



Art Song Canberra Inc.

www.artsongcanberra.org

SEASON OF SONG 2014

In 2014 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. 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;
- 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, Meryn Quaife, 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 Australian 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 Australians Horace Keats, Nigel Butterley and Betty Beath.

Season of Song 2014

Season of Song 2014 will begin in February with a recital by soprano and New Zealand diplomat Joanna Heslop and leading Canberra pianist Elaine Loebenstein. In March, the Sydney duo Prudence Dunstone and Maryleigh Hand will perform a program of song from the Romantic period featuring the work of women composers. In June, peerless art song duos well known to Canberra audiences will appear – on 1st June, Louise Page and Phillipa Candy and on 29th June, Christina Wilson and Alan Hicks. In August, a group of highly-accomplished Canberra singers will perform selections from the major contribution to English-language song by women composers and poets of the 19th and 20th centuries. In September, the widely noted Melbourne soprano, Meryn Quaife will team with Viennese baritone Erwin Belakowitsch and Australian pianist Stephen Delaney (also from Vienna, appearing for the third time for Art Song Canberra); they will perform Hugo Wolf's wonderful *Italienisches Liederbuch* (Italian Songbook). The *Season* will conclude in November with a voice-and-guitar recital by baritone Bruce Cain and guitarist David Asbury, visiting from the Sarofim School of Fine Arts, Southwestern University, USA.

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 \$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 23rd February

THE WORLD COMES TO CANBERRA

3pm, Wesley Music Centre, National Circuit, Forrest

Joanna Heslop (soprano) and Elaine Loebenstein (piano)

Soprano Joanna Heslop and pianist Elaine Loebenstein bring the world to Canberra, presenting songs from early twentieth century Europe and late twentieth century New Zealand. This recital will explore the humour, passion, subtlety and originality of a diverse range of songs, in an unusual collection of cycles and suites by Ravel, Rachmaninov, Farquhar and Harris.

Joanna Heslop

Of New Zealand Maori and Scottish descent, Joanna Heslop is a diplomat at the New Zealand High Commission. She joined the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade after enjoying a professional singing career for 14 years, which included over 20 principal roles in opera and a similar number of major concert works. Joanna was an Emerging Artist with New Zealand Opera for two years and a soloist of the Academy of the Mariinsky Theatre, St Petersburg 2004-7.

Joanna's most high-profile performances were as the soloist at HM Queen Elizabeth's Royal Jubilee Edinburgh Tattoo in 2002 which had a global television audience of over 100 million and enjoyed platinum recording sales. Since 2007, Joanna has given acclaimed recitals of Russian and German repertoire in New Zealand and has also sung at a range of venues in Canberra. She performed with Elaine Loebenstein for ABC Classic FM "Sunday Live" in Canberra in March 2013.



Elaine Loebenstein

Irish pianist Elaine Loebenstein has spent more than a decade working professionally as a collaborative pianist. She has performed throughout Ireland, the UK, across Europe and in the United States, having been based at different stages in London, Glasgow, Dublin and Vienna. She moved to Canberra in October 2011.

She holds a first class honours degree in Music from Trinity College Dublin, received the Michael MacNamara medal for excellence in performance from the DIT (Dublin Institute of Technology) Conservatory of Music and Drama and gained a Master's degree in Advanced Accompaniment from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London. She was also awarded the Broadwood Fellowship for Accompaniment at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, Glasgow (now known as the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland).

Performances have taken place in venues such as the National Concert Hall Dublin, Cork Opera House, St Martin in the Fields London, Schloss Schönbrunn Vienna, Teatro Della Maestranza Seville, New York University, the Austrian Cultural Forum Manhattan, the National Gallery of Australia and Sydney Opera House and at festivals including the Edinburgh Fringe, the Rocks Bizarre Festival Sydney and the Pordenone Festival as well as live broadcasts and appearances on RTÉ Television, RTÉ Radio 1 and RTÉ Lyric fm (Ireland), Deutsche Welle Television (Germany), ÖRF Television (Austria), ABC TV, ABC local Radio, ABC Classic FM and SBS Television (Australia).



