return to Canberra in March to give a recital with Phillipa Candy; their first concert together for Art Song Canberra took place in 2008. In May, a group of highly talented singers who have developed their art under the guidance of Canberra's teachers of singing will give the next in a popular series of such concerts. There will be recitals by popular Canberra artists Christina Wilson and Alan Hicks in June and Louise Page and Phillipa Candy in October. Tenor Christopher Saunders, already known to Canberra Choral Society audiences, will give a recital with Berta Brozgul in August. New Zealand soprano Rebecca Ryan, who appeared for Art Song Canberra in 2004, will return in September to give a recital with Canberra pianist Anthony Smith.

High-resolution pictures are available from the press kit page of www.artsongcanberra.org

Admission to the concerts includes a complimentary program and light refreshments: Full price \$30; Seniors, Friends of ArtSound FM, Friends of Wesley Music (for concerts at the Wesley Music Centre) and Musica Viva subscribers \$25; Members and pensioners \$20; Full-time students \$10.

Sunday 27th February

JOIE DE VIVRE

3pm, Wesley Music Centre, National Circuit, Forrest

Greta Bradman (soprano) and Leigh Harrold (piano)

Explore the art song of late 19th-21st century France and America in a program unified by the composers' exquisite reflections on love and the passage of time, youth and the generations. Hear the ancient writings of monks in Samuel Barber's Hermit Songs, the poignant beauty of Robert Beaser's masterful *The Old Men Admiring Themselves in the Water*, exquisite songs of Charles Ives and Andre Previn and the impressionistic works of Ravel (*Cinq Mélodies Populaires Grecques*) and Debussy (*Chansons de Bilitis*).

Greta Bradman, born in Adelaide, is a recitalist, concert and stage performer and recording artist with Sony Music. Described as one of "Australia's finest young singers" and as an "exceedingly intelligent and perceptive musician" (*The Advertiser*, 2009), Greta studied piano from an early age and continued her love for piano, along with studies in composition, through until university, receiving a perfect score for the latter in her final year of schooling. Greta went on to complete a Bachelor of Music degree, majoring in performance classical voice, at the Elder Conservatorium of Music. During her time at the Conservatorium, Greta was a founder of award-winning vocal trio *Eve* and a core member of *Adelaide Chamber Singers*. She sang as a soloist with many other choirs and vocal ensembles and had lead roles in operas including Malcolm Williamson's *The Happy Prince*, Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, and Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*.



Since completing her music studies in 2003, Greta has performed as a soloist with a large number of world-class ensembles and musicians around Australia. Recent highlights have included touring Victoria and WA with the Australian String Quartet (and recording with them for ABC Classics, on special release from Sony Music), touring nationally with UK baritone Aled Jones, performing Ross Edwards' *Symphony No.2* with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, appearing as guest soloist for the 30th Anniversary gala concert for the Adelaide Philharmonia Chorus, performing with the Royal Melbourne Philharmonia Chorus, the Kegelstatt Ensemble, the Langbein String Quartet, Zephyr String Quartet, Adelaide Baroque, Adelaide Chamber Players, Syzygy New Music Ensemble, Soundstream Contemporary Music Ensemble, Kathryn Selby, Leigh Harrold, Jürg Dahler, Aleksandr Tsiboulski and Emma Jane Murphy. She presented her eighth *Sunday Live* performance for ABC Classic FM. Another highlight was working in late 2009 with ABC Classics on a project as associate producer.

2010 marked the first year in which Greta's singing took centre stage, having spent previous years working her music around her postgraduate studies in psychology. Greta holds Bachelor degrees both in Music and Psychology and a First Class Honours degree in Psychology (for which she was the APS Prize Winner). She is now finishing her Master of Psychology (clinical) and her PhD (Psychology & Medicine), at the University of Adelaide.

When studying for her Bachelor of Music Greta received vocal tuition with Keith Hempton. Following her music degree, Greta studied with soprano Rosalind Martin; she now studies with Merlyn Quaipe (Melbourne). She has received coaching and mentorship from mezzo-soprano Fiona Campbell, Simon Kenway, Malcolm Martineau (UK), Phillip Moll (Germany), Jane Manning (UK) and Jonathan Potter (UK).

In August 2010 Greta released her first solo album with Sony Music, *Forest of Dreams*. An album of lullabies dedicated to her parents and her two sons, *Forest of Dreams* debuted in the top 10 on the Australian classical album chart, debuted in the top 10 on the overall album chart in New Zealand and was nominated for an ARIA award. Greta also recorded a duet with Mark Vincent which features on his second album *Compass*, which so far has reached Gold status in Australia. In addition to presenting a range of recitals around Australia, Greta sang at a number of charitable events close to her heart and at sporting events she is passionate about. In 2010, her inaugural year as a full-time singer, Greta entered her first ever vocal competitions; the Mietta Art Song Competition (where she won the Murray River International Festival Prize and was placed runner-up overall) and the RMP Aria Award (where she won the Peoples' Choice Award and was placed

runner-up overall). Greta has also been shortlisted as "Best Newcomer" in the 2010 ABC Limelight Magazine Awards.

