



Art Song Canberra Inc.

[www.artsongcanberra.org](http://www.artsongcanberra.org)

## SEASON OF SONG 2012

In 2012 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 was founded as the A.C.T. Lieder Society in 1976 by a small group of devotees 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 2012*;
- 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.

In each year of its life the society has presented a series of recitals which some years ago came to be known as the **Season of Song**. Most of the society's artists have been highly accomplished both in Australia and internationally. They have included such noted Australians as Eleanor Houston, Michael Martin, Sally-Anne Russell, Greta Bradman, Tobias Cole, Christopher Allan, Louise Page and Christina Wilson. Overseas-based artists have included Susan Burghardt (USA), Tanya Aspelmeier, Knut Schoch and Australian Sally Wilson (Germany), Rebecca Ryan (New Zealand) and Thomas Weinhappel (Austria). Pianists have included (from Australia) Andrew Greene, David Miller AM, Leigh Harrold, Phillipa Candy, Alan Hicks, Margaret Legge-Wilkinson, Nigel Butterley and Darryl Coote. Overseas-based pianists have included Roy Howat (UK) and Australians Mark Kruger (Germany) and Stephen Delaney (Austria). Recital programs have ranged widely from such classics of the Lieder repertoire as song cycles of Schubert and Schumann to fine art song by an immense variety of composers including contemporary Australian Nigel Butterley.

### Season of Song 2012

*Season of Song 2012* will begin in February with a recital in which Canberra artists Jeremy Tatchell and Elena Nikulina will perform the great Schubert cycle, *Winterreise*. Ben Connor and Sonia Anfiloff will return to Canberra from Vienna to give a recital with Alan Hicks; Ben and Alan gave a recital for Art Song Canberra in 2010. In June, 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. Canberra artists Rachael Duncan, who gave a recital in *Season of Song 2009*, and Penelope Cashman (prize-winning ANU music graduate, now based in Austria) will appear in July. In September German soprano Birgid Steinberger and Australian pianist Stephen Delaney will visit from Vienna. Louise Page and Phillipa Candy, an art song duo without peer in Australia and well-known and -loved by Art Song Canberra audiences in particular, will give return in October. *Season of Song 2012* will conclude with a concert given by highly-accomplished soprano Helen Barnett with leading accompanist David Miller AM.

**High-resolution pictures are available from the press kit page of [www.artsongcanberra.org](http://www.artsongcanberra.org)**

**Admission to the concerts** includes a complimentary program and light refreshments: Full price \$35; Seniors, pensioners, Friends of ArtSound FM, Friends of Wesley Music and Musica Viva subscribers \$30; Art Song Canberra members \$25; Full-time students \$15.

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February**

## **WINTER JOURNEY**

3pm, Wesley Music Centre, National Circuit, Forrest

### **Jeremy Tatchell (baritone) and Elena Nikulina (piano)**

*Winterreise* (Winter Journey), a setting of 24 poems by Wilhelm Müller, is arguably one of two cycles by Franz Schubert which occupy the foremost place in the history of art song. The songs represent the voice of the poet as the lover and form a distinct narrative and dramatic sequence. In the course of the cycle the poet, whose beloved now fancies someone else, leaves his beloved's house secretly at night, quits the town and follows the river and the steep ways to a village. Having longed for death, he is at last reconciled to his loneliness. The cold, darkness, and barren winter landscape mirror the feelings in his heart and he encounters various people and things along the way which form the subject of the successive songs during his lonely journey. It is in fact an allegorical journey of the heart. (Extracted from Wikipedia)

**Jeremy Tatchell** was born in New Zealand. He graduated with a Bachelor of Music degree in both viola and voice performance from the ANU School of Music in 2001.