Having a keen interest in all things collaborative, she has in recent years become involved in creating music to accompany film and visual material. She has a particular interest in live classical improvisation for silent film, and has performed at numerous film festivals, symposia, conferences

and cinematheques around Europe and in the USA. She has recorded improvised soundtracks for various projects including a DVD containing historical footage of Vienna produced by the Austrian Filmmuseum, and an experimental work by Austrian filmmaker Georg Wasner. Recent projects include music for a DVD celebrating the centenary of the capital, *Imagining Canberra* (National Film and Sound Archive of Australia) and also for the exhibition *Glorious Days: Australia 1913* (National Museum of Australia).

She has experience of talking and writing about her rather specialised craft, including articles for *Film Ireland* magazine, appearances on RTÉ Television (Ireland), a Q&A presentation including live performance for film students at the prestigious Tisch School of the Arts at New York University, and most recently a fortnight of silent film music workshops and performances at the Ark, a cultural centre for children in Dublin.

She has performed in Canberra on several occasions, including numerous chamber music concerts at Wesley Music Centre, at the world-famous Spiegeltent during its time in the Senate Rose Gardens and on ABC Classic FM's "Sunday Live" (broadcast from Llewellyn Hall, Canberra) as well as appearing on ABC 666 Canberra regularly.

Improvisational performances of note in the past year include her two-week film and music project *IMPROvisual* in the Western Foyer of Sydney Opera House, the Canberra Centenary Launch at the Playhouse theatre in Canberra, the Rocks Bizarre Festival in Sydney and a return to the Pordenone Festival in Italy. She also performed with film during both the Enlighten Festival and the National Folk Festival.

Sunday 30th March

LOVE AND LOSS

3pm, Wesley Music Centre, National Circuit, Forrest

Prudence Dunstone (mezzo-soprano) and Maryleigh Hand (piano)

Songs from the 'Romantic Period' were often set to exceptionally expressive poetry by great poets. Exploring the themes of love and loss through songs in English, Italian, French, German and Spanish, this concert includes Italian songs by three nineteenth-century female composers: Marietta Brambilla (contralto), Isabella Colbran (Rossini's first wife and creator of many roles) and the great romantic, Maria Felicité Garcia de Bériot (better known as 'Malibran'). The program also includes songs by Duparc, Elgar, Strauss and Granados.

Prudence Dunstone

Prudence Dunstone has performed many principal roles with the State Opera of South Australia and the Australian Opera, in operas including *Rigoletto*, *Die Walküre*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *Death in Venice*, *The Gondoliers*, *The Magic Flute*, *Carmen*, *La Traviata*, *Salome*, *Falstaff*, *Eugene Onegin* and *Le Nozze di Figaro*. Career highlights have included the title role in Handel's *Ariodante*, Katisha in *The Mikado* and Ulrica in *Un Ballo in Maschera*. She also prepared the role of Penelope in Monteverdi's *Il Ritorno d'Ulisse in Patria* for De Nederlandse Opera and appeared as the Mother Abbess in *The Sound of Music* for the Sydney Vocal Arts Centre.

Prudence has made recital broadcasts for the ABC, and sung as a soloist with ABC orchestras for performances including *The Messiah* and Schubert's *Mass in C*. She has appeared as a soloist with the Adelaide Harmony Choir for Bach's *St Matthew Passion*, and in Sydney with the Philharmonia Choirs for the Mozart *Requiem*, C.P.E. Bach's *Magnificat*, Bach's *Mass in B Minor* and Szymanowski's *Stabat Mater*. She has performed Berlioz's song cycle *Les Nuits d'Été* with the Adelaide Chamber Orchestra, and has also performed as a soloist with Christchurch Symphony Orchestra.