In 2011 Greta will present a range of concerts around the country with ensembles including the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, the Sydney Philharmonia Choirs, the Royal Melbourne Philharmonia Chorus, the Adelaide Philharmonia Chorus, Syzygy, Selby and Friends and Latitude 37, as well as presenting programs in a range of concert series and undertaking further recording.

In May 2010 Greta and her family relocated from her hometown of Adelaide to Melbourne. Greta balances her music with being 'mama' to her two young sons.

Greta Bradman and Leigh Harrold's partnership has been rewarded with consecutive Adelaide OsCart Awards and a runner-up placing in the 2010 Mietta Art Song Competition.

"Bradman and Harrold bring out the sadness, longing and loneliness in these works with remarkable insight." (Barry Lenny, *Glam Magazine*, June 2010)

"Bradman and Harrold are exceedingly intelligent and perceptive musicians who use the widest range within their technical command to musical ends. Each is unassuming and totally dedicated to the task, subsuming their individualities within the musical canvas." (Rodney Smith, *The Advertiser*, January 2008)

"Add to the already recognised and admired talents of soprano Greta Bradman and pianist Leigh Harrold courage well above and beyond the call of duty." (Elizabeth Silsbury, *The Advertiser*, September 2007)

Leigh Harrold enjoys a reputation as a "musician of rare talent and intelligence" (Raymond Chapman Smith, *The Advertiser*) and is one of Australia's busiest and most sought-after pianists. He was named *The Advertiser* 2008 Musician of the Year.

Born in Whyalla, South Australia, Leigh completed undergraduate and post-graduate studies at The University of Adelaide with concert pianist Gil Sullivan. During this time he had many successes including being a National Finalist in the Young Performer Awards and a recipient of the prestigious Beta Sigma Phi Classical Music Award – the conservatorium's highest honour. He moved to Melbourne in 2003 to take up a full scholarship at the Australian National Academy of Music under the mentorship of Geoffrey Tozer and in 2004 was made the Academy Fellow – the first person in the institution's history to be chosen as such after just one year of study.



Leigh has performed extensively throughout Europe, North America, Africa and Australia as both soloist and chamber musician, including concerts at Australia House in London, the Royal Academy of Music, the Mozarteum in Salzburg and concerto engagements with many Australian orchestras. In 2007 he undertook an extensive tour of the United States and Canada where he gave lectures on and performed the solo piano music of Robert Muczynski.

His international reputation as an associate artist has led to collaborations with such luminaries as Thomas Reibl, lecturer in viola at the Salzburg Mozarteum; Michael Cox, principal flautist with the BBC Symphony Orchestra; Daniel Gaede, ex-concertmaster of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra; London flautist Wissam Boustany; New York violinist Charles Castleman; Swedish cellist Mats Lidstrom and British pianist Mark Gasser. Other significant collaborations have included those with Andrew Ball at the London Royal College of Music; Sophie Cherrier at the Paris Conservatoire; New York-based pianist Lisa Moore and English composer Peter Maxwell Davies. In 2002 Leigh performed a concert of Maxwell Davies' works in the Orkney Islands in the presence of the composer.

Leigh is a founding member of the award-winning Kegelstatt Ensemble and of the contemporary music group Syzygy Ensemble. He has an internationally-acclaimed piano duo with London-based pianist Coady Green with whom he performed before a crowd of 7,000 at the 2010 Harare International Festival of the Arts in Zimbabwe. Leigh is a recording artist for ABC Classics and with Greta Bradman has just released his debut recording for Sony – the ARIA-nominated *Forest of Dreams*.

An enthusiastic and committed teacher, Leigh has been invited to tutor at the National String Academy and has given many masterclasses around Australia. He is currently on the keyboard faculty of the Victorian College of the Arts.

Leigh holds two University medals – one for Music and one for Applied Science. In between studying for a Ph.D. in piano performance and working at the Australian National Academy of Music in Melbourne, Leigh finds time to go on long walks, read voraciously, write musical articles and program notes and drink lots of (decaf) coffee.

Sunday 20th March

TALES FROM A GYPSY CARAVAN

3pm, Wesley Music Centre, National Circuit, Forrest

Sally-Anne Russell (mezzo-soprano) and Phillipa Candy (piano)

Sally-Anne Russell and Phillipa Candy will enchant with songs of the wandering life. From the delights of Spain to the lush, romantic songs of Brahms and Dvorak, be swept across Europe with the freedom and fiery passion of a gypsy.

Sally-Anne Russell is one of Australia's most versatile and dynamic artists. She is a principal guest mezzo-soprano with Opera Australia. She is frequently engaged by all the Symphony Australia Orchestras and also appears as a recitalist and recording artist. She has sung in ten countries and has over forty operatic roles to her credit.

