

2019/20 WESFARMERS ARTS YOUNG ARTISTS



Chelsea Burns
Soprano

Chelsea Burns is an Australian born soprano. She has recently completed her Master of Music at the Royal Northern College of Music under the tutelage of Mary Plazas and Ann Taylor. During her studies, she trained as a mezzo-soprano and her stage credits at the RNCM include Carmen in a concert version of Bizet's Carmen, Louise in Offenbach's La vie Parisienne, and Didymus in Handel's Theodora.

Over 2018, Chelsea was fortunate enough to work with Opera North in Leeds, UK. She shadowed the role of Kate Pinkerton in Tim Albery's production of Puccini's Madama Butterfly and was a part of their Chorus Mentorship Scheme.

Before moving to England, Chelsea attended the prestigious Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts. She graduated in 2014 with a Bachelor of Music as well as in 2015 with a Graduate Diploma of Music. Patricia Price and Linda Barcan oversaw her tutelage at this academy. Her stage credits at WAAPA include the Witch in Humperdinck's Hansel and Gretel, Marianna in Ricci's La serva e l'ussero, and Cecilia March in Adamo's Little Women.

She has also recently worked with Freeze Frame Opera, covering the title role in Puccini's Tosca.



Brianna Louwen
Soprano

Brianna Louwen is a Soprano from Perth, Western Australia. She holds a Bachelor of Music from the University of Western Australia under Megan Sutton and a Masters in Solo Voice Ensemble Singing from the University of York in the UK under Robert Hollingworth and Susan Young. Brianna is establishing herself as a professional Solo and Consort Singer in Perth and sings with the St George's Cathedral Choir and Consort, The Giovanni Consort and the Choirs of St George's College, UWA.

As a soloist with St George's Cathedral, Brianna has been featured in Bach's St Matthew Passion, St John Passion, Mozart's Coronation Mass, Aaron Copland's In the Beginning, and has sung the role of 'First Woman' in Handel's Solomon. Brianna is a regular soloist with the newly formed Australian Baroque, and earlier this year featured on an ABC recording of Schütz's Singet Dem Herrn and Buxtehude's Mein Herz ist Bereit. Brianna has been featured as soloist with the West Australian Symphony Orchestra on a number of occasions including Maximus Musicus joins the Choir and the BBC Planet Earth II Arena Tour. In the UK she sung as soloist in Mozart's Requiem with the Royal Northern Sinfonia and toured the UK and Italy with I Fagiolini under Robert Hollingworth.

Brianna has worked extensively in education, as a Teaching Artist with the West Australian Symphony Orchestra, and the Assistant Choir Director of St George's College, UWA. She has been Vocal Coach for the Perth Choral Institute, Oxford and Cambridge Singing Schools and the National Youth Choir of Australia.

In 2016 Brianna was the recipient of a Young Person and the Arts International Travelling Scholarship from the Department of Culture and the Arts, which made study in the UK Possible. Also in 2016 she won the prestigious Fremantle Aria Competition. In 2018 and 2019 she was a finalist in the Royal Melbourne Philharmonic Oratorio Competition. From 2018 Brianna became a member of the West Australian Opera Chorus and in 2019/20 she is delighted to be a Young Artist with West Australian Opera.



Chelsea Kluga
Mezzo

Chelsea Kluga made her professional debut as the Woodpecker with West Australian Opera in the 2018 production of *The Cunning Little Vixen* and has been a chorus member since 2017. Completing her Masters of Music at Mannes College in New York City, she was the recipient of the Dame Joan Sutherland Scholarship and a finalist for the Marin Alsop Entrepreneurship Award (2016). During her time at Mannes as part of the apprentice studio she performed as Olga (*Eugene Onegin*), Marcellina (*Le Nozze di Figaro*), the Third Lady (*Die Zauberflöte*) and Idamante (*Idomeneo*).