Prudence studied in Adelaide at the Elder Conservatorium first as a flautist, and then as a singer, graduating with First Class Honours. She held a cadetship with the State Opera of South Australia from the Music Board of the Australia Council, and then moved to Sydney to work with the Australian Opera, where she was a member of the ESSO Young Artists Development Program.



Prudence Dunstone studied singing in Australia with soprano Marilyn Richardson, and later studied in London and New York.

An Australian Postgraduate Award enabled Prudence to undertake a PhD in musical research concerning performance practices in nineteenth century Italian vocal music at the University of Newcastle. She has had work published by Cambridge Scholars Press (London) and in *Australian Voice*.



Dr Dunstone has taught singing since 1984, preparing students for AMEB, HSC and tertiary examinations and auditions. She has lectured in *Aural Perception, Harmony & Analysis* at undergraduate level and taught Voice at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels at the Wesley Institute, NSW. She has also adjudicated eisteddfods and singing competitions.

She performs regularly as a recitalist with pianist Maryleigh Hand, with whom she has presented a number of recitals in Sydney and Adelaide, and recorded for the ABC.

Maryleigh Hand

Originally a language teacher, Maryleigh was inspired by her lifelong passion for music and words to become an accompanist and vocal coach. She studied piano with Lance Dossor at the Elder Conservatorium in Adelaide, specialising in the art of accompaniment, and trained in the studios of Nancy Thomas, Beryl Leske, Arnold Matters, David Cubbin, James Whitehead and many others. Now a highly experienced recital artist, she has recorded for the ABC and 2MBSFM.



During a long career, Maryleigh has enjoyed associations with many distinguished artists such as Elisabeth Campbell, Joanna Cole, Timothy DuFore, Jane Edwards, Lauris Elms, Didier Frederic, Ghillian Sullivan, David Wakeham and Jonathon Welch.

In 2001, Maryleigh performed with soprano Joanna Cole in Burma and Thailand, a tour sponsored by the Australian Embassy and the Strand Hotel in Rangoon to celebrate the Centenary of Australian Federation and of the Strand. She has brought music to people in other unconventional locations, such as Leigh Creek in the Outback, Lord Howe Island, and the inaugural concert series in Taronga Park Zoo.

Other musical highlights include the Festival of Sydney in 2002 and a CD of piano solos in 2003. A 2007 recital with baritone Didier Frederic, "A French Feast", combined vocal and piano repertoire.

Maryleigh has links with various tertiary institutions such as the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, where she was for many years a member of staff in the Vocal and Opera Studies Unit and the Access Centre. For the Newcastle Conservatorium, she was accompanist and vocal coach, and tutored in accompaniment. She assisted in the preparation of many recitals, mostly at master's level, and was associate artist for the series of recitals given by Dr. Prudence Dunstone as part of her Ph.D.

Maryleigh coaches regularly for a singing studio in Bathurst and teaches piano at Beverly Hills Girls and Canley Vale High Schools. Her private studio attracts a diverse clientele of singers, instrumentalists and piano students from beginners to professionals.

A founding member of the Accompanists' Guild of NSW, Maryleigh was also a committee member at the inception of the SA Guild and a tutor in the SA TAFE course in accompaniment.

Maryleigh is in demand for major competitions and is the official vocal accompanist for the Cowra Eisteddfod and The Australian Concerto and Vocal competition in Townsville.

Sunday 1st June

FROM LITTLE THINGS BIG THINGS GROW

3pm, Wesley Music Centre, National Circuit, Forrest

Karen Fitz-Gibbon (soprano) (replacing Christina Wilson (mezzo-soprano), unwell) and Alan Hicks (piano)

A varied program of Lieder and art song by Schubert, Debussy, Holland, Strauss, Warlock, Mahler and others. Two *Gnossiennes* by Erik Satie.