Operatic roles include Isabella – *L'Italiana in Algeri*, Angelina – *La Cenerentola*, Rosina – *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, Jo – *Little Women* (Australian Premiere), Cherubino – *Le Nozze di Figaro* (Green Room Award Nomination), 2nd/3rd Ladies – *Die Zauberflöte*, Dorabella – *Così fan Tutte*, Bradamante – *Alcina*, Sesto – *Giulio Cesare*, Amastri – *Xerxes*, Juno/Ino – *Semele*, Lucienne – *Die Tote Stadt*, Mistress Quickly – *Falstaff*, Suzuki – *Madama Butterfly*, Dido – *Dido & Aeneas*, Stephano – *Romeo & Juliet*, Mallika – *Lakmé* and Hansel – *Hansel and Gretel*.



Sally-Anne's DVDs/CD's include – *Enchanting* – solo disc of operatic arias, Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* (2005 Listeners Choice ARIA Award), *Bach Arias and Duets* (ARIA Nominated), *Mozart Requiem*, *Top 100 ABC Concert Gala*, *Handel's Semele*, *Vivaldi's Juditha Triumphans* and *Purcell's Fairy Queen*, *Opera Australia's Golden Jubilee DVD*, *Swoon DVD*, *Opera Australia 50th Anniversary DVD* (all ABC Classics), *Prokofiev's Love for Three Oranges* (Chandos) and *The No.1 Classical Album 2007 and 2009* (Decca).

For the 2008-09-10 seasons, appearances include Suzuki in *Madama Butterfly* for Opera Australia, Nicklausse and the Muse in *Tales of Hoffmann* for State Opera of South Australia, Dido in *Dido and Aeneas*, Rosina in *Barber Of Seville*, *Handel's Belshazzar*, *Berlioz's Nuits d'Été*, concerts for Brisbane Festival, *Musica Viva*, Australian String Quartet, Sydney and Melbourne Philharmonia, Melbourne, West Australian, Tasmania and Adelaide Symphonies, Coriole Festival, Orchestra Victoria, Melbourne Recital Centre, Opera In The Vineyards, New South Wales Art Gallery, Tobin Stoke's World Premiere of *Nootka* and *Bacalov's Misa Tango* in Canada and a ninth season as resident mezzo-soprano soloist at the Carmel Bach Festival in California. Future performances include *La Sonnabula* for State Opera of SA, *Falstaff* for West Australian Opera, *Beethoven's 9th Symphony* and *Messiah* with Melbourne Symphony and *Bach's Magnificat* with Adelaide Symphony.

Phillipa Candy is a highly respected professional musician. Her versatility has seen her work as an accompanist, conductor, pianist, private teacher, college teacher, répétiteur, and vocal coach.

In the United States she performed regularly in Philadelphia. In Australia she has performed in Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra and other regional areas.

She has been awarded various prizes in Australia and the United States for performances and academic excellence. She furthered her study in vocal accompaniment with the late Geoffrey Parsons in London.

She first toured with *Musica Viva* in 1988 as founding pianist with the group



Austral Skies. Now she is touring with Louise Page in the *Nellie Melba: Queen of Song* show.

After returning to Australia, Phillipa formed an artistic partnership with soprano Louise Page to promote and foster art song. They have produced CDs of varying genres including *Louise Page sings Richard Strauss*, *Eternity – The Song Cycles of Erich Korngold*, *The Magic of Operetta*, two song cycles by Australian composer Ann Carr-Boyd and *Looking to the Light* (Christmas songs).

Phillipa was Musical Director and Conductor for Canberra City Opera seasons, which included *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Trial by Jury* and *Some Enchanted Evening*. She conducted the Harmonie German Choir for nine years.

She has performed for a number of ABC *Sunday Live* broadcasts with Louise Page and also with flautist Teresa Rabe. In March 2011 she will team up with mezzo-soprano Sally-Anne Russell for a recital featuring works by Turina, Brahms, and Copland.

Phillipa is Vice-President of the Music Teachers Association, Canberra Branch. She is currently working part-time as a vocal coach in the Vocal Department at the Australian National University, in addition to her private practice.

Sunday 8th May LOVERS OF SONG

3pm, Wesley Music Centre, National Circuit, Forrest

Cherie Dryburgh, Sigrid Miech and Madeleine Rowland (sopranos), Ewan (tenor) and Colin Forbes (piano)

A recital of varied art song by singers who have developed their art through sheer love of singing, guided and developed by Canberra's teachers of singing. Past recitals of this kind have been very popular. This one, too, is sure to delight.

Cherie Dryburgh was born in Canberra and has studied classical singing both in Canberra and in Brisbane. She is currently studying with Angela Giblin and is also in her third year of a Bachelor of Education degree course in Primary Teaching at the University of Canberra.



Cherie's primary school teachers encouraged her to learn more about music and singing. She auditioned for the Woden Valley Youth Choir; she sang in the Junior Choir under the direction of Norma Mackay and later the Senior Choir under the direction of Alpha Gregory. Performances took place in Canberra and interstate but most memorably for Nelson Mandela at Llewellyn Hall, and for the Queen at the Australian War Memorial. Her first solo performance with the choir was in a Remembrance Day ceremony also at the War Memorial. At this time Cherie began private voice lessons with Norma Mackay for eight years, competing annually in the Australian National Eisteddfod and in interstate eisteddfods where she entered solo, championship and duet events. She was awarded the Joan Ford Scholarship for outstanding performance in Cowra in 2004 and the Goulburn Eisteddfod Scholarship in 2005.