Chelsea attended the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts where she completed a Graduate Diploma and Bachelor of Music for voice, and prior to this a Bachelor of Music for clarinet. She was awarded the V.H Cooper prize during her first year and throughout her time at the academy roles included Meg in *Little Women* and Clorinda in *Il Combattimento di Tancredi e Clorinda*. Before switching her major from clarinet to voice, Chelsea was a member of the Australian International Symphony Orchestra Institute (AISOI) and the Western Australia Youth Orchestra (WAYO).



Matthew Dixon
Baritone

Matthew is a 24-year-old baritone from Perth, currently studying on a scholarship with Robert Dean at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama (GSMD).

Also an avid pianist, Matthew was the recipient of the Silver Anniversary Prize for the Evelyn and Ralph Thompson Scholarship and also the winner of the Royal Overseas League Singing Competition and a semi-finalist in this year's IFAC Australian Singing Competition (winning the Tinkler Trust Award).

In 2018/19 Matthew has performed the roles of Don Giovanni, Belcore (L'elisir d'amore) and Billy Budd at GSMD also debuting at Wigmore Hall in a Schubertiade with Graham Johnson. He debuted the role of Motor Cop in Dead Man Walking for the UK premiere opposite Joyce Didonato.



**Lachlann Lawton
Baritone**

Lachlann Lawton is a Western Australian baritone who started his singing career in Bunbury. Singing in musicals and in school choirs at a young age.

Lachlann completed a Masters of Music at the Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM) in Manchester, England and studied with esteemed baritone Quentin Hayes. At the RNCM Lachlann performed the roles of The Pilgrim (The Pilgrims Progress), Marco and cover Gianni Schicchi (Gianni Schicchi), Peter (Hansel and Gretel) and Escamillo (Carmen)

Lachlann completed a Bachelor of Music in Classical Performance and a Graduate Diploma of Music at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) under the teaching of both Patricia Price and Michael Lewis. Whilst at WAAPA, he performed the roles of Giorgio (La serva e l'ussero), Professor Bhear (Little Women), Peter (Hansel and Gretel), Demetrius (A Midsummer Night's Dream), and Sid (Albert Herring).

In 2017, Lachlann was a member of the Western Australian Opera chorus, and also performed the role of Schaunard (La boheme) with Freeze Frame Opera.

Lachlann is also a fitness enthusiast and will be commencing a course to gain a certificate in personal training so he can help other opera singers stay physically fit, and avoid tension with specific workouts designed by himself.



Adrian Soares
Pianist

Adrian Soares recently completed his piano studies at UWA with First Class Honours, under the tutelage of Graeme Gilling. While at UWA, he was awarded the prestigious Tunley Music Scholarship, and was a recipient of the VOSE Memorial Concerto Prize, Waveney Wansborough Memorial Prize and Flora Bunning Chamber Music Prize. Adrian has also performed with WASO as a casual musician and as a soloist performing Ravel's Piano Concerto in G. He currently works as both piano teacher and accompanist for Iona Presentation College and Mercedes College, whilst also working as a freelance performer and accompanist for many ensembles and soloists in Perth, including WA Youth Orchestra, Fremantle Women's Choir, and Irwin Street Collective at UWA. When not playing piano, Adrian also sings with VOYCES, Giovanni Consort, and the National Youth Choir of Australia.



**Leanne Puttick
Conductor**

Leanne discovered her love for music at age 4, tinkering away at the piano. She took up flute at age 9, picked up violin at age 11 and began composing at age 14.

Composition pushed her to teach herself as many instruments she could get her hands on while completing her secondary education. She went on to complete her Bachelor of Music: Composition and Music Technology at the West Australian Academy of Performing Arts, graduating in 2015.

It wasn't until 2016 after completing several composition masterclasses in Austria with notable Hollywood film composers, that Leanne fell under the spell of the baton. After returning from her time abroad, she shadowed Maestro Myron Romanul with the West Australian Ballet and discovered her passion for conducting.

Leanne has a great love and passion for the stage having studied ballet from age 7 into her teens and having worked across theatres in Western Australia as a sound technician and as a stage manager.

Leanne is currently the orchestra librarian for the West Australian Symphony Orchestra.