Karen Fitz-Gibbon graduated with First Class Honours from the ANU School of Music in 2010 and in 2012 was invited by the Mozarteum in Salzburg to study as a postgraduate student (with the requirement for a Masters being waived after audition), at the request of Barbara Bonney. Karen spent most of 2012/2013 in Europe studying with Ms Bonney, and her coaches included David Aronson (Wienerstaatsoper), Philip Morehead (Head of Music, Chicago Lyric Opera), Richard Malouf (Assistant Conductor, Metropolitan Opera New York) and Julius Drake.



In concert, Karen has appeared as a soloist with the Sydney Philharmonia Choirs, Canberra Choral Society, Oriana Chorale, the Canberra Symphony Orchestra and UC Chorale (conducted by Tobias Cole), for which she won a Canberra Critics Circle Award in 2009.

Also in 2009, as part of the Canberra International Chamber Music Festival, she sang excerpts from the role of Laura Trevelyan from Richard Meale's *Voss*, and premiered an alternate final scene donated by the composer to the National Library of Australia, a recording of which now resides in the archives.

On the stage, Karen has sung the roles of Pamina (*Die Zauberflöte*), Abigail (*Grimm and the Blue Crown Owl*), Belinda (*Dido & Aeneas*), Coridon (*Acis & Galatea*) and Kelly in the Australian premiere of American composer Jeremy Beck's *Black Water* (a monodrama based on the 1969 Chappaquiddick incident) at the Adelaide Fringe Festival before touring it in Australia, Malaysia and Singapore. In 2011 Karen completed a national tour with Co-Opera as Susanna in their production of *The Marriage of Figaro*, and in May 2012 toured to Germany, Austria and Switzerland with the same company, for a total of 43 performances. In 2013 she performed the role of Aurora (*La Morte D'Orfeo*) with The Harp Consort in St Petersburg, Russia, and Belinda (*Dido & Aeneas*) at the Peninsula Summer Music Festival in Victoria.

Karen has been part of art song recitals for ArtSong Canberra and in 2012 performed a solo programme of excerpts from original scores on loan from the Berlin State Library for the National Library of Australia's "Handwritten" exhibition. In 2013 she gave concerts in Graz (Austria) and Florence. Karen has recorded twice for ABC Classic FM, and was a featured artist on their "Saturday Afternoon Concert" program in 2011. She was one of the inaugural intake for the National Film and Sound Archive's "Heath Ledger Young Artist Oral History Project", whereby young artists from all over the country are interviewed every five years to chart their experiences and aspirations during their careers for the national archive.

In 2014 Karen will be performing with Sydney Independent Opera, Brisbane Baroque Players and members of Ensemble Sappho in Melbourne, and is a semifinalist in the Mietta Song Competition next July.

Alan Hicks

Alan Hicks is one of Australia's foremost vocal coaches and accompanists. Graduate, staff accompanist and piano tutor at the Royal Northern College of Music, Head of Voice at the ANU School of Music in Canberra (2008-12) and currently Head of Vocal and Keyboard Performance at the University of Canberra, Alan performs regularly around Australia in recitals and Festivals with leading national and international artists.

As Head of Voice at the ANU School of Music he developed an exciting and innovative program which provided 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. In April 2012 his students appeared in three of the five ABC "Sunday Live" concerts broadcast from Canberra.

Alan is in demand as a recitalist with national and international artists. He performs in duo partnerships with Geoffrey Lancaster (Canberra International Music Festival, 2009-2012) and Alan Vivian (Clarinet Ballistix and ABC "Sunday Live"). At the 2011 Australian Flute Festival he gave recitals with Aldo Baerten (Belgium), Jane Rutter (Australia) and Luca Manghi (Italy/New Zealand).

Alan has appeared with his wife, mezzo-soprano Christina Wilson, in Europe and Australia, performing regularly for the Canberra International Music Festival and on ABC Classic FM. In January 2011, Alan and Christina gave workshops on English and American song at the Universität für Musik und Darstellende Kunst in Vienna.