Cherie performed with the Canberra Philharmonic Society in the chorus of *Les Misérables* and as one of the younger daughters in *Fiddler on the Roof*. She studied drama and music throughout high school and college. Majoring in these subjects in years 11 and 12 at St Clare's College, she was awarded a Certificate of Excellence in Arts. Throughout her school years Cherie took Jazz and Hip-Hop at the Helen Poulos Dance Academy and also became the host of a children's holiday show *Plaza Platypus*.

Cherie auditioned successfully for a Winter Workshop at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music in 2005. She continued her voice lessons in Brisbane under the tuition of Adele Nisbet of Queensland Conservatorium. She studied Ballroom Dancing at Orchard's Dance Academy where she completed examinations in Latin Ballroom. In 2007 Cherie returned to Canberra to complete her Bachelor of Education degree course.

Cherie recently sang the role of The Ghost of a Girl in *The Gifts of the Furies* by Glenda Cloughley, under the musical direction of Johanna McBride at Old Parliament House.

Sigrid Miech developed her love of opera by listening to recordings of Puccini and Verdi at an early age. She has studied singing with David Reedy since 2006. David teaches the Italian *bel canto* method of singing and has introduced Sigrid to the great *bel canto* operas of Bellini, Donizetti and Rossini.



Sigrid also has regular vocal coaching with Colin Forbes who is also her accompanist. Colin and David work closely together and often conduct joint master classes for their students. Their constructive criticism and professional advice has helped Sigrid's development as a singer. Sigrid has appeared in many of Colin's concerts staged by the Canberra Academy of Music and related Arts. Recently she performed in the successful 'A Month of Sundays' recital series.

Sigrid studied flute throughout her childhood and gained her A.Mus.A. Singing is now her core study and she has attained the Intermediate and Advanced Certificates in the Trinity Guildhall London examinations. She is currently working towards her Associate (ATCL).

Sigrid appeared in the chorus of the South East Regional Touring Company's productions of *La Bohème*, *Tosca* and *The Marriage of Figaro*. She appears regularly in eisteddfods and hopes to undertake study overseas, preferably in America in 2012. It is Sigrid's dream to become an opera singer one day.

Madeleine Rowland has been studying singing with Patricia Whitbread for over ten years. Her love of singing has led her to perform as both a soloist and chorus member in musicals, operettas and oratorios.

In 2010 Madeleine gave a recital in Canberra Academy of Music and Related Arts (CAMRA)'s *A Month of Sundays* recital series.

Also for CAMRA, Madeleine performed the role of Second Woman in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*. Other roles included Barbarina in Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* and Rosie in the musical *Bye Bye Birdie*. She also appeared in the chorus of Queanbeyan Players' production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Gondoliers* and is a regular member of Canberra Opera Chorus for the Melbourne Opera when they tour to Canberra.



Now that Madeleine has completed her Arts (Hons.)/Law degree she is pleased to take some time off to focus on singing. During 2011 Madeleine will study with tenor, Stephen Anthony Brown in London and take up the position of Associate Singing Teacher at CAMRA. Madeleine takes great pleasure from teaching singing to a number of adorable children and adult beginners.

Ewan began his musical training at 5½, with piano lessons under Jennifer Filby (founder of the Rosny Children's Choir). At high school he dabbled with clarinets and saxophones of different sizes until he settled on bassoon which he played professionally.

In his twenties, Ewan sang in several chamber choirs and ensembles for concerts, film and CDs. He recorded with the rock band TISM on their album *Machiavelli and the Four Seasons* which later went platinum.

Since moving to Canberra in 1997 Ewan has been working in theatre, with 700 performances in 100 shows. He has worked with all of Canberra's major musical theatre companies variously as Music Director, keyboardist, bassoonist, singer, audition repetiteur, arranger, orchestrator and sequencer, lighting designer, audio designer and stage manager.



Ewan's interest in classical voice began when he stage-managed four operas performed at the ANU School of Music – *The Merry Widow*, *L'enfant et les sortilèges*, *The Impresario*, and *Die Fledermaus*. This led to him studying voice with Angela Gibling. He has since sung in *La Traviata*, *Tosca* and *Dido and Aeneas*, as well as concert performances at Old Parliament House, Llewellyn Hall and University House.

In 2009, Ewan began a Bachelor of Music degree course in composition at the ANU School of Music, studying with Jim Cotter and Larry Sitsky. He has composed the music for *Pinocchio* (Playing Out Back/ChildPlayers) and much of the music for *Arcadia* (Canberra Repertory). He is now in his third year and intends to continue on to post-graduate study, specialising in Aural and Theory Pedagogy.

Colin Forbes graduated from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. He became Lecturer in Piano at the Conservatorium and pianist and percussionist with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. He later joined the Australian Opera as a répétiteur and has also worked with other leading concert organisations including the Australian Chamber Orchestra, Synergy and the Australia Ensemble.



