

**May 2020**

Dear Members

More news for you

## **1. AGM**

The 34<sup>th</sup> AGM was held last week by video conferencing which was largely successful though three members were not able to connect to the meeting due to technical issues.

- a. Previous minutes and all reports were accepted. President's report for 2019 is attached FYI.
- b. Committee positions now include
  - i. President – Margaret Stockton (her term expires at the end of this year)
  - ii. Secretary – vacant
  - iii. Vice president – Irene Kempa (her term expires in 2 years)
  - iv. Treasurer - Mark Hughes completed his 3 year term and was thanked by those present. (Since the AGM, new member Stephen Vining has been co-opted as Treasurer)
  - v. Committee members
    1. Helen Brown continues for a second 3 year term
    2. Lisa Murphy was elected for a 3 year term
    3. There are vacant positions. If you would like to consider being on the Committee or would like to nominate someone please contact me.
  - vi. Nigel Penfold was thanked for his work as auditor and agreed to undertake the role for this year.
  - vii. The committee was asked to review/develop plans in light of the limitations resulting from Covid-19.

Welcome to new committee members for what will prove a challenging and interesting year. With the restrictions of Covid-19, our creativity will be challenged.

## **2. Committee news**

The new committee has met and is considering what we can do this year. We will certainly try to keep members informed of operatic 'happenings' in WA, support as much as we can those singers and others whose work has been limited by Covid-19 and plan for the time when we can hold events. We have had to postpone a soiree planned for later in May with Emma Matthews and Paul O'Neill accompanied by Tommaso Pollio. Hopefully we can hold that in spring.

### 3. Live performance

Most live performance has been cancelled/postponed and I am sure that many of us are missing that. Freeze Frame Opera are providing for that gap in the most delightful way, **Street Serenades**. On the "opera truck" they provide a pianist and two singers for 25 minutes. Or you can book a window serenade, a personal serenade performed by one singer using a backing track. For more details please go to FFO's website, [freezeframeopera.com](http://freezeframeopera.com)

I can personally recommend this as I had them come to my street and all my neighbours were **totally** enthralled. We are planning on booking them again.

### 4. Opera/music available through the internet

I will let you know about events I hear about and please let me know if you hear about something we could share with members. I am sure you have seen some of the events that have been advertised on line so please let me know if you'd like me to share them with members.

#### WA Opera

West Australian Opera is committed to sharing the power of music even in challenging times. While they are away from the stage, they are working in the **Ghost Light** bringing digital innovations to us. The stage is dark but the conversation is just beginning. West Australian Opera invites you to join the WAO podcast series hosted by Music Director Chris van Tuinen. Each month Chris will welcome special guests to discuss all things opera, from 'behind the scenes' moments to 'meet the artists' spotlights.

This month's podcast features Wesfarmers Arts Young Artists **Brianna Louwen** and **Chelsea Kluga** and is co-hosted by **Helen Carroll**, manager Wesfarmers Arts. Get to know our Young Artists and what led them to opera. From their aspirations and goals to what they are working on, tune into '*Meet the Young Artists*' with Chris van Tuinen. Go the WAO website to see this wonderful series.

## **An Aria a day from Queensland Opera**

Opera Queensland's new digital program, [An Aria A Day](#), is a program of arias and songs performed in the singers' homes for you to enjoy in yours. [An Aria A Day](#) celebrates the extraordinary diversity of the art form and the passion and resilience of our artistic community. New performances will premiere daily via [YouTube](#) and Facebook.

## **More on WAO's Ghost Light Opera**

West Australian Opera dedicated this duet to all the special women in our lives for Mother's Day. Last week Fiona Campbell and Emma Matthews sang DUO DES FLEURS from LAKME, accompanied by Tommaso Pollio. The flower duet from Lakme, set early in the opera and revealing nothing more than two girls picking flowers, has become one of the most well-known pieces of music on the planet due in large part to its starring role in TV advertising. The duet's simplicity is deceiving. Its close harmony, off beat pulse in compound time and the need to blend perfectly between the voices make it extremely difficult to sing.

Watch a different performance each week on the WAO YouTube channel:  
<https://youtu.be/ajqwOyjMGtU>

## **Opera Australia - Stream opera on demand**

Opera Australia have created a new way to share live performances with you. Our new free online streaming service — [OA | TV: Opera Australia on Demand](#) — features unforgettable productions from our back catalogue alongside new interviews and performances.

On offer is the world's most comprehensive collection of Dame Joan Sutherland performances on film, Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour recordings, interviews hosted by Artistic Director Lyndon Terracini, and behind-the-scenes footage.

Each week they will add new films, starting with *La Traviata* on Sydney Harbour from 2012, Dame Joan Sutherland in our 1988 production of *The Merry Widow*, and an interview with Concertmaster Jun Yi Ma.

## **International live streaming**

Courtesy of the Wagner Society, please see the attached list.

## **and more news on the Young Artists**

in the next newsletter from me

I do hope you are able to enjoy some opera while we are so restricted by Covid-19. Happy viewing/listening!