Sunday 29th June

SCULPT MUSIC FROM THE AIR

3pm, Wesley Music Centre, National Circuit, Forrest

Louise Page (soprano), Teresa Rabe (flute) and Phillipa Candy (piano)

The emotionally expressive sound of the flute can evoke heart breaking yearning and riotous joy. Superb flautist Teresa Rabe joins soprano Louise Page and pianist Phillipa Candy in an afternoon of entrancement and enchantment, trills and thrills. Songs by Handel, Rodrigo, Corigliano and the song cycle *Secrets* by May Howlett.

Louise Page



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

She is the 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 she performs regularly in Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra and regional areas. Louise has been a soloist with the Sydney, Queensland, Canberra and Central Coast Symphony Orchestras and the National Capital Orchestra. She has performed for many organisations including Musica Viva, the Australian Festival of Chamber Music, the Canberra International Chamber Music Festival, Art Song Canberra, the Mackay Region Festival of Arts, and has on several occasions been a featured artist for the ABC's Sunday Live national broadcasts. She also featured in the inaugural Voices in the Forest concert at the National Arboretum in 2011.

Louise received a Canberra Critics Circle Award for music in 2007. 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 she devised for and performed in the Canberra International Music Festival that year. She has recorded six CDs of music varying from Lieder to operetta, premières of Australian music and Christmas songs.

In the 2013 Australia Day Honours List Louise was awarded an OAM for services to the performing arts.

Teresa Rabe

Flautist Teresa Rabe came to Canberra to study at the School of Music and loved it so much she stayed. She is a member of the Canberra Symphony Orchestra, has toured with the Australian Chamber Orchestra, won the National Flute Orchestral Extracts competition and performed a concerto



with the Queensland Philharmonic Orchestra. Chamber music is a joy for Teresa. She recently toured China with Minh Le Hoang as flute and guitar Duo Merindah, with whom she has recorded a CD.

Phillipa Candy

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. Since 2011 she has been touring with Louise Page in the Nellie Melba: Queen of Song show, and also the Operetta show.

After returning to Australia in 1992, 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 has performed for ABC "Sunday Live" with Louise Page and with flautist Teresa Rabe. In 2008 and again in 2011 she teamed up with mezzo-soprano Sally-Anne Russell for recitals for Art Song Canberra; the latter concert featured works by Turina, Brahms, Dvorak and Copland.

Phillipa and Louise are currently exploring current Australian art song by Ann Carr-Boyd, Betty Beath, Stuart Greenbaum and Horace Keats as well as being excited by the repertoire of the Spanish composer Turina.



Sunday 10th August

WOMAN'S SONG

3pm, Wesley Music Centre, National Circuit, Forrest

Judith Colquhoun (soprano), Janene Broere (alto), Greg Wallace (tenor), Peter Smith (baritone) and Colin Forbes (piano)

Selections from the major contribution to English-language song by women composers and poets of the Victorian-Edwardian era and the English musical renaissance of the 20th century.

Judith Colquhoun

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 Musical Theatre, Gilbert and Sullivan, Classical and Music Hall. Having sung in church and school choirs during her childhood she was introduced to Mrs Patricia Davey in her late teens and has been a student of Pat's ever since (too many years to count). Judith has competed in many vocal eisteddfods during this period of time with general success. 14 years ago she performed in her first stage production soon followed by her first leading role in "Princess Ida" for Queanbeyan Players. Since then Judith has performed with many companies throughout ACT and Queanbeyan in both ensemble and leading roles. In addition to shows, Judith was occasionally seen at the lunch time performances at Pilgrim House in the City.



Janene Broere



Janene Broere has been training in singing since she was 18 and currently studies with Judith Bauer and Colin Forbes. She completed her Licentiate in Singing in 2003 and is a regular at eisteddfods and recitals in Canberra. She has, in the last six years, also become involved in music theatre and has performed the Gilbert and Sullivan roles of Ruth (*The Pirates of Penzance*), Dame Hannah (*Ruddigore*), Lady Sophie (*Utopia Limited*) and Katisha (*The Mikado*) with the Queanbeyan Players. Her favourite type of music is Lieder and art song in general.