A study tour of Germany took Colin to the Essen Hochschule to study piano with Paul Badura Skoda. Colin subsequently taught and performed in Germany. On returning to Australia he became Head of Keyboard at Ascham School in Sydney. He moved to Canberra in 1992 to take up the position of répétiteur at the Canberra School of Music. Colin gave sonata recitals with the violinist Erich Binder (Concert Master of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra) on both of his visits to Australia.

In 1997 Colin helped to establish the Canberra Academy of Music and Related Arts, where he is currently Artistic Director and principal piano teacher. Under CAMRA's auspices, Colin has performed the complete piano sonatas of Mozart, prepared the music and staging of award winning productions of several Gilbert and Sullivan operettas, *The Beggar's Opera*, the liturgical opera *Ordo Virtutum* by Hildegard von Bingen, and Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*.

Colin has given many concerts in Canberra as both soloist and accompanist. In association with St Philip's Church, he has prepared and conducted numerous orchestral masses and directed performances of Handel's *Messiah* and Bach's *St John Passion*.

In November 2008, Colin gave a recital of piano works by Ludwig van Beethoven in memory of the Rev. Rob Lamerton, rector of St Philip's and long-time friend of CAMRA. Colin played Beethoven's *Rondo in G Op.5 no.2*, *Polonaise Op.89* and *Sonata no.4 in E flat*.

Sunday 26th June

FIRE AND ICE

3pm, Wesley Music Centre, National Circuit, Forrest

Christina Wilson (mezzo-soprano) and Alan Hicks (piano)

Inflamed with passion? Burning with desire? Suffering the pain of unrequited love or the desolation of loss? Come on a musical and poetic journey through the ages in songs that explore the elemental nature of love. From barren wintry landscapes to warm vibrant summer days, this program will include a range of composers, styles and languages, all inspired to express the depth of human emotion mirrored in the world around us.



Christina Wilson has appeared in performances throughout the UK, Europe, the USA and Australia. She won most of the major prizes at the 1990 Australian Singing Competition, including the prestigious Marianne Mathy Award. She is a graduate of the Canberra School of Music, where she was awarded the Friend's Prize for most outstanding graduate, the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester and the National Opera Studio, London. Currently, she teaches voice at the Australian National University.

She has been a soloist in Handel's *Messiah* at the Royal Albert Hall under Sir David Willcocks and at London House under Sir Richard Bonyngé. In 2000 she was invited to sing in "A Service for Australia", in the presence of HM the Queen at Westminster Abbey. In the same year she made her Wigmore



Hall debut. Christina has also appeared at the Paris Conservatoire, Canterbury Cathedral, The Temple Square and St. Johns Smith Square.

In opera, Christina has performed the roles of *Carmen*, *Cenerentola*, *Rosina*, *Cherubino*, *Dido*, *Dorabella* and *Clitemnestre* for companies such as the State Opera of South Australia, Wexford Festival Opera, The Mananan International Festival, Belfast Opera and Glyndebourne Festival Opera. Most recently she sang in the world premiere concert performance of Rautavaara's *Gift of the Magi*.

Since her return to Australia in 2003 she has been broadcast on ABC FM's "Sunday Live", presented recitals for Art Song Canberra, the University of Newcastle Conservatorium, the ANU School of Music, and has appeared as a soloist with the Canberra Symphony Orchestra, Melbourne Opera, Stopera, the Canberra Choral Society, SCUNA, the Oriana Chorale, the Beethoven Society, the National Capital Orchestra, the Melbourne Welsh Male Voice Choir, and at the 2009 and 2010 Canberra International Music Festival.

Alan Hicks is a graduate of the Newcastle Conservatorium of Music (DSCM piano and flute) and the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester (PPRNCM). He was appointed Junior Fellow in Accompaniment at the RNCM in 1992 and subsequently joined the staff as Accompanist and Tutor in Piano. Alan spent eight years as a freelance pianist and teacher in London. He coached vocal repertoire for two years at the City Literary Institute before returning to Australia in 2003. Alan has appeared at major London venues including the Wigmore Hall, Purcell Room and St John's Smith Square. His CD recording with Kate Romano, *20th 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 Voice at the ANU School of Music, one of the fastest growing voice departments in Australia. Recent opera productions by the School of Music in collaboration with The Street Theatre have included the world premieres of Joshua McHugh's *Grimm and the Blue Crown Owl*, and of Geoffrey Lancaster's restoration of Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*. Voice students appeared in a world premiere concert performance of Rautavaara's *Gift of the Magi* at the 2010 Canberra International Music Festival.

In 2011 Alan will appear in duo partnerships with Alan Vivian for ABC Classic FM Sunday Live, and with Geoffrey Lancaster for the Canberra International Music Festival. Alan and his wife Christina Wilson will give masterclasses in English and American song for the *Antonio Salieri*, *Ludwig van Beethoven* and *Anton Bruckner Institutes* in Vienna.

Sunday 21st August

3pm, Wesley Music Centre, National Circuit, Forrest

CANCELLED OWING TO SINGER'S ILLNESS: WORKS OF GENIUS – THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SONGS FROM THE GREAT COMPOSERS

Christopher Saunders (tenor) and Berta Brozgul (piano)

Hear some of Mozart's and Beethoven's most beautiful Lieder as well as Schubert's Serenade and Night and Dreams. Be deeply touched by Schumann's Dedication to his beloved Clara.

