



News for Opera Lovers

Calendar of events!

2015 – The program for 2015 is still being developed. It builds on our success of the past and also includes some very exciting new events

20th January – 6-8 pm. An evening with OperaBox. Tuesday 20th January 2015 – Puccini Room and Studio at His Majesty's Theatre

OperaBox will tell you all about the company and their exciting next production - the modern Australian Premiere of Donizetti's Tudor Queen opera *Anna Bolena*. This will be followed by a special performance of excerpts from the opera by the cast of *Anna Bolena*.

After the success of the TV series *The Tudors*, *Anna Bolena* now has a place in the repertory of opera houses all over the world but has not been performed in Australia since 1875. Opera Lovers have this unique opportunity to hear about the company, to hear from the opera's Creative Team and to hear some of the opera's excerpts before it is performed as part of the Perth FRINGE WORLD Festival from 25th January - 4th February 2015. Flyers for this event will be sent out shortly

25th, 28th, 31st January and 4th February. OperaBox is thrilled to present the modern Australian premiere of Donizetti's Tudor Queen opera ***Anna Bolena***, as part of next year's Fringe Festival. This fully-staged production is presented on a grand scale complete with a stellar cast, chorus and full orchestra in state-of-the-art theatres with orchestra pits. *A thrilling story of power and desire, Anna Bolena portrays the heart-stopping final days of Queen Anne Boleyn, the infamous second wife of Henry VIII.*

Check the Fringe program or OperaBox website for details www.operaboxwa.com or better still come to our evening with OperaBox listed above and hear all about the company and this production and hear some of the performers

Save the date!

30th October 2015, afternoon function. This event is confirmed with Teddy Tahu Rhodes and is sure to be a sell-out

Details about venue etc will be available in the New Year.

Christmas dinner

The Christmas dinner was a great success with those attending reporting that they enjoyed the evening immensely. The entertainment was provided by WA Opera artists – Emma Pettemides, Soprano Jonathan Brain, Tenor and Caroline Badnell, Piano. They are pictured below.

Thanks to Margaret Hall for organising the dinner and Dee Ducrow whose efforts with the raffle and the auction raised almost \$1200 for the Society and therefore for the Young Artist Program. Thanks too to our sponsors West Australian Opera, WASO, Killerby wines, Truffle Hill Wines, Hyatt Hotel (dinner at Joes' Diner), Santana Stransky (painting), Fran Cassidy (hamper) and Dee Ducrow(CDs).

Photos from the Christmas Dinner follow.



News of the Young Artists

Hello from chilly NYC!

Sarah Guilmartin reports that "All is going great here, it is the last week of semester and I can't believe it! Opera preparations are well under way and the show (a double bill of Gianni Schicchi and Suor

Angelica) is next Thursday the 18th December. It has been the most incredible experience thus far at Mannes and in the wonderfully city of New York. I'm so excited to see what the next year has in store.

Lochlan Brown

Lochlan was disappointed not to be able to play at our Christmas dinner. He's hoping he can make up for this by helping out in the next concert, whenever it is next year. I'm sure members will be delighted to see him back with us and the next generation of young artists who, I understand, will be selected early in 2015

Lochlan has recently travelled to NYC for some lessons and to meet some staff and now is in Brisbane for the Lisa Gasteen National Opera School again, Dec 8 - 20. One of the pianists pulled out and he got a last minute email saying PLEASE HELP!! How lucky for him, and for them! Then he will be starting the Symphony Services International conducting program he has just been accepted into, with a week course in Hobart from Jan 26.



Did you hear ...

The announcement that 'the winner of the 2014 Opera Awards is New Zealand-born tenor **Jonathan Abernethy**. Jonathan was selected by an eminent judging panel comprising musician and artist Dr Di Bresciani OAM, legendary bass Conal Coad, celebrated soprano Rachele Durkin and maestro Gregory Hocking.

The Opera Awards is the first major competition for singing that Jonathan has ever entered. As winner of the 2014 Opera Awards, Jonathan was awarded the [YMFAustralia](#) Award of \$30,000, the [Armstrong-Martin Scholarship](#) of \$4,500 and entry to the [Britten-Pears Young Artist Programme](#) which gives artists the opportunity to participate in a high-calibre international masterclass course or opera production led by eminent musicians in the UK.

"...when he walked into the room, you could feel the charisma of this fine singer... when he began to sing, we were blown away with the quality of his voice..." More information

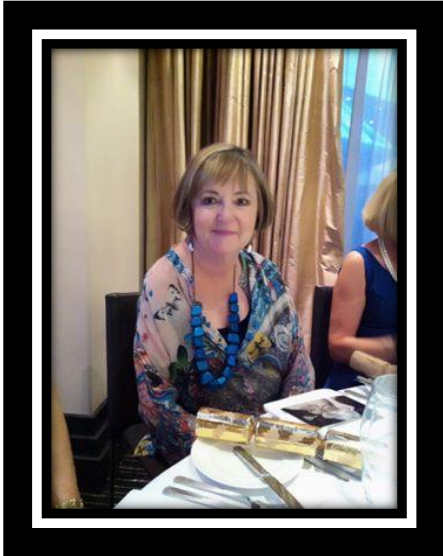
<http://operawards.org.au/>



Getting to know your committee -

Margaret Stockton

As I write this, I haven't been able to contact another committee member to contribute to this section of the newsletter so it's me! We're all so busy in the lead up to Christmas.



I'm a recently retired evaluation and planning consultant with a wide range of family, community and cultural interests. I have been a member of Opera Lovers for 5 or 6 years and since March 2014 have been Secretary. I enjoy opera and am committed to promoting opera in WA, supporting our young artists and developing a vibrant organisation to bring wonderful 'opera-related' experiences to the community, particularly our members.

My own interest in opera developed after an experience in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco in the seventies. My husband and I emerged from an Andrew Wyeth exhibition to see a crowd gathering for a concert in the park. We decided to stay and heard this brilliant tenor. Later back in Perth, I heard what I thought was the same voice on radio, checked my travel diary and yes! It was the same person we had seen and heard in Golden Gate Park, Luciano Pavarotti. Subsequently we started going to opera, bringing together my husband's interest in music and my interest in theatre. Now I attend opera regularly here and whenever I can on the east coast and in Europe, with highlights in recent years at Glyndebourne.



Season's Greetings

My best wishes to all opera lovers for a very festive holiday season. I hope you are enjoying at least some of the musical smorgasbord that is available at this time of year and that you have a wonderful time with family and friends.

Contact details

Opera Lovers Society of WA
PO Box 115 Westminster WA 6061

Or contact Margaret Stockton, Secretary, as listed above

If you use email and are happy for us to send you information by email, please send your email address to me. Thank you.

Remember

The Society's fundraising supports the Young Artist Program

Our fund-raising efforts support the WA Opera's Young Artists and donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible.