



News for Opera Lovers

Calendar of events – Book now!

4th June 2014 - Opera at the Hyatt

10.00am for 10.30 till 12noon - Lochlan Brown will accompany sopranos Caitlin Cassidy and Sarah Guilmartin singing operatic arias and popular music theatre songs while you enjoy morning tea. \$55 for guests, \$49 for members. Booking <http://www.trybooking.com/EYRI> or contact the Treasurer

21st June 2014 - Young Artists Concert at His Majesty's

The Artists from WA Opera's Young Artists' Program will entertain us with a variety of work from their operatic repertoire prior to their advancing their careers overseas. Wine and light refreshments will be served. \$35 for guests, \$30 for members Booking <http://www.trybooking.com/EYRK> or contact the Treasurer.

21st September –Breakfast at Matilda Bay restaurant. This year with **Sarah Macliver!**

Sara is well known to Perth audiences and is one of Australia's most popular and versatile artists, appearing in opera, concert and recital performances and on numerous recordings. Sara trained in Perth, where she was a Young Artist with the West Australian Opera Company. \$70, \$60 for members.

25th November –Christmas party at His Majesty's. Christmas dinner with young artists from WA Opera

More news on these and other events in the next newsletter

You may also enjoy these events

May 27th and 29th, June 2nd – OperaBox and Love opera present Humperdinck's **Hansel and Gretel** at 3 local venues. For details, see www.operaboxwa.com

June 6th 1.00pm Recital at Wesley - Caitlin Cassidy (Mezzo-Soprano) and Lochlan Brown (Piano) *Featuring the music of Handel, Massenet, Bellini, Duparc, Hahn, Elgar and more!* Wesley Church in the City, 97 William St, Perth FREE ADMISSION

June 12th, 15th and 16th 2014 - Lost and Found presents **The Emperor of Atlantis**. For more information, go to <http://www.lostandfoundopera.com/>

15, 17, 19, 22, 24 & 26 July 2014 at 7.30pm WA Opera Company present **The Magic Flute** - a timeless tale of truth, love, courage and discovery, following the journey of two young couples as they

explore their own strengths and weaknesses and pass the tests of true love and friendship. For more information go to <http://www.waopera.asn.au/WhatsOn/TheMagicFlute.aspx>

Booking for events

Book through Trybooking or if you do not use the internet, cheque and credit card booking are still an option. Contact The Treasurer, Society of WA Opera Lovers, PO Box 115 Westminster WA 6061 or phone her 9349 5694.

Lost and Found – a great night!

On Friday the 9th May 2014 the Opera Lovers Society hosted an event for Lost and Found opera to discuss their upcoming production of The Emperor of Atlantis. Co-founder and director Thomas de Mallet Burgess began the evening with an enthralling description of his directorial experience with opera. He has worked with some great singers such as Angela Giorgio's and Perth's own Greg Ursich at Covent Garden. Now living in Perth, Thomas and musical maestro Chris van Tuinen have combined forces to create a new opera company under the chairmanship of Mark Coughlan. The concept being to perform "lost" operas in new "found" spaces.

The next found space will be Perth Hebrew Congregation Synagogue in Menora where they will stage Victor Ullmann's opera The Emperor of Atlantis. Ullmann, who was Jewish and had been a pupil of the Austrian composer Arnold Schoenberg, wrote the operatic satire on Adolf Hitler while he was an inmate at a Nazi concentration camp. The compelling story was written by librettist Peter Kien. The score was smuggled out of the camp and the opera had its premiere in Amsterdam in 1975. In an interview, conductor [James Conlon](#), a prominent reviver of works lost in the Holocaust, described the opera as both a political satire and a parable of hope in which the isolated Emperor represents Hitler and the Drummer his confidante Eva Braun. The young lovers and Pierrot embody "the lost world of normal human emotion."

Thomas de Mallet Burgess is a breath of fresh air to the Perth opera scene, as he speaks with passion about the prioritisation of storytelling in opera. His thoughtfully developed concept for Lost and Found's new production of The Emperor of Atlantis has great philosophical depth and theatricality, which should pique the interest of opera lovers old and new.

De Mallet Burgess is aiming to create something that belongs uniquely to Perth artists and audiences as he matches lesser known works with Perth artists and Perth performance spaces, taking opera out of an anachronistic 19th century proscenium and into new literal and artistic territory. The use of a synagogue for a production of a opera criticising the leadership of Hitler during the World War II is a subversive, yet tantalising move which should make for very interesting theatre. Chris van Tuinen continued the evening illustrating to us that Ullman's score is filled with rich harmonies and displays an eclectic style, with influences ranging from Wagner to jazz. We heard some wonderful excerpts from the opera sung by members of the cast - Mezzo Soprano Linda Barcan, Soprano Corinne Cowling and Baritone Michael Heap. Thanks to Sarah Guilmartin for these comments .

And from Caitlin Cassidy...

Chris van Tuinen is another dynamic figure to watch in the Perth opera scene. He speaks enthusiastically about Viktor Ullman's score which references great composers from the past such as Brahms, Kurt Weill and Richard Strauss. The musical offerings from singers Linda Barcan, Corinne Cowling and Michael Heap and accompanied by van Tuinen were similarly interesting ,... Corinne Cowling's silvery soprano in the lovers duet was a particular highlight.