Greg Wallace

Greg has enjoyed a long association with the Queanbeyan Players both on and off the stage since the late 1980s. It was as a consequence of this early involvement with QP and Norma Roach that he was introduced to Pat Davey. Pat took him under her wing, and has fostered his love for singing and provided him with the necessary tools to enjoy performing for an audience. Greg had an eight year break from theatre and singing during which time he started a family and completed an Engineering degree. He returned to the stage in 2003 appearing in *The Music Man* (for the second time), and has since played the role of Nanki Poo in QPs' *The Mikado*, the Bangle man in *Kismet* and most recently as Richard Dauntless in *Ruddigore*.



Peter Smith



Peter Smith is immersed in the popular music Victorian/Edwardian Era. He has been involved in many Canberra stagings of the Gilbert and Sullivan Operettas. A special project came to fruition in 2009 when he and three other Canberra singers presented an Art Song Canberra concert featuring Liza Lehmann's 1896 song cycle for four voices and piano "In a Persian Garden"

Peter has presented many concerts of drawing room ballads from the era with a focus on the amazing recording legacy of the Australian baritone Peter Dawson who from his first recording in 1904 till his last in Sydney in 1954 was the recording face of this style of music and musical spokesman for the British Empire.

The songs Peter presents on this CD range widely though the composers of the drawing room ballad repertoire, from Ciro Pinsuti who flourished as a royally connected Italian singing teacher in London in the 1870's, and Sir F. Paolo Tosti even more royally connected around the turn of the century, through the prolific combination of lyricist Fred E. Weatherly who provided lyrics for over 3000 songs (eg Danny Boy) and composer Stephen Adams (eg The Holy City) who under his real name Michael Maybrick was a major baritone performer of the style, to the continuing tradition in the 1920 and 1930's when Peter Dawson made his most successful recordings..

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 at the Music School in Oldenburg, Germany and gave numerous concerts in that country. 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 1998 Colin was appointed founding Director of the Canberra Academy of Music and Related Arts (CAMRA), 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 solo keyboard recitals and performances with Canberra orchestras and choirs. 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 21st September

LA DOLCE VITA – HUGO WOLF'S ITALIAN SONGBOOK

3pm, Wesley Music Centre, National Circuit, Forrest

Merlyn Quaife (soprano), Erwin Belakowitsch (baritone) and Stephen Delaney (piano)

Poems dealing with the passionate Italian soul, translated into German by Paul Heyse are given musical brilliance through the genius of the Austrian/Slovenian composer Hugo Wolf to form the wonderful song cycle *Italienisches Liederbuch*. Forty-six songs take the audience through a journey into the heart of Italy. These folk-like poems are miniature scenes. The cycle is in praise of love. There is never a dull moment for these young lovers. Every possible emotion and situation is experienced, whether joy, sorrow, anger or frustration, often with a touch of humour.

Merlyn Quaife

A performer of great versatility, the distinguished soprano Merlyn Quaife 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.

Erwin Belakowitsch

The baritone Erwin Belakowitsch was soloist with the Vienna Boys Choir and studied singing with Professor Ralf Döring and song and oratorio with Kammersänger Robert Holl at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna.

Age of 22 he made his debut as Papageno in "The Magic Flute" at the Lower Austrian State Theater. Then he continued his career with roles such as Figaro in "Il Barbiere di Siviglia", Joseph in "Wiener Blut" and Dr. Falke in "Die Fledermaus" at the Vienna Chamber Opera, the Municipal Theatre of Baden and the Castle Festival Retz, as well as in guest appearances in Korea, South America, Russia and Japan. He also consolidated his position as a winner of many international competitions in Austria, Germany and Italy.



