

JULY

Don't forget that **West Australian Opera present Donizetti's The Elixir of Love** in mid July (14th to 23rd)
<http://www.waopera.asn.au/2016-season/the-elixir-of-love/>

Look and listen on their website. I expect most of us have bought tickets already but please do so if you do not have your yet.

DivaLicious – Licence to Trill. Our members, 'DivaLicious' return to Sydney Opera House with another fast-moving, fun-filled, frocked-up, cabaret featuring hits from opera, musical theatre and the movies, all in glorious harmony! The shows are one hour shows: 6.30pm on Friday 22nd & 6.30pm & 8.30pm Saturday 23rd July 2016.

Here is the link: http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/whatson/divalicious_2016.aspx. Get up close and personal with DivaLicious, two glamorous comic sopranos as they share their story! From cat-fights in the opera chorus to close encounters with reality television, this Hollywood-inspired show is a dramatic tale of friendship and rivalry told through the hits of opera, musicals and movie blockbusters. Dressing-room gossip is mixed with beautiful music and backstage banter....the perfect operatic cocktail, "shaken, not stirred!" They "Dreamed A Dream", "Wished Upon A Star" and "Climbed Every Mountain", but will they "survive" in the cut-throat world of show business and remain "Amigos Para Siempre" - friends forever? Also featuring popular operatic classics by Mozart, Verdi, Puccini and Rossini, if you want a taste of opera, but you're not sure you can manage a whole one, then this is the show for you. Nominated for Best Cabaret, Fringe World Festival 2014." Flyer attached, for sending to your friends and family in Sydney.

And Swansongs on July 31st as I indicated in the last newsletter, with last year's mentored artists Ileana Rinaldi and Sam Roberts-Smith, and David Wickham who recently played so beautifully for us at Mad Scenes. See attachment.

And did you see today's **announcement about the 2016 IFAC Australian Singing Competition semi-finalists...** <http://aussing.org/the-competition/semi-finalists> including Fleuranne Brockway from WA (see Adios concert paragraph above)

And two important history items where we might be able to help ...

From Priscilla Cornelius

My name is Priscilla Cornelius and I am a soprano who is currently undertaking a master's degree at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts. My master's research is into the history of opera in Perth, specifically looking into the period from settlement until the start of the opera company in 1967. I am interested in speaking to anyone who has any knowledge, stories or memories from any time within this period. I want to know about the people, the operas performed, the companies or societies and any memorable stories, whether that be your own or something that was told to you by your mother, father,

grandparents, or old family friends. If you think you can help please feel free to contact me on 0429988591 or at priscillacornelius@outlook.com. Thanks, Priscilla.

And from Carolyn Chard General Manager, West Australian Opera - West Australian Opera celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2017.

Opera 'tells stories' and I invite you to submit your anecdotes, memories and stories. This will capture some of the history of the company in 'your own words' and build a picture of Fifty Years of Opera in Western Australia (1967-2017). All stories welcomed and story prompts may include your anecdotes as an audience member, singer, performer, chorus member, member of the orchestra, the theatre, or the company, backstage stories, front of house stories, theatre stories, rehearsal stories and so on. Stories can be submitted to the 50th Anniversary section of the WAO [website](#) or emailed to cchard@waopera.asn.au. *Your story may be published on West Australian Opera's website, social media pages, and print material including programs or brochures, and other digital and print media. By submitting your story you agree that permission is granted by you to publish in this way.*

July 2016

Thank you. A very sincere thank you to all members who so generously made donations recently. As a result of those donations and funds we raise through our events, we are able to support West Australian Opera's Young Artist Program (more recently Mentored Program).

It is satisfying to think that we are in our small way contributing to the development of such wonderful young talent, at least helping to provide the opportunities for them. In the programs listed below you can see the results as the young artists progress with their careers. So thank you very much!

Our next event – 28th July

Comings and Goings

Opera Lovers next recital is to be held at the Wesfarmers Puccini Room at His Majesty's Theatre at 6.00-8.00pm on Thursday 28th July. This is an opportunity to get up close and personal with

- baritone and former WAO Mentored Artist, **Sam Roberts Smith** who 'comes and goes' from Perth between his international performance commitments ,
- mezzo-soprano **Caitlin Cassidy**, former WAO Young Artist, returning to Perth after post-graduate studies in New York, and
- soprano **Brianna Louwen**, heading off for the next phase of her vocal adventures in the UK.

Sam, Caitlin and Brianna will delight us with music from the grand opera repertoire in an evening of arias and duets. They will be accompanied by David Wickham.

Tickets are available at <https://www.trybooking.com/MBUB> or by cheque to Opera Lovers WA PO Box 1126, West Perth WA 6872.

Ticket prices which include refreshments are for members \$35 and non-members \$40.

We can reflect on the comings and goings of such talented performers and may have an opportunity to hear a little of their careers, as well as listening to them sing.



And keep the date for our coming events

31st August 2016 6.00 to 8.00 - A preview of OperaBox's production of Ariadne auf Naxos

18th September – An afternoon with Albert Herring

More information soon.

Our recent events

Lost and Found preview of Don Procopio.

As reported by member Joyce Archibald

“On a cold and rainy evening, 6 June 2016, a friend and I went to the Opera Lovers’ preview of Lost and Found’s (then) upcoming opera Don Procopio. Because of the weather we were not keen to go but thought we should support the Society of Opera Lovers who, we knew had put work into preparing the event and providing delicious food and drink.