The dynamic duo made up of de Mallet Burgess and van Tuinen should be applauded for taking on this project which pushes the boundaries of the operatic form as it is commonly seen. As an opera singer based in Perth, I was particularly enthused by their championing of the chamber opera which points to a more sustainable and artistically challenging form to shape a future for opera in uncertain economic climates.

Thanks Caitlin

If people who attended the event on Friday are interested in supporting the company in a more substantial way, please contact admin@lostandfoundopera.com and to book, see note above

Committee of Management news

Oops! I forgot to note in the last newsletter that Chris Griffin retains his position as Vice-President. Sorry Chris.

Many thanks – to Shirley Barraclough who did not stand for election at the AGM earlier this year, after serving many years as Treasurer. Shirley is a life member of the Society and has made a very significant contribution over many years.

Privacy Policy

The Committee recently endorsed a privacy policy. The Society of WA Opera Lovers Inc respects your privacy and your right to keep your personal information private. We use the information we collect about you to process your membership and donations, to send you information and to provide a more personalised service. A copy of the privacy policy is available from the secretary.

Support for young artists

As indicated on their website, 'West Australian Opera engages in the essential task of nurturing and developing new generations of operatic artists who will continue to expand the vision of all that opera can be. The Wesfarmers Arts Young Artist Program seeks the most promising young artists to equip them with the skills and artistry to understand and build on the great operatic traditions. The program encourages them to express these traditions in new and as yet unimagined ways. Support of the Young Artist Program will ensure the flourishing of the art form for generations to come as both a timely and timeless art.'

The Society's fundraising supports the Young Artist Program.

Our young artists

Sarah Guilmartin – Soprano

Sarah completed a Postgraduate Diploma of Music Performance at WAAPA. Her musical achievements include: West Australian Opera Young Artist 2012-2014, Joan Sutherland Award 2012 (Australian American Association), Lisa Gasteen National Opera School Scholarship 2013 and 2012. Her competition achievements comprise of; Herald Sun Aria Semi Finalist 2013, McDonald Aria Quarter Finalist 2013 (Sydney Eisteddfod), Veronica Dunne International Singing Competition Quarter Finalist 2013, Operatic Aria Winner 2012 (Fremantle Eisteddfod), Tinkler Award 2010 (Australian Singing Competition).

Sarah has performed roles both in Ireland and Australia; Nella: Gianni Schicchi (Opera Fringe Northern Ireland), Pisana: I Due Foscari (Lyric Opera Ireland), Sr. Catherine: Dead Man Walking (Opera Ireland), Young Woman: Pecan Summer (Short Black Opera), Handmaiden: Turandot (Lyric Opera Ireland), Phyllis: Iolanthe (National Concert Hall, Dublin), Casilda: The Gondoliers (National Concert Hall, Dublin), Valencienne: The Merry Widow (Gaiety Theatre, Dublin), Soprano Soloist: Rossini's Petite Messe Solennelle (St. Georges Cathedral), Soprano soloist: A Child of our Time (WAAPA). As a soloist Sarah has appeared in concert with the West Australian Opera a number of times. She is very excited to be making her role debut with the company as 1st Lady in The Magic Flute later this year.



Congratulations to Young Artists

Caitlin Cassidy has been awarded the Provost Scholarship at the Mannes College of Music, New York for 50% of her tuition fees for her course which is the Professional Studies Diploma. In addition, she is the Wesfarmers scholar along with Sarah Guilmartin.

Sarah Guilmartin has also been awarded a part scholarship to complete the Professional Studies Diploma at Mannes – The New School for Music in New York. Maestro Joseph Colaneri is the artistic director of Opera at this school.

Our committee members

Ann Whyntie, previously Secretary and now President

Ann was born and grew up in England. The family was very musical – her Mother being a professional singer – so there was always music at home. She learnt to play the piano from an early age, sang in the school choir and joined in all the school music productions. But after leaving school she trained as an Occupational Therapist graduating from London University in 1951.

Migrating to Australia in 1961 with her husband and young family, she was immediately offered a position with the Repatriation Department, where she worked as the therapist in charge for the next six years, before moving to Western Australia in November 1966. Ann worked at various hospitals in Perth, was very involved in the running of the profession, and served on the Registration Board for 12 years before retiring in 1993.

Her abiding love has always been music and opera in particular. Since retiring she has been able to indulge her passion, travelling to many Europe countries as well as the UK and USA to experience many and varied productions. Her time with the Opera Lovers has enabled her to help support opera and up and coming young artists in Western Australia, which has been extremely rewarding.

Access

Did you know that you can access the Puccini room on the third floor of His Majesty's Theatre without going up any stairs? Take the lift from the theatre foyer to the third floor if you have difficulty with stairs.

Fund raising

Please remember our fund raising efforts support the WA Opera's Young Artist Program

Address

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Or contact Margaret Stockton, Secretary, by phone or email
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If you use email and are happy for us to send you information by email, please send you email address to Secretary, Margaret Stockton (details above). Thank you.