From 2002 to 2006, the baritone was a member at the Theater Ulm. In addition to his first role at the Ulmer House, Figaro "Il Barbiere di Siviglia", he sang not only important parts from opera and operetta - Dandini in "La Cenerentola," Guglielmo in "Cosi fan tutte", Silvio in "Il Pagliacci" Don Giovanni in the opera - but gave expression to his musical empathy in many recitals and concerts.

In 2006 he moved to the S udth uringische Staatstheater Meiningen, where he was still the great roles in his field. The Friends of the Meiningen Theatre awarded him the 2007 "Ulrich Burkhardt F oderpreis". In 2008 he received the "Gottlob Frick medal" of Gottlob Frick Company. In collaboration with the NDR, WDR and ORF produced some television productions, radio productions were made in conjunction with MDR-Figaro and Bayern 4 Klassik. It has appeared at Theater Luzern, as Marcello in "La Boheme" with the Staatstheater Cottbus, as Freddy "My Fair Lady" at the theater in Regensburg, as the theater and casting as Marius in "Les Miserables" at the State Theatre Innsbruck Danilo.

Since 2009 Erwin Belakowitsch lives in Berlin. In addition to his guest roles on Meininger Theater - Danilo in "The Merry Widow" and Tony in "West Side Story" - he devoted himself increasingly to lied. 2010 won the Belakowitsch internal.-Johannes Brahms Competition. Autumn of 2010 he sang Jan in "The Beggar Student" at the City Theatre Klagenfurt. Gramola Records Vienna his CD recording of Schubert's published "The Beautiful Miller". 2012 Vienna Schauspielhaus in the series, "Schubert - a winter walk." Belakowitsch currently sings in the German premiere of the opera "Ios Passion" on Theater Magdeburg. Schubert in the summer of 2012 "The Dreimaederlhaus" Langenlois.

Stephen Delaney

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 *Universit at f ur 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 *Universit at f ur 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 both Austrian and Australian radio and on Austrian and German television. He has recorded with the University of Vienna Choir. His recording of *Die sch one*

Müllerin by Franz Schubert with baritone Erwin Belakowitsch was released on the Gramola label in October 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.

Sunday 16th November

DEDICATIONS: NEW WORKS FOR VOICE, GUITAR AND THE WORLD

3pm, Wesley Music Centre, National Circuit, Forrest

Bruce Cain (baritone) and David Asbury (guitar)

A program of mostly new works for voice and guitar, many with environmentally themed texts. These will include the *River of Words* song cycle, a work connected to the Library of Congress' poetry contest of the same name, and *Sleeping Flowers*, composed by Tom Cipullo, written in celebration of the 34th Brown Symposium.

The Cain-Asbury Duo

Bruce A. Cain, baritone, and David Asbury, guitar, have given concerts together for more than a decade and have appeared in venues as varied as the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. to the Kukuk Festival in Hof, Germany and the Festival des Cordes Pincées, Rabat, Morocco. Both serving on the faculty of Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas, the duo has been very active in the performance of new works for the medium of low voice and guitar and has to date had more than fifteen works written for it. Especially notable among these are the songs from the *River of Words* song cycle, a work connected to the Library of Congress' poetry contest of the same name, and where the duo performed selections from the work in 2012, and *Sleeping Flowers*, composed by Tom Cipullo, written in celebration of the 34th Brown Symposium. Their recording of new works for voice and guitar on environmental themes was released in 2013.



Bruce Cain

Bruce A. Cain is an Associate Professor of Music and director of the Opera Theatre at Southwestern University, Texas, USA. He performs frequently in both in opera and concert. He earned his Bachelor of Music degree in voice performance from McMurry University, his Master of Music degree in voice performance at Indiana University and his Doctor of Music Degree in voice performance and pedagogy from Northwestern University.

