

August 2016

This newsletter includes

1. Information about our next event. I have also attached the poster for those of you who wish to put it on noticeboards or for social media.
2. Some information about our last event for those who missed it.
3. News of the Farewell concert for Brianna Louwen who performed at our last event.
4. Some changes for Opera Lovers.
5. Coming events. Please note these dates in your diary.
6. 2016 Evelyn and Ralph Thompson Memorial Scholarship.

1. **An Evening with OperaBox: *Ariadne auf Naxos***
Wednesday 31st August 2016, 6pm – 8pm



Please join us for this exclusive event for Opera Lovers providing a unique insight into this ambitious OperaBox production of Richard Strauss' *Ariadne auf Naxos* in Perth in September. Celebrating 100 years since the opera was premiered in Vienna, OperaBox presents the WA Premiere with orchestra. Hear a special preview of some of Richard Strauss' luscious music performed by the cast, including 2015 Herald Sun Aria Winner, Melbourne soprano Fiona Jopson and one of Australasia's most popular tenors, Henry Choo. You can also receive a special introduction and insight into this brand new production created by Kathryn Osborne, "*one of our best young theatre directors*" (The West Australian).

Wesfarmers Puccini Room, 3rd Floor, His Majesty's Theatre, Hay Street, Perth (enter by the stage door)

Non-Members \$40; Members \$35; Refreshments included.

Tickets <https://www.trybooking.com/MKPZ> or send cheque or credit card details and number of members/non-members tickets required to Opera Lovers, PO Box 1126, West Perth, WA 6872. Enquiries to Jenna 0431329014 or Margaret 0419914023.

2. **Comings and Goings**

Please find attached the program and artist biographies for this concert. It was a wonderful evening with beautiful music, beautiful voices all drawn together beautifully by David Wickham who accompanied Brianna Louwen, Caitlin Cassidy and Sam Roberts-Smith. If you weren't able to attend you can read about what you missed!

1. Farewell concert – Brianna Louwen

Brianna sang at our Comings and Goings concert – as the person who was *'going'* as she is about to depart to further her studies in York. Please find attached a picture of the flyer for her final farewell concert. It's at 7:30pm on 26th August at Christ Church Claremont and will feature solos, chamber music (Shepherd on the Rock) and of course some choral music. Basically all the things she loves! Brianna extends an invitation to all Opera lover members. The flyer is attached as IMG 1765.JPG. You can book at www.trybooking.com/MACI or you can buy tickets at the door.

4. Some changes for Opera Lovers

You may have noticed that this year, we have used some different venues for our events. As some members have asked about this I thought I would give you the background to that decision by your committee for those of you who did not attend the AGM where I explained this.

Earlier in the year, West Australian Opera told us that they would not be able to provide us with the same degree of support as they have done in the past - free use of the Wesfarmers Puccini Room now limited to just 4 times per year, we would need to pay for the use of the Studio and Stage Door costs, and limited promotional/advertising support, fewer opening night tickets to be used at our discretion e.g. fundraising. This reduced support has presented a challenge to your Committee as we look for other venues that are not too expensive and develop other ways of advertising our events. We, of course, still want to maximise our fundraising capacity so that we can continue to support opera in WA and young artists in particular. We have found some venues that work well and some new ways of advertising our events. If you have ideas for venues and ways of advertising our events please let us know as we continue to explore new options.

We have a couple of changes in the Committee - We welcome Dr Andrea Jia and Mr Mark Hughes (Treasurer) and farewell Ms Melita Trevisan (former Treasurer).

More news next time.

5. Coming events

31st August – A Preview of Ariadne auf Naxos as listed above.

18th September – An Afternoon with Albert Herring. More news soon. Save the date.

5th October – A Conversation with Emma Matthews. More news soon. Save the date.

6. 2016 Evelyn and Ralph Thompson Memorial Scholarship

For our members who are singers or accompanists, applications are now open for the 2016 Evelyn and Ralph Thompson Memorial Scholarship.

This scholarship is awarded annually to a singer or accompanist showing outstanding potential for further study in Australia or overseas. In 2016, the prize pool will be as follows: Winner: \$3,000, Runner up: \$1,500, Anne Watson Encouragement Award: \$500. Applicants are asked to submit a varied, 20 minute recital programme of art song (arias, operatic or oratorio are excluded), as well as a detailed study proposal indicating how they would use the award and what benefits they hope to achieve. It is an open competition, with no requirement to have performed previously for Art Song Perth. An entry fee of \$30 is payable on application. Entrants should complete a [Scholarship Application Form](#) as well as a study plan, and submit these as email attachments to secretary.artsongperth@gmail.com no later than **6:00pm, Friday, 7 October 2016**. Full details of the Scholarship and Conditions of entry may be found on the Art Song Perth website at http://www.artsongperth.org.au/scholarship_conditions_of_entry.html, If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact Jane Leahy Kane (9339 8781 or secretary.artsongperth@gmail.com)