Since 2003 Jeremy has worked and toured extensively with the Adelaide-based company Co-Opera, performing a diverse number of roles throughout Australia, Malaysia, Singapore, Germany and Switzerland including Count Almaviva (*Le nozze di Figaro*), Marcello & Colline (*La Bohème*), Papageno, Speaker & 2<sup>nd</sup> Armed Man (*Die Zauberflöte*), Germont and Baron Douphol (*La traviata*), Fred/Petruccio (*Kiss Me Kate*), Leporello, Masetto and Commendatore (*Don Giovanni*), Falke and Blind (*Die Fledermaus*), Tonio (*Il pagliacci*) and Zuniga (*Carmen*). Roles with other companies include Don Alfonso and Guglielmo (*Così fan tutte*), Figaro (*Marriage of Figaro*), Mr Gedge (*Albert Herring*) and Aeneas (*Dido and Aeneas*).



Jeremy's oratorio and recital repertoire includes J.S. Bach's *Passions of St Matthew and St John*, *Magnificat*, *B Minor Mass* and his *Cantatas for Bass BWV 56, 82 & 158*, Stravinsky's *Les Noces* and *Mass*, Vaughan Williams' *Five Mystical Songs* and *Fantasia on Christmas Carols*, Fauré's *Requiem*, Handel's *Messiah* and *Israel in Egypt*, Haydn's *Creation*, Purcell's *Come, ye Sons of Art* and Schumann's *Liederkreis Op.39*.

2011 saw Jeremy make his debut for the State Opera of South Australia Chorus and 2012 will see Jeremy recap the role of Count Almaviva for Co-Opera's international tour to the Wiesbaden Maifestspiele in Germany.

**Elena Nikulina** is a classically trained pianist, having graduated in 1999 from the Donetsk State Conservatoire, Ukraine. At the Conservatoire she was winner of the 'Best Accompanist Competition' and selected to represent the Ukraine as a member of the piano ensemble at the Musical Competition in Pavia, Italy. While in Donetsk Elena was concertmaster to the Donetsk Academy Musical Theatre, the Students' Cellist Ensemble and the Ballet Troupe of the Donetsk Academy Musical Theatre. She was also a founder member of the Viola Chamber Trio.



Elena's repertoire is wide-ranging from classical concertos, sonatas, operas, arias and romances to the modern style. She has performed in the Ukraine, Syria, United Arab Emirates and Bahrain as a solo and four-hand pianist. She has extensive experience as an accompanist working with opera singers, choirs and a range of musicians who have included cellists, flautists, violinists and trumpeters. Since moving to Canberra in 2006 Elena has performed as a soloist and accompanist at eisteddfods, competitions, examinations and latterly with Jeremy Tatchell in his accomplished performance of Schumann's *Liederkreis Op 39*.

Elena is a dedicated piano teacher and has prepared students for the Ukrainian national standard examination level, the Royal School of Music, London and the Australian Music Examination Board (AMEB) examination requirements up to LMusA.

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**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April**

## **HOLLYWOOD'S ROMANTICS**

3pm, Wesley Music Centre, National Circuit, Forrest

### **Ben Connor (baritone), Sonia Anfiloff (soprano) and Alan Hicks (piano)**

From their symphonies to their film scores, the great Romantics have given Hollywood movies an emotional aspect that could not be achieved without their sense of drama, tragedy and, of course, romance. Not only did these incredible composers write for the stage and screen but also for the soul, using poetry in lyrical song that has often been overshadowed by their more major works. Strauss, Korngold and Copland are just a few great romantic composers that helped shape the sound of Hollywood but also wrote in a more personal way using life's journeys to create songs for all to reflect on.

**Ben Connor** graduated in 2009 with a Master's degree in classical voice from the ANU School of Music where he was the recipient of the Harmony Endowment Postgraduate Scholarship. In September 2010 he moved to Vienna to continue his vocal development as a student in the Opera department of the Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst. As part of his studies he has performed in many Operszenen-Abende (Opera scene evenings) and the role of Il Conte in *Le nozze di Figaro* performed at Schloß Schönbrunn. In 2011 he won the Richard Wagner Stipendium Bayreuth prize in the Klassik Mania competition (Austria), was a finalist in the Ada Sari International Voice Competition (Poland) and received a full scholarship for and participated in the Academia Vocalis Master Class with KS Prof. Christa Ludwig. His concert performances included a recital in Estonia as part of the Ooper reakojas festival and Willkommen Sommer for the 3. Bezirksfestwochen in Vienna.