We were so glad we had made the effort. It was a wonderful evening. The event was held in a beautiful, warm church with terrific acoustics. The performers were splendid and sang a couple of pieces from the opera. The artistic director and musical director also spoke with passion about both the opera and their visions for opera in the future. Based on what we saw and heard, we bought tickets the next day to attend the whole opera. We wished we had bought tickets earlier as we were unable to get tickets to the meal part of the event as this was completely sold out. None the less we did get tickets for my

friend, her husband, who generally does not like or attend opera, and me. We all loved it. And if we had not made the effort to go out on a cold and rainy night we might well have missed seeing one of the opera events of the year in Perth. Thank you to the Committee of the Society of Opera Lovers who put on this preview event. “ thanks Joyce.

Coming soon – other events which may interest you.

Wednesday 6th July - Dame Felicity Lott and Dr Graham Johnson in recital.

Please see the attached poster for details.

In a rare treat for lovers of song, internationally renowned performers Dame Felicity Lott and Dr Graham Johnson present a recital in the beautiful surrounds of Government House Ballroom. This benefit concert will raise funds for the WAAPA International Art Song Academy, allowing WAAPA to continue providing world-class training for young singers and pianists right here in Perth!

Wednesday 6 July | 7.30pm

Government House Ballroom

Book HERE www.waapa.ecu.edu.au/performances-and-events/bookings



Also, 2 – 10 July 2016 WAAPA International Art Song Academy, Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts)

Observer day registrations may still be available for the 2016 WAAPA International Art Song Academy, held at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, 2-10 July 2016. Don't miss this amazing opportunity to learn from internationally-renowned artists, Dr Graham Johnson OBE, and Dame Felicity Lott!!

WAAPA International Art Song Academy Patron, Dr Graham Johnson OBE is acclaimed as the foremost accompanist of our day and is internationally renowned for his major contribution to the development of the song repertoire. Dr Johnson will be conducting daily master classes on the performance of Johannes Brahms and Franz Schubert's Lieder. A founder member of The Songmakers' Almanac, Dame

Felicity Lott has appeared on the major recital platforms of the world; and in June 2005, she celebrated the 30th anniversary of her recital debut at the Wigmore Hall. A noted exponent of French song, she has been awarded the title Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres and the Legion d'Honneur by the French Government. She was made a CBE in the 1990 New Year Honours and; in 1996, was created a Dame Commander of the British Empire. In February 2003, she was awarded the title of Bayerische Kammersängerin. She is a Doctor Honoris Causa of the University Paris Sorbonne, and in 2010 was awarded the Wigmore Hall Medal.

Dame Felicity Lott is one of Britain's best-loved sopranos - don't miss the opportunity to see her perform and teach at the 2016 WAAPA International Art Song Academy!

All Participant Singers and Pianists will perform in a Participant Showcase at WAAPA on Saturday 9th July; while some will be selected to perform in the closing Gala Concert on Sunday 10th July at Government House Ballroom; performing alongside Dr Johnson.

Gala Concert on Sunday 10th July, featuring Dr Graham Johnson and selected Participants..

To register or for more information go to www.waapa.ecu.edu.au/artsong

From July 14th West Australian opera's production of "The Elixir of Love" with stars who will be familiar to Opera Lovers - Rachelle Durkin and Aldo di Toro

Most of us will have already organised tickets but this is a timely reminder if you have not already done that. Please see WAO's website and facebook page for more information. They also have some great interviews with some of the cast.

<http://www.waopera.asn.au/2016-season/the-elixir-of-love/>

<https://www.facebook.com/waopera>



23rd and 24th July

I have attached posters for two **Art Song Perth** events to be held on Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th July 2016.

More information about the recital on 23rd July can be found on the Art Song Perth Website <http://www.artsongperth.org.au> including booking and payment details.

31st July Swan Songs with former WAO Mentored Artists, Sam Roberts Smith and Ileana Rinaldi. If you didn't check this out in the last newsletter, you can check the poster attached or click on this link to get all the information

<http://us6.campaign-archive1.com/?u=9be3a4c95e25b6edb82071f0f&id=f2eeb6faee&e=f6c6154737>

West Australian Symphony Orchestra

On Fri 2/9/16 and Saturday 3/9/16 at 7:30PM at Perth Concert Hall, Asher Fisch Conducts Mozart's Requiem

Mozart's final, transcendent work - music for beyond this world.. Mozart's Requiem has always been the object of legend - the great composer, struggling to write one last masterpiece as he lay dying. In truth, however, this sublime music does not need a moving story to secure its reputation. Such is the profound depth of feeling and the sincerity with which Mozart gives voice to both grief and hope, that even amongst the great genius of his late works, the Requiem holds a special place. For details, please click here

<http://tickets.waso.com.au/single/eventDetail.aspx?p=8946>

And many thanks to WASO for distributing our brochures last month.

Other news

If you haven't yet caught up with "**Brads Blog**" the blog of WAO Artistic Director Brad Cohen, have a look (the link is below) and if you're interested you can subscribe.

<http://us9.campaign-archive2.com/?u=6bdba45bc8cf1d18712e36b18&id=759d1afe7c&e=3e73e4ad1b>