See next page ...



REPLACEMENT CONCERT:

Rohan Thatcher (baritone), Rachael Thoms (soprano), Luke Sweeting (piano) and Alan Hicks (piano)

Songs by George Butterworth, Gerald Finzi and Richard Strauss. Jazz piano pieces by Luke Sweeting, Hoagy Carmichael and Duke Ellington

Rohan Thatcher has a Bachelor of Music degree and has undertaken continuing studies in Opera at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. He made some forays into the Theatre, joining a professional Sydney-based theatre company, "Version 1.0", in the years 2000-2002 producing and performing several new works for the stage.

Rohan was awarded the Mieta's of Melbourne "Robert Stoltz Society prize" for best young singer (2000), the Australian Singing Competition's "Paul and Helena Haas encouragement award" (1997) and was winner of the inaugural A.N.A.T.S. Singers award in 1997. Rohan has been a national finalist in the Opera Foundation of Australia's Covent Garden National Opera studio scholarship and the German Operatic Award.

Notable performances include three solo recital broadcasts for ABC Classic FM and several seasons as a regular bass soloist for the Radio Community Chest's annual Handel's "Messiah" in the Sydney Town Hall. Rohan has been a featured artist at Australian Music week, the Sydney Bach festival, and on Sydney's 2MBS-FM. He has appeared as a soloist and chorister with Opera Australia, OzOpera, Pacific Opera and Hunter Opera performing roles such as Count Almaviva, Don Giovanni, Escamillo, Shaunard, Prince Yamadori and the Bonze.

A recent arrival in Canberra, Rohan teaches singing at the ANU School of Music and at University of Canberra.

Luke Sweeting is a highly skilled improvising pianist with a keen ear on the musical arts; in particular contemporary jazz. Luke has been performing and composing music for all sorts of small and large ensembles and is establishing himself as a performer, composer and arranger of high calibre. His interest lies in collaborating with other fine musicians to birth new and exciting music.

Luke is a lecturer and tutor at the ANU School of Music in pre-tertiary jazz studies. He holds Master and Bachelor Degrees in Jazz Piano Performance from the ANU and last year was awarded first prize in the Sprogis Woods Composition Competition.

Luke has performed at the Shanghai World Expo, the Magnetic Island Tropical Jazz Festival, the opening of the 2010 Canberra International Music Festival and the opening the National Portrait Gallery with Don Burrows. He has been commissioned by the National Film and Sound Archive to perform for famous silent films. Artists Luke has performed with and supported include: George Benson, 20th Century Dog, Zoe and the Buttercups, Miroslav Bukovsky, Sandy Evans, Jamie Oehlers, Don Burrows and many others. Luke released the album 'Change' with the Rafael Jerjen Quartet in 2009. His album of originals with Rachael Thoms - The Great Unknown will be released in September 2011.

Rachael Thoms is a versatile and seasoned performer, as comfortable singing opera as she is fronting a jazz band or tramping the boards in musical theatre. She is the recipient of the 2011 Canberra International Music Festival Young Performer award and is currently completing her Honours year, studying voice at the ANU School of Music. Rachael completed her BMus Jazz Performance in 2010 and now teaches voice in both Jazz and Classical faculties of the School of Music for pre-tertiary and non-voice major students. She was selected for the top 100 finalists, selected from over 2000 singers Australia wide, in ABC's OPERATUNITY OZ and has since coached with Simon Kenway, David Miller, and Sharolyn Kimmorley. During her time at ANU, Rachael has had the great fortune to study with Christina Wilson, Alan Hicks, Vince Jones, Kristin Berardi, Mike Price, Miroslav Bukovsky, and a host of other great teachers and performers, as well as attending master-classes with OzOpera, Tessa Bremner, Stephen Delaney (Vienna), John Gordon (USA), Don Byron (USA), Steve Magnusson, Matt McMahon, and Sandy Evans.

Rachael has appeared in concert with the Song Company and Roland Peelman, Lisa Moore, Pascal and Ami Roge, George Benson, Vince Jones, Rob Guest, Lior, Kamahl, Miroslav Bukovsky, Bill Risby and Matt Baker.

Rachael is set to release her debut jazz album *The Great Unknown* with Luke Sweeting on the 8th of September 2011. To find out more visit: <https://www.facebook.com/rachaelthomslukesweetingduo> or speak to Rachael and Luke after today's concert. You can pre-order Rachael and Luke's CD today or at their website: <http://rachaelthomslukesweeting.bandcamp.com/>

Alan Hicks is one of Australia's foremost vocal coaches and accompanists. As Head of Voice at the ANU School of Music he is responsible for an exciting and innovative program which provides voice students with high-level performance opportunities at embassies and consular venues throughout Canberra (in collaboration with the Friends of Opera), at Wesley Music Centre through the Wesley Music Scholarships and the Wednesday Lunchtime Live series, at the Street Theatre in fully staged operatic productions and at the Canberra International Music Festival. Recent highlights include the 2009 CAT award-winning world premiere of Grimm and the Blue Crown Owl by Joshua McHugh, last year's Canberra Critics Circle award-winning production of Purcell's Dido and Aeneas with Caroline Stacey and Geoffrey Lancaster (Street Theatre and ANU School of Music), and a concert for CIMF at the Australian War Memorial given by the Song Company with ANU voice students conducted by Roland Peelman.