In Australia Ben made his professional stage debut in the Street Theatre's 2009 production of *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris* and has performed on numerous occasions in many of Canberra's events including the roles of Fiorello in Melbourne Opera's Canberra performance of *The Barber of Seville* and as Joel in the Australian Premiere of Rautavaara's *Gift of the Magi* for the Canberra International Music Festival. In 2010 he received first prize in the National Aria Competition at the Australian National Eisteddfod as well as the Open Aria at the Orange Eisteddfod.

Ben's association with Art Song Canberra goes back to 2008 when he was the recipient of the Art Song Canberra Prize at the Australian National Eisteddfod. Following this he gave a solo recital with Alan Hicks on piano in the Season of Song 2010 and is very excited to be continuing this connection as part of their 2012 season.

**Sonia Anfiloff** completed a Master of Music degree in 2010 as the recipient of the Kornfeld Scholarship at the Australian National University, majoring in voice performance, under the tutelage of Christina Wilson and Alan Hicks. In that same year Sonia performed as Dido in ANU's production of Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* and was awarded third prize in the Australian National Eisteddfod Aria Competition. Sonia has had many years of choral experience, has performed around Australia and overseas, and has conducted various choirs in Canberra. She has performed as a soloist in Verdi's *Requiem*, Rachmaninov's *Vespers*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*, Haydn's *Imperial Nelson Mass*, David Fanshawe's *African Sanctus*, Bach's *St Matthew Passion*, Handel's *Messiah* and Brahms' *Ein Deutsches Requiem*. Sonia also performed in all the ANU School of Music operas during her study there; these performances have included the part of *La Zia Principessa* in Puccini's *Suor Angelica*, the *First Lady* in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, *Sly* in the world premiere of *Grimm and the Blue Crown Owl*, written by Josh McHugh, and *Minna* in Rautavaara's *Gift of the Magi*. 2009 marked the beginning of Sonia's touring career, when she revisited her role as a *Dame* in Co-Opera's production of *The Magic Flute*, performing in 35 shows throughout Australia, Germany and Switzerland. Currently living in Vienna, Sonia is furthering her vocal studies with international teachers and coaches.



**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, *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 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 appeared 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 gave masterclasses in English and American song for the *Antonio Salieri, Ludwig van Beethoven and Anton Bruckner Institutes* in Vienna.

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## Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

### LOVERS OF SONG

3pm, Wesley Music Centre, National Circuit, Forrest

**Anna Greenwood (soprano), Jessica Kinsella (soprano) (did not sing), Kirsten Mann (soprano), Veronica Thwaites-Brown (mezzo-soprano) and Colin Forbes (piano)**

A feast of beautiful song including French mélodies such as by Debussy and Satie and songs by Robert Schubert, Antonin Dvorak and Edvard Grieg. Short piano interludes by Satie, Grieg and Schubert will add to the interest and delight.

**Anna Greenwood** has been studying singing in Canberra since her mid-teens. She initially learned from Theresa Rayner and for the past eight years has studied with Patricia Davey. With Pat, Anna has explored a broad repertoire, developing a particular interest in English and French art song. She is a regular competitor in the Singing Division of the Australian National Eisteddfod.



Anna is also often seen on stage with amateur theatre companies in Canberra and the region, working primarily with the Queanbeyan Players and particularly enjoying performing in the operettas of Gilbert and Sullivan. Her roles have included Elsie in *The Yeomen of the Guard*, Josephine in *HMS Pinafore*, Fiametta and Tessa in *The Gondoliers*, Edith in *The Pirates of Penzance*, the title role in *Iolanthe* and Marsinah in *Kismet*.

In between her musical endeavours, Anna works full-time in a senior role for a non-government organisation in the health policy area.

**Kirsten Mann** is delighted to be appearing in her first Art Song Canberra recital. She grew up in Canberra and has been involved in its amateur



singing scene for most of her life. She began her singing training with Lois Bogg and now studies with Margaret Sim. Philosophy and mathematics were Kirsten's majors in a combined Arts/Science degree at the ANU and she was awarded a University Medal in Philosophy. Despite her teenage vow never to follow her parents into the bureaucracy, Kirsten works on climate change policy in the Commonwealth Public Service.

