

OPERA FOR ALL NEWS

THE WA OPERA LOVERS SOCIETY OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER, 2025 VOL 1, ISSUE 8

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



What a joyous afternoon we had at Gail's Secret Garden Concert. Despite weather conditions, we were treated to excellent entertainment by our resident artists, squeezed into Gail's front room.

Our next main events for you, our members and friends, are the WA Opera Lovers' Aria Prize (30 November) at WAAPA, Mt Lawley, our last event in this venue and the Opera For All Christmas Dinner (6 December) at the UWA University Club.

The Aria Prize is a FREE event and it is a joy to hear our future artists for opera in WA.

Opera for All

Ian Westrip OAM, President



Beth's Travels!

Soprano and Resident Artist, Beth Redwood, embarked on a musical journey that took her across the world earlier this year. In May she travelled to New York City to sing in a production of Mozart's Requiem in Carnegie Hall, under the direction of Dr Margaret Pride. Beth loved the thrill of being in New York and singing in such an iconic venue.

After leaving New York, Beth spent a month in Germany with Lyric Opera Studio Weimar. This was an intensive operatic training program aimed at young singers who are preparing to start their professional careers. The main focus of the course was a production of Mozart's Le Nozze Di Figaro in which Beth was playing the leading role of Susanna. It is no mean feat to learn and memorise a three hour long opera in Italian; Susanna is in fact the longest of all Mozart roles and Beth claims she's never had to work so hard in her life!

Aside from music and staging rehearsals, the program also included German lessons, coaching with guest teachers and industry professionals, masterclasses, workshops and agent auditions. However, despite the long 16 hour days, the singers of course found time for a social hour after rehearsals! In the second week, the company travelled to the nearby town of Marburg to perform an Opera Gala at a University House of Residence. This was a very exciting concert and Beth had the pleasure of performing "Meine Lippen Sie Kussen So Heiss" as well as excerpts from Le Nozze Di Figaro. Beth recalls the nerves of singing a German aria for the first time in front of an entirely German audience!

The opera performances were a great success and Beth loved every minute on stage as Susanna, performing with people who had become her very close friends over only a few short weeks. Beth remarks that the small city of Weimar was a beautiful place and (in her rare moments of free time) she very much enjoyed exploring the old town and large parks.

Beth is extremely grateful to her supporters in Perth, and particularly Opera Lovers WA, who generously donated funds to help her in making it to Weimar. It was an incredibly worthwhile experience that greatly developed her vocal and stagecraft skills. Beth is thankful for the wonderful colleagues she met and now has operatic friends all across the globe!

The Show Must Go On!

An unforgettable evening of opera took place in Peppermint Grove on Sunday 14 September, though not quite as planned.

The evening began with guests, dressed in wet weather gear, arriving under overcast skies, in preparation for Opera in the Secret Garden. The rain was meant to stop before the event began, but mother nature had other plans as strong winds blew over a freestanding umbrella and some microphones. The decision was made to move indoors into the house's large reception room, complete with a baby grand piano.

The acoustic shift from garden to house was a stroke of luck, as the sound filled the space with a rich, resonant quality. The performances were nothing short of spectacular, resulting in a standing ovation at the end of the evening. The ensemble included sopranos Emily Davis and Beth Redwood, baritone Sam Claxton and tenors Noah Humich and Ciaran McChord accompanied by Shin Hyun-Jee on piano.

Despite the last-minute change, the event, fabulously hosted by Ian Westrip OAM, was a great success, proving that the magic of classical music cannot be dampened by inclement weather.

Sophie Elston



Pictured: Noah Humich, Shin Jee, Emily Davis, Sam Claxton, Beth Redwood, Ciaran McChord & Ian Westrip OAM



Pictured: Shin Jee, Beth Redwood, Emily Davis, Noah Humich, Ciaran McChord & Sam Claxton

Rain swept and wind gusted while, inside, a magical few hours of beautiful song and camaraderie unfolded. A triumph of perseverance, adaptability and generosity of spirit by the host, organisers and musicians!