Alan is in demand as a recitalist with national and international artists. He performs regularly in duo partnership with Alan Vivian (Clarinet Ballistix on ABC TV and ABC Sunday Live), and in fortepiano duo with Geoffrey Lancaster (Canberra International Music Festivals 2009-2011).

In January this year, Alan and his wife Christina Wilson gave workshops on English and American song at the Universitat fur Musik und Darstellende Kunst in Vienna.

Sunday 25th September

BEST OF BRITISH

3pm, Wesley Music Centre, National Circuit, Forrest

Rebecca Ryan (soprano) and Anthony Smith (piano)

Be transported back to Britain by evocative music from the peak of British 20th-century art song such as Benjamin Britten's *On This Island*, Michael Head's *Over The Rim of the Moon*, Richard Rodney Bennett's *Dream Songs*, Thea Musgrave's *A Suite O' Bairnsongs* and Roger Quilter's *Seven Elizabethan Lyrics*.

Rebecca Ryan came to international prominence when she gave the UK première of the newly-discovered *Gloria by Handel at London's Royal Academy of Music* conducted by Nicholas McGegan. Born in New Zealand, she graduated with a First Class Honours Degree in Music from the University of Otago before moving to London where she studied at the Royal Academy of Music with Penelope Mackay. This year Rebecca was awarded an Associateship of the Royal Academy of Music (ARAM). Until recently she was an Associate Artist with the Classical Opera Company in London and is a recipient of an Independent Opera at Sadler's Wells' Voice Fellowship enabling her to continue advanced study with Dame Anne Evans.



Concert engagements have included performances with the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra, the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra, Bath Philharmonia, City of London Sinfonia, London Soloists' Chamber Orchestra, RTÉ Concert Orchestra and RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra, in a repertoire including Canteloube *Songs of the Auvergne*, Haydn *Creation*, Mahler *Symphony No. 8*, Mozart *Exsultate Jubilate*, *Mass in C Minor* and *Requiem*, Pergolesi *Stabat Mater*, Poulenc *Stabat Mater* and Tippett *A Child of Our Time*, as well as many oratorios by J. S. Bach, Handel and concert arias by Mozart. Operatic roles include Dorotea in *Don Chischiotte in Sierra Morena* for Musikwerkstatt Wien, Olympia / Giulietta / Antonia / Stella in *The Tales of Hoffmann* for Mid Wales Opera, Lidka in *The Two Widows* for Scottish Opera and Heavenly Voice in *Don Carlos* for Opera North, Micaëla in *Carmen* for University of Otago Opera (New Zealand), in concert with the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra and RTÉ Concert Orchestra, Blonde in *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, Pamina in *The Magic Flute*, Elvira in *The Italian Girl in Algiers* and Nannetta in *Falstaff* for Opera Project, Angelica in *Orlando* for Independent

Opera at Sadler's Wells (a role she also covered for London's Royal Opera) and in concert at the Wigmore Hall, Fauno in *Ascanio in Alba*, Cherubino in *Le nozze di Figaro* and Barmherzigkeit in *Die Schuldigkeit des Ersten Gebotes (The First Commandment)* for Classical Opera Company, Mme. Silberklang in *Der Schauspieldirektor* for Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra, as well as Opera Galas for Castleward Opera, Belfast.

Her recordings include Handel's *Silente venti* for Naxos, Heavenly Voice in *Don Carlos* for Chandos, *Ch'io mi scordi di te* (with Barry Douglas) for RTÉ TV's *The Symphony Sessions* and *Exsultate Jubilate* for RTÉ TV's *The Mozart Sessions*. Current season engagements include Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte* for Southern Opera, Christchurch, Haydn's *Nelson Mass* and the Proms for Southern Sinfonia, Dunedin, *St Matthew Passion* for Auckland Philharmonia, Margiana in *The Barber of Baghdad* and Iliia in *Idomeneo* (arranged by Strauss) for the Buxton Festival and La Musica / Euridice in *L'Orfeo* for Opera Otago, Dunedin.

"...a rich and accurate soprano, with a remarkable evenness of tone throughout its considerable range...Ms Ryan carried off the first movement's semi-quavers with almost arrogant ease and astonishing breath control." Handel: *Gloria* (Royal Academy of Music). *Evening Standard* (London)

"...Rebecca Ryan was most impressive. Her Olympia had clock-work precision both in the mechanics of the doll's movements and her showy coloratura. As Antonia, she produced a richer overall sound but always with a lovely ring at the top and with a touching ebb and flow of her breathing to reflect the illness with which Antonia is afflicted. Finally, her Giulietta was also seductively done. Achieving such a degree of differentiation and tone-colour in all roles marked out Ryan as a singer of considerable potential." *Four Heroines: The Tales of Hoffmann* (Mid Wales Opera). *Opera* (UK)

"Ryan has immense vocal potential in the grander Handel roles and Mozart: I could imagine her as a thrilling Fiordiligi or even Donna Anna in a few years time." Angelica: *Orlando* (Independent Opera at Sadler's Wells). *Opera* (UK)

Anthony Smith has performed in Australia, England, Germany, New Caledonia, New Zealand, the USA and Sweden.