**Veronica Thwaites-Brown** studied music and German at the University of Sydney, graduating in 2001, and has been active as a pianist, singer and choral conductor in Sydney and Canberra since moving here in 2002. Veronica has trained in classical piano since childhood and classical singing since 2006 and is a voice student of Susan Ellis and Christina Wilson. Veronica currently enjoys raising her two delightful children and working part-time teaching music in a Canberra middle school. Previous stage roles have included Tessa in Queanbeyan Players' production of *The Gondoliers* (2010), Cordelia in *King Lear*, Olga in *Three Sisters* (both with papermoon, ANU), The Mother in *Six Characters in Search of an Author* (Sydney University Dramatic Society) and Anna in *The King and I* (North Sydney Girls' High School production). In April 2012, Veronica will appear in the role of Caroline Neville in SUPA Productions' *Titanic*.



**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 repetiteur 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 repetiteur 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*.

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## Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July

### CROSSING THE POND – SONGS FROM BOTH SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC

3pm, Wesley Music Centre, National Circuit, Forrest

#### **Rachael Duncan (soprano) and Penelope Cashman (piano)**

These brilliant Canberra artists will present a varied program of songs combining music and texts from both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. From Britain come the exquisite songs of 17<sup>th</sup>-century Englishman Henry Purcell and Benjamin Britten's well-loved folk song arrangements. Words and music combine across the waters in American composer Dominick Argento's *Six Elizabethan Songs* and Samuel Barber's Op.13. This set of four songs includes the beautiful *Sure on this Shining Night*.

The program concludes with a selection of the quirky and humorous cabaret songs by American William Bolcom.

**Rachael Duncan** is originally from Canberra. She received her Graduate Diploma of Music from the Queensland Conservatorium in Brisbane. During her studies, she joined the chorus of Opera Queensland, with whom she later debuted as Norina and subsequently sang the roles of Ida and Rosina. Moving to London in 1998, she performed with the Wexford Festival Opera in Ireland, London City Opera, Central Festival Opera in Northampton and Kentish Opera. With London City Opera, she toured the USA singing the role of Queen of the Night in their production of *The Magic Flute*.



From 2001 to 2006, Rachael enjoyed five very productive 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*. In Schwerin, Rachael sang Blonde, Oscar, Arsena, Romilda, Gilda, Queen of the Night, Nanetta, and Musetta. For her performances as Gilda and Queen of the Night, Rachael was awarded the Conrad Ekhof Award in 2005 for Outstanding Performances by a young artist, an award given by the Friends of the Mecklenburgisches Staatstheater, Schwerin.

Rachael has also appeared in concerts and oratorio in England, Australia, Germany, Italy, the USA and Fiji Islands.

Rachael returned to Canberra in 2006. Since then she has performed with Stopera and the National Capital Orchestra, was part of a benefit concert with many of the stars of Opera Australia and has given opera workshops at the Street Theatre. She gave a recital for Art Song Canberra in 2009.

**Penelope Cashman** is an Australian collaborative pianist specialising as a vocal accompanist and coach. She has performed in chamber music and song recitals in the Netherlands, Germany, Austria, England and Australia. Penelope was recently awarded her Master's degree with Distinction in Vocal Accompaniment (Lied and Oratorio) at the Konservatorium Wien Privatuniversität, where she studied with Carolyn Hague.



Penelope completed a Bachelor of Music degree with First Class Honours at the Australian National University School of Music in 2002, studying with Susanne Powell. In the final year of her degree, she received the Sir Geoffrey Yeend Honours Year Scholarship and, on graduating, was awarded the Friends of the Canberra School of Music Prize for Most Outstanding Graduate and the University Medal for Music. She then moved to The Netherlands where she commenced studies at the Conservatorium van Amsterdam with Jan Marisse Huizing. She subsequently studied with David Kuyken from 2005 until the completion of her degree in 2008.