Jen Banyard

The energy on the part of the performers and audience was high and appreciative. Thank you to Ian Westrip, The President of the WA Opera Lovers, for providing depth, value and light-heartedness to the program. His knowledge and cheerful MCing was much appreciated. The intimate and warm ambience of the drawing room, reminded me of chamber concerts and recitals in Strasbourg, Austria. It would be lovely to come again to drawing room recitals.

Stan, Ana and Lefki Kailis

Thank you for a truly wonderful afternoon yesterday. The fact the weather was very much against you from the beginning must have made final plans difficult. However, it actually worked in your favour and most importantly, your guests. Having "dumped" wet bags, brolleys, coats, and chairs on the veranda, it was clear to all an adventure was about to begin.

The buzz in the Reception room changed the Alcove into a perfect and intimate stage for the performers. We were so fortunate to witness the depth of music and talent in our city. Of course, Ian was, as always in his element. We look forward to news of the next WA Opera Lovers occasion.

Colette and Craig James

We had an absolute ball on Sunday. And sitting on the stairs listening to those incredible voices was fun! We will certainly hold this as a very fond memory! I listened to others walking out to their cars and heard 'Brilliant', 'Such a wonderful afternoon', 'What could have been a disaster turned out to be magnificent' and 'Can't wait for the next one' so I think everyone had a similar experience to us!

Wendy Rudge



Pictured: Atiya Rohullah & Suryya Fassih



Pictured: Rita Swan & Diana Monroy



Pictured: Wide shot of room & audience

Opera in Concert

Recently, OpusWA presented a splendid evening of opera highlights at their Opera in Concert. Conducted by maestro Mark Coughlan, 13 of Perth's finest young singers, along with the OpusWA Arts Orchestra, performed arias from a wide variety of operas. The audience was transported through many different musical eras as they were treated to pieces by Mozart, Massenet, Bizet, Tchaikovsky, Verdi, Puccini and more! Included in the talented line up of performers were two of our very own Resident Artists; Ciaran McChord and Sam Claxton. They both impressed the audience with their strong vocals and captivating stage presence. Congratulations to OpusWA on a wonderful concert!

Beth Redwood



WA Opera Lovers' Aria Prize

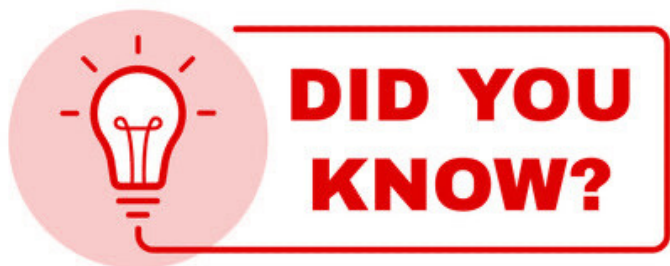
This event will take place at WAAPA from 3.30 – 5.30 on Sunday 30 November.

This is a free event for members and friends, however there will be a \$10 raffle to benefit WA Opera Lovers in their aim to support young artists.

This is a wonderful opportunity to hear the voices of up-and-coming performers produced by WAAPA in the Richard Gill Theatre at Mt Lawley before it is relocated to the City of Perth.



The 2024 Winners of the WA Opera Lovers' Aria Prize, Erin Tucker (2nd Prize), Bonnie Stroude (1st Prize) and Michelle Prior (3rd Prize)



- The first operas were created in Italy during the late 16th century, with Dafne (1597) by Jacopo Peri often cited as the first opera
- A Speedy Symphony: Gioachino Rossini reportedly wrote his famous opera The Barber of Seville in just two weeks!



OPERA FOR ALL

Christmas Dinner

Celebrate the Christmas Season in the company of like-minded Opera Lovers with a Festive 3 course dinner (drinks included) and entertainment provided by WA Opera Lovers' resident singers.

Expect a repertoire of operatic arias, musical theatre songs and modern Christmas songs.

Make dietary requirements and/or special seating arrangements known when booking and book soon to avoid disappointment as places are limited.

