

March 2020

Dear Opera Lovers

2020

Our program for 2020 has been changed as have so many aspects of our lives. I do hope you are well and are coping well with all that is happening with Covid-19. I was midway through creating a list of operas and other music being streamed when I received a list from the Wagner Society via Marilyn Phillips. So with thanks to Marilyn, please see that attachment and watch some opera while we are deprived of live artists. Note that Museums (including one of my favourites, The Frick in NY) are also offering virtual tours so do watch those too.

Welcome to new members and those who have renewed their membership. We are late in sending receipts; my apologies. We hope to get them to you soon. Thank you especially to those of you who included such generous donations with your membership. I am sending this to last year's members so if you wish to continue your membership but haven't yet done so please consider this a reminder*. Form is attached.

Meeting with WAO Music Director, Chris van Tuinen

Thanks to those of you who came to the meeting with Chris. I think it was useful for him and interesting for us. Apologies to members who were working and could not attend a meeting during working hours.

Meet the Young Artists

We have been negotiating for some time with WAO for a date for our traditional 'Meet the Young Artists' concert but clearly now we will not be having such a concert for some time. However we will provide an email 'Meet the Young Artists' starting with this email which features Lachlann Lawton. See later and the attachments.

AGM

Our committee will be meeting using one of the digital apps and, while I have yet to confirm with the ACNC, we will also hold our AGM that way after circulating the president's report and financial report by email.

Soiree

After the success of last year's soiree, we have planned another for May 17th with Emma Matthews and Paul O'Neill accompanied by Tommaso Pollio. What a spectacular event! However I think we will need to postpone that. More news later.

Meet Lachlann Lawton

Lachlann Lawton is a Western Australian Baritone and is a 2020 Wesfarmers Young Artist with the West Australian Opera. In 2017, Lachlann was a member of the Western Australian Opera chorus, and also performed the role of Schaunard (*La boheme*) with Freeze Frame Opera. He completed a Masters of Music at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, England and studied with esteemed baritone Quentin Hayes. At the RNCM Lachlann performed the roles of The Pilgrim (*The Pilgrims Progress*), Marco and cover Gianni Schicchi (*Gianni Schicchi*), Peter (*Hansel and Gretel*) and Escamillo (*Carmen*). Lachlann completed a Bachelor of Music in Classical Performance and a Graduate Diploma of Music at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) under the teaching of both Patricia Price and Michael Lewis. Whilst at WAAPA, he performed the roles of Giorgio (*La serva e l'ussero*), Professor Bhear (*Little Women*), Peter (*Hansel and Gretel*), Demetrius (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), and Sid (*Albert Herring*).

Lachlann is also a fitness enthusiast and will be commencing a course to gain a certificate in personal training so he can help other opera singers stay physically fit, and avoid tension with specific workouts he designs. If you would like to hear Lachlann, please follow these links

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_qif8r5Qvys
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v5KuwVjZLiU>

Future Plans

After finishing my master of music in performance at the Royal Northern College of Music later this year, I plan to audition for a place in an opera studies program. As my plan is to pursue a career in opera, I feel that having an opportunity to focus intensely on this art form would be extremely beneficial as all my previous study has been split between several aspects of the classical genre.

I plan to audition for the Advanced Diploma in Opera Studies at the Royal Academy of Music, the Artist Diploma in Opera Studies at the Royal College of Music, and the Advanced Certificate in Opera Studies at Guildhall School of Music and Drama. These are all two year intensive programs that aim to cater to your individual needs as an artist and place high importance on performance practices. I feel that this will aid in developing me into an operatic artist.

I plan to remain in England after finishing my degree later this year. I will use this as an opportunity to audition for summer festival contracts for companies such as Glyndebourne Festival, Buxton Festival, Garsington Opera, Grange Park, Grange Festival and more. These offer invaluable experience as a young artist as well as exposure to working professionals. Many of these companies also have young artist programs that offer them with the opportunity to cover roles with them. I believe that the opportunity of working with any of these companies will prove vital in my development due the overabundance of experience young singers are provided with.

As well as Festivals, I will apply for the Oxenfoord International Summer School and the Arran Summer School for Young Opera Singers. Both of these festivals run for roughly two weeks and consist of individual lessons, masterclasses, and coachings. The level of teachers are top class and they offer you an intense wealth of knowledge during your time there. Susan Bullock, Paul Wynne Griffiths, John Mark Ainsley, Peter Wilson and, Patricia MacMahon are just a few of the professionals who teach at both summer schools.

Lachlann is happy to sing for us and hopefully we will be able to arrange to see/hear him before he goes back to the UK. For a summary of Lachlann's CV, see attachment.

Coming soon...

I will send email newsletters to members every few weeks to keep you up to date until we can provide live performance again. Next newsletter will introduce you to WAO Young Artist, Chelsea Burns.

But if you need live performance or are feeling isolated and can't wait, fear not, FFO is offering window serenades from a starting price of \$200 (bank transfer only!).

Email freezeframeopera@gmail.com to book your very own operatic serenade.

Let's do all we can to assist opera artists during this difficult time.
Stay safe.

Just an addendum to this week's newsletter:

AGM

The AGM will be held on Tuesday 21st April at 5.30pm. As a result of the current requirements to minimise face-to-face contact, we'll hold the meeting using one of the apps for video and audio conferencing. More details later. Also I will send the agenda next week.

Please think about joining the committee. If we are to continue the Society, we will need a few more helpers, it doesn't need to be a big commitment. Please call me if you would like to discuss what might be involved. I will circulate more information next week but I did want to give you plenty of time to note the date and time in your diary.

Ghost Light Opera

Don't miss out!

WA Opera are presenting opera at 7.30pm every Saturday night for the next few weeks. You can view it on Youtube or Facebook. Follow this link to see the details. The cast includes Emma Matthews, Fiona Campbell, Paul O'Neill, James Clayton and Tommaso Pollio.

<https://www.waopera.asn.au/show/ghost-light-opera/>