During her time in Amsterdam, Penelope developed a strong interest in vocal accompaniment. She took part in song masterclasses in the Netherlands, England and Austria with teachers including Elly Ameling, Julius Drake, Irwin Gage, Wolfgang Holzmaier, Rudolf Jansen, Walter Moore, Michael McMahon, Rudolf Piernay, Wolfram Rieger, Richard Stokes and Sarah Walker.

Since moving to Vienna in 2009, Penelope has been selected for work/study scholarships from the Hugo Breitner-Gesellschaft sponsoring her work playing in vocal studios and operatic rehearsals at the Konservatorium. She is active as a vocal accompanist in auditions, lessons, classes and concerts and has accompanied masterclasses conducted by Bernarda Fink and Michael Schade at the Wiener Musikverein. She has also undertaken courses with Roger Vignoles and Graham Johnson from whose she graduated with distinction. A fluent German-speaker, Penelope undertook a course at the University of Vienna combining linguistic study with that of German and Austrian literature in 2009. In 2011 she was awarded a full scholarship to attend a 5-week summer course of masterclasses, the Franz-Schubert-Institut in Baden bei Wien, where she worked with leading international performers of German song.

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**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August**

## **GLORIOUS LIEDER**

3pm, Wesley Music Centre, National Circuit, Forrest

**Merlyn Quaife (replacing Birgid Steinberger) (soprano) and Stephen Delaney (piano)**

The glorious Lieder composed by Franz Schubert and Richard Strauss mark the beginning and the end of the romantic era in music, one full of great changes and monumental events that formed European society and culture. Schubert's understanding of the human condition, the passionate surges of love in *Rastlose Liebe*, the at once exciting and devastating kiss in *Gretchen am Spinnrade*, the pain of lost love in *Erster Verlust* and the emptiness of betrayal in *Die Liebe hat gelogen* continue to touch and inspire us two centuries later. Richard Strauss' dedication to the genre of Lied is outstanding. Like Schubert he too captures the essence of the human soul, longing and hope as in *Allerseelen* and *Morgen*, but also great humour as heard in *15 Pfennige*. Standing between these two pillars of romanticism is the third genius in this program, Franz Liszt. Well-loved as a composer of great works for the piano, his Lied compositions are most impressive and poetic. His esteem for the great poet Goethe inspired some of his most beautiful songs such as *Über allen Gipfeln ist Ruh* and *Freudvoll und Liedvoll*.

The distinguished soprano **Merlyn Quaife** is a performer of great versatility. She has performed opera, oratorio, Lieder, chamber music and contemporary music to great acclaim throughout Australia and Europe. She has also performed as soloist with the Singapore Symphony and the Voronezh Philharmonic (Russia). She has appeared with all the opera companies in Australia, in roles ranging from the *bel canto* Lucia (*Lucia di Lammermoor*) to the minimalist Chiang Ch'ing (*Nixon in China*). She has performed with all the Symphony Australia orchestras and featured in repertoire of every conceivable style from Handel to Ligeti. Merlyn features on CDs including *Aria for John Edward Eyre* by David Lumsdaine which won her a Sounds Australia Award. She also appears on Naxos, Move, Tall Poppies and ABC Classics.



In 1994, Merlyn made her American debut at the Kennedy Center in Washington DC, singing the title role in Gordon Kerry's opera *Medea* with Chamber Made Opera, which she also sang to great acclaim in Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra seasons. In 1995 she sang the role in a new production by the Berliner Kammeroper and this production saw a return season in 1997-98. Merlyn is also a regular soloist at St. Francis, a role she has enjoyed for many years. She has had the privilege of performing twice with Vladimir Ashkenazy and the SSO. In 2004 she combined her two loves, horses and singing, performing the fiendishly difficult *Queen of the Night* whilst riding.

From 1995 to 2007 she headed the Vocal Department at the Faculty of Music, the University of Melbourne. 2010 saw Merlyn create the role of Betty Joy to critical acclaim in Brett Dean's opera *Bliss*. This year she has performed the role of the Overseer in Richard Strauss' *Elektra* (Perth Festival), Stravinsky's *Les Noces* with the WA Symphony. She is Artist in Residence at the Melbourne Lyceum Club for 2012.