In addition to his accompaniment work for the ANU School of Music, he performs with choirs, ensembles and instrumentalists throughout the Canberra region.

In December 2004 he released the CD, *A Year in Paris*, with clarinettist Nicole Canham on the Move label. Anthony made his concerto debut in July 2005, playing Schumann's *Piano Concerto in A Minor* with the National Capital Orchestra. He was soloist in Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy* with Canberra Choral Society in May 2008.



In July 2007 Anthony gave a recital in conjunction with the National Gallery of Australia (NGA) retrospective of the artist George W. Lambert. This recital included the *Piano Sonata* of Constant Lambert (the artist's son). Anthony's continuing interest in the life and works of Constant Lambert is the focus of his current Ph.D. candidature at ANU which commenced in February 2008.

In July 2009 Anthony attended the Sixth International Conference on *Music Since 1900* at Keele University, Staffordshire, England, where he presented a paper on Lambert and ragtime. In August 2009 Anthony gave a recital of works by Berg, Dale and Rachmaninoff in conjunction with the NGA Frederick McCubbin exhibition. Anthony has also composed music for theatre. Together with Maïke Brill, Anthony wrote *The Will to Freedom*, a music-theatre work that premièred under the direction of Joanne Schultz at The Street Theatre, Canberra in August 2010 as part of its 'Made in Canberra' series of independent theatre and music-theatre works.

Sunday 30th October OF SUNSHINE AND DREAMS

3pm, Wesley Music Centre, National Circuit, Forrest

Louise Page (soprano) and Phillipa Candy (piano)

The sun creates such a feeling of languid, soporific ease. Half-dreams abound and desire surrounds us. Turina's *Cantos a Sevilla* and the songs of Korngold, Keats and Alma Schindler-Mahler will intoxicate with their warmth and passion.

Louise Page is one of Australia's most highly regarded singers, appearing in opera, operetta, oratorio, cabaret, recital and broadcasts. Her vocal talent has been widely acclaimed, as winner of the inaugural *Mietta's Song Recital Competition*, the vocal grand final of the *ABC Young Performer of the Year Award*, the *Robert Stolz/Apex* scholarship to Vienna and the Belgian Radio and Television *Opera en Bel Canto* Prize. She has performed throughout Europe, including roles at the Vienna State Opera as a member of the young artist program.



Now based in Canberra, Louise divides her time between performance and teaching voice at the Australian National University School of Music. She performs regularly in Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra and regional areas. Louise has been a soloist with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, the Queensland Orchestra, the Canberra Symphony Orchestra, the Central Coast Symphony Orchestra and the National Capital Orchestra. She appears in recital for many organizations including Musica Viva and has on several occasions been a featured artist for the ABC's *Sunday Live* national broadcasts.

In 2007 Louise received a Canberra Critics Circle Award for music. In the same year she was recognized with the *Canberra Times* Artist of the Year award, in particular for her presentation *Nellie Melba: Queen of Song* which was devised for and performed in the Canberra International Music Festival that year. With accompanist Phillipa Candy she has recorded six CDs of music varying from Lieder to operetta, premieres of Australian music and Christmas songs.

Phillipa Candy is a highly respected professional musician. Her versatility has seen her work as an accompanist, conductor, pianist, private teacher, college teacher, repetiteur, and vocal coach.

In the United States she performed regularly in Philadelphia. In Australia she has performed in Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra and other regional areas.

She has been awarded various prizes in Australia and the United States for performances and academic excellence. She furthered her study in vocal accompaniment with the late Geoffrey Parsons in London.

She first toured with Musica Viva in 1988 as founding pianist with the group Austral Skies. Now she is touring with Louise Page in the *Nellie Melba: Queen of Song* show.



After returning to Australia, Phillipa formed an artistic partnership with soprano Louise Page to promote and foster art song. They have produced CDs of varying genres including *Louise Page sings Richard Strauss, Eternity – The Song Cycles of Erich Korngold, The Magic of Operetta*, two song cycles by Australian composer Ann Carr-Boyd and *Looking to the Light* (Christmas songs).

Phillipa was Musical Director and Conductor for Canberra City Opera seasons, which included *The Marriage of Figaro, Trial by Jury* and *Some Enchanted Evening*. She conducted the Harmonie German Choir for nine years.

She has performed for a number of ABC *Sunday Live* broadcasts with Louise Page and also with flautist Teresa Rabe. In March 2011 she will team up with mezzo-soprano Sally-Anne Russell for a recital featuring works by Turina, Brahms, and Copland.

Phillipa is Vice-President of the Music Teachers Association, Canberra Branch. She is currently working part-time as a vocal coach in the Vocal Department at the Australian National University, in addition to her private practice.