His career began as an apprentice with the Chautauqua Opera and then on to Chicago, where the Sun-Times hailed him as "an eloquent soloist" and the Chicago Tribune joined in praising his "sensitivity" as an artist. Dr. Cain's most recent operatic appearance was portraying Kauz in



Mendelssohn's *Son and Stranger*, for the Georgetown Festival of the Arts. Other recent appearances include: Papageno in Mozart's *Magic Flute*, with the Natchez Opera Festival, Dr. Lomax in Austin Lyric Opera's production of *Cold Sassy Tree*, and Ford in Verdi's *Falstaff*, with L'Opera Piccola in Chicago. Other roles include Belcore in *The Elixir of Love*, Dr. Blind and Falke in *Die Fledermaus*, Marcello and Schaunard in *La Bohème*, Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte*, and a gambler in Prokofiev's *The Gambler*.

In the summer of 1999, Dr. Cain was delighting audiences in Scotland for a two-week engagement at the famed Edinburgh Fringe Festival with Concert Dance Inc. of Chicago. Dr. Cain has appeared as a soloist with the Austin Symphony Orchestra in performances of Handel's *Messiah* and Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass*. He has joined with the Austin Vocal Arts Ensemble in a performance of Bach's *St. John Passion*, as well as a chamber version of Handel's *Messiah*, and with the Austin Civic Chorus in Handel's *Judas Maccabaeus*, Haydn's *Creation*, and *Mass in Time of War*, Mozart's *Requiem*, among others. He has also appeared across the United States in works including Bach's Cantatas and Passions; Brahms' *German Requiem* and *Liebeslieder Waltzes*; Fauré's *Requiem*; Honegger's *King David*; Vaughan-Williams' *Mass in G Minor*; and Britten's *War Requiem*.

Dr. Cain made his conducting debut in 1998 when he became the conductor of the San Gabriel Chorale, a "town and gown" chorus that fosters a musical relationship between Southwestern University and the Georgetown community. The San Gabriel Chorale's most recent performances include Haydn's *The Seasons*, *The Creation*, *Lord Nelson Mass*, and *The Mass in Time of War*, Dvorak's *Stabat Mater*, Handel's *Messiah*, Mendelssohn's *St. Paul*, Fauré's *Requiem*. The Chorale undertook two tours, one to Central Europe and most recently China with Kenny Sheppard and Ryan Heller and the combined choirs of Austin Civic Chorus, Southwestern Chorale and alumni.

Dr. Cain's most recent performances include Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Bach's *B minor Mass*, and Brahms' *A German Requiem*, all in April 2012. He also performed at the Kennedy Center and the Library of Congress in 2012, featuring *A River of Words*, Song Cycle for baritone and guitar. This new work was also featured in a tour of Denmark, Sweden, and Germany in June 2012.

David Asbury

Critically acclaimed guitarist David Asbury has appeared on concert stages throughout the United States, Europe and Central America. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the North Carolina School of the Arts, and Master's and Doctorate of Music degrees from The University of Texas at Austin. His principal teachers have been noted pedagogue Aaron Shearer and noted virtuoso Adam Holzman.



Active as a solo recitalist and chamber musician, Dr. Asbury has played in a diverse array of venues and styles. He has given numerous performances on radio and television and has many recording credits as a studio musician. In recent seasons he has played recitals at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Round Top Music Festival, Bay View Music Festival, Western Michigan University, Chattanooga State College, Cloud County Community Arts Series, Montana State University, Hastings College, Riverton Arts Alliance, University of South Dakota, Valley City State University, Arts on the Prairie, Green Mountain College, University of Arkansas at Monticello amongst others.

Dr Asbury has won numerous awards, including the Diploma of Merit from the Academia Chigiana in Siena, Italy. He is also a dedicated teacher, having served on the faculty of Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas, since 1992. His students have gone on to important graduate programs and professional success. His scholarship on composer Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco has led to professional papers and presentations to organizations such as the Guitar Foundation of America and the College Music Society. His solo recording *Lullabyes and Serenades* was released under the Retamas label.