For more information see [www.merlynquaife.com](http://www.merlynquaife.com)

**Stephen Delaney** was born in Sydney. He completed a Bachelor of Music degree in performance at the University of Sydney studying under Neta Maughan and graduating with high distinction. He continued his studies in Vienna at the *Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst* and later at the Vienna Conservatorium of Music. He completed a diploma at the Conservatorium specializing in accompaniment, again graduating with high distinction.

Upon the completion of his studies, Stephen Delaney became a member of the faculty at both the Vienna Conservatorium of Music (1995-1997) and at the *Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst Wien* (1995-), where he is now a full-time member of staff working as a vocal coach and teacher in vocal accompanying.



As specialist in the field of vocal accompaniment, Stephen Delaney has performed numerous vocal recitals with many well-known artists, including Gundula Janowitz, with whom he performed several song recitals in the season 2000 and 2001. He has participated in the Vienna Festival, the Banff Chamber Music Festival (Canada), the Royaumont Festival (France), Classics in the City Festival (Graz, Austria), for the Herbert von Karajan Center (Vienna, Austria), the Haydn Festival (Austria), Mai Festspiele (Wiesbaden, Germany) for the Swiss Global Artistic Foundation (Switzerland), the Australian Music Foundation (London), the Jours des Arts Festival in Switzerland and France, the Austrian Cultural Forum in Istanbul (Turkey), Musica Mallorca Festival and for Opera Festival Italy (Urbania, Italy). In 2008 he toured Australia with Austrian Baritone Thomas Weinhappel, performing concerts in Sydney and Melbourne and for Art Song Canberra.

Stephen Delaney has appeared on Austrian and Australian radio and on Austrian and German television. He has recorded with the University of Vienna Choir. His recording of *Die schöne Müllerin* by Franz Schubert with baritone Erwin Belakowitsch was released on the Gramola label in 2011.

Stephen Delaney has been engaged to teach at various festivals and master-classes including master-classes with Gundula Janowitz at the Schubertiade Festival (Schwarzenberg, Austria), the Gutensteiner Cartusianer Festival (Gutenstein, Austria), the Allegro Vivo Festival (Horn, Austria) and the Basel International Master-Classes (Switzerland). He was musical director for the program *Voce e Bel Canto* and *Il pianoforte canta* at the Opera Festival Italy in Urbania, Italy. He appeared in June 2011 for master-classes with Gundula Janowitz at the Festival d'Auvers sur Oise in France.

In September 2005 he held master-classes for German Lieder in Australia at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, the University of Melbourne and at Monash University (Melbourne). In February 2008 he was guest coach for the Young Artists Program at Opera Australia and in September 2008 and 2010 he was guest lecturer at the Canberra School of Music working with singer-pianist duos.

Stephen Delaney is musical director of the Viennese theatre ensemble L.E.O. As well as song recitalist, Stephen Delaney is active as chamber musician and soloist and has appeared across Europe, Australia, North America and Japan.

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## Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October

### DIVINE

3pm, Wesley Music Centre, National Circuit, Forrest

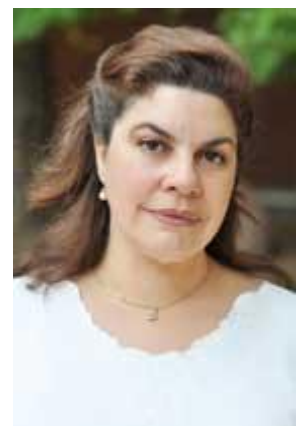
#### **Louise Page (soprano) and Phillipa Candy (piano)**

Be inspired by songs that express our spirit's seeking, yearning, worship, joy, and thanksgiving. Songs by Schubert and Bernstein together with Betty Beath's Songs from the Beasts' Choir will enchant and uplift.

**Louise Page** is one of Australia's most highly regarded singers. She has appeared in opera, operetta, oratorio, cabaret, recital and broadcasts for various groups throughout Australia, Germany, Belgium and Austria.

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.

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 organisations including Musica Viva and Art Song Canberra and has on several occasions been a featured artist for the ABC's *Sunday Live* national broadcasts.