Tickets: \$140pp (member), \$150pp (non-member)
Bookings close Friday 28 November.

SATURDAY
6 DECEMBER 2025, 6:30-10:00PM
UWA UNIVERSITY CLUB
1 HACKET DR, CRAWLEY





<https://www.trybooking.com/DFZME>



**SOPHIE HAMER
AND JAMES PINNERI**
-IN RECITAL-



Saturday, 15th November, 7:00pm (6:30 doors) - Church of The Resurrection, Swanbourne

Opera Singers Sophie Hamer - Soprano and James Pinneri - Baritone return home to Perth, and would love to invite you to an evening of operatic and music theatre delights.

Sophie and James are both recent graduates of the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, and have both received amazing opportunities this year to further their training and artistic development. They would love to share an insight into what they have been working on this year with their community of family and friend.

Sophie and James will be joined by Guest Artists Charis Postmus - Soprano and Noah Humich - Tenor, and Associate Artist Joshua Haines, for this recital.

The Triumph of Love

Sunday, 26th October, 3:00pm- His Majesty's Theatre

Presented by Australian Baroque and West Australian Opera, Come and experience love and romance from its intoxicating highs to its desperate lows, set to some of the most delicate and intricate music ever conceived.

The Triumph of Love is a program of some of the most indulgent and thrilling music from the 17th and 18th-century French theatre. Featuring the music of Jean-Baptiste Lully and Jean-Philippe Rameau,

The Triumph of Love showcases the most graceful and rhythmic dance music, as well as passionate and heart-rending arias from two of France's greatest composers.



A People's Messiah- Sing-along!



ICW BAROQUE ENSEMBLE & CHORALE

Bring your own score, and book early to join us in singing Handel's masterpiece

Musical Director Ian Westrip Presents:

A People's Messiah
the sing-along concert

December 13th
2pm rehearsal, 7pm performance
St Patrick's Church
1st Avenue, Mt Lawley
Limited (non-singing) audience also welcome



fSaturday, 13th December, 2:00pm rehearsal, 7:00 pm performance- St Patricks Church, Mt Lawley

ICW Productions invites you to join us for an exhilarating afternoon rehearsal and evening performance singing along with the ICW Arts Orchestra and Chorale, at St Patrick's Church Mt Lawley. Experience as a singer is good but not necessary. You sing what you are able.

Audience only members will only need to come to the performance at 7 pm but are also welcome to come to the rehearsal at 2 pm .

Handel's Messiah- OpusWA

Friday 5th December, 7:00pm- St Josephs Church, Subiaco

Sunday 7th December, 3:00pm- St Patricks Church, Mt Lawley

Celebrate the joy of the festive season with this performance of Handel's sublime and beloved oratorio 'Messiah', performed in the intimate ecclesiastical setting for which it was originally composed.

Delight in the superb voices of our fabulous young professional singers, accompanied by the wonderful orchestra of OpusWA Arts Orchestra and Chorale, conducted by the esteemed and experienced choral conductor Robert Braham.



**SUMMER GALA
SOIRÉE**

25TH JANUARY 2026
Woodbridge at Mandoon | 5:00pm

 EIMEAR FOLEY Soprano	 CLAIRE CONDIPODERO Soprano	 AMY FORTNUM Soprano
 VIN TRIKERIOTIS Tenor	 DEVON LAKE Baritone	 LAURENCE WESTRIP Baritone
 ADRIAN SOARES Musical Director & Accompanist		

For tickets, tax deductible donations and more information see: summergalasoiree.com



15th ANNIVERSARY
grove classics

Official Gala Concert
CELEBRATING 15 YEARS
SUNDAY 5th OCTOBER 5:00PM
THE GROVE LIBRARY PEPPERMINT GROVE

SARA MACLIVER
SOPRANO
AND
CYGNUS ARIOSO
9 PIECE ORCHESTRA

HANDEL - PUCCINI - R. STRAUSS
SKIPWORTH - BOTTESINI



If you have any news items for the next issue, contact Sophie Elston (editor) (sophie.elstonyt@gmail.com)