She has performed in the Australian Festival of Chamber Music, the Mackay Region Festival of Arts and the Canberra International Chamber Music Festival. She is touring throughout eastern Australia with her show *Nellie Melba: Queen of Song*, and in addition has kept up a busy recital schedule with various associate artists in several Australian cities. She also released a new CD of Spanish music with Melbourne's Team of Pianists.

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, premières 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, 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 2011 she teamed up with mezzo-soprano Sally-Anne Russell for a recital for Art Song Canberra 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.

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

**OPHELIA AND THE ART (SONG) OF MADNESS**

3pm, Wesley Music Centre, National Circuit, Forrest

**Helen Barnett (soprano) and Simon Kenway (replacing David Miller) (piano)**

Helen Barnett and Simon Kenway will draw on their opera partnership to present a recital combining elements of opera with art song, some in the operatic style. Beautiful, soaring melodies define the Italian art songs by Bellini, Puccini and Rossini; in them we see glimpses of their operas. Helen and Simon will also perform a couple of their favourite operatic arias by these composers as well as three favourite songs by 20<sup>th</sup>-century composer Stefano Donaudy. The beauty and subtlety of the French *mélodie* is explored in songs of Fauré, juxtaposed with more operatic and dramatic songs by Henri Duparc.

**Helen Barnett** was born and raised on a farm at Narromine in central western NSW. She is a graduate of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music with a Diploma of Opera and Graduate Diploma of Music (Opera), finishing top of her postgraduate year with a High Distinction. She also gained the Fellowship in Music from the AMEB (the AMEB's highest award).

Helen has won countless competitions and has been recognized for her many achievements by the National Council of Women (2008 Australia Day Award), and by the Canberra Area Theatre Awards (Best Actress in a Leading Role in a Musical 2008).

Helen's performance experience is extensive, having performed as a soloist in opera, oratorio, orchestral works for voice, music theatre, ensemble chamber music and solo recital. She has worked with orchestras in Sydney and Melbourne as well as in regional NSW and she has been broadcast on 2MBS-FM, 3MBS-FM and ABC Classic FM. Helen's first CD, *Homeward Road*, was recorded in 2009 with acclaimed pianist, David Miller AM.

Helen is constantly involved in countless performances and productions throughout NSW ranging from Open Air Opera Galas to Handel's *Messiah* in local churches and cathedrals. Most recently she was the artistic consultant to the Parkes Under the Stars Committee who organized and staged her concept of "Opera at the Dish", celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Parkes Radio Telescope. Helen is a committed and enthusiastic advocate of classical music and has a keen interest in developing audiences and promoting quality classical music in Regional NSW.

Helen is married to Mark Hodges, and they have two gorgeous children, Charlie and Mimi.

**Simon Kenway** is an established and highly respected orchestral and operatic conductor. He has held posts as Principal Chorus Master of Opera Australia, Musical Director for Opera in the Vineyards, Opera by George and Opera under the Stars in Broome, and Conductor and Chief Vocal Coach for the Sydney Conservatorium Opera School. He now works as a freelance conductor, both internationally and in Australia. He has conducted for The Australian Ballet, Aldeburgh Productions in UK, the Sydney, Tasmanian, West Australian and Queensland Symphony Orchestras as well as Opera Australia, West Australian Opera, Opera Queensland and the Australian Youth Orchestra. Long associated with Opera Australia as a Guest Artist, Simon has conducted many of its productions. As Conductor and Chief Vocal Coach for the Sydney Conservatorium Opera School, he prepared and conducted many of its performances. He has many notable achievements as composer and arranger of scores for plays and incidental music. Simon obtained a B.Mus. degree (Piano) and a Post-Graduate Diploma (Opera) from the Queensland Conservatorium of Music before continuing post-graduate studies at the Royal College of Music, London and in Europe with Norman Del Mar, Gennady Rozhdestvensky, Pierre Boulez, Simon Rattle and James Lockhardt. He also trained as a vocal coach with the leading répétiteurs from Covent Garden, English National Opera and Paris Opera.

