

2022

ADJUDICATORS



PAMELA ANDREWS

Classical Singing



Pamela Andrews is an experienced performer and recitalist, and has appeared as a soloist with many orchestras and choirs across New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and the ACT. Repertoire performed includes Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, Haydn's Nelson Mass, Mozart's Requiem, Brahms' Ein deutsches Requiem, Handel's Messiah and Dvorak's Stabat Mater. Pamela enjoys performing new works and has premiered new repertoire by several Australian composers.

Pamela holds Master's degrees in classical music and arts management, and has won numerous prizes and awards in competitions around Australia. Pamela was a Young Artist with Pacific Opera, and has been a Semi-Finalist in the Sydney

Eisteddfod Operatic Aria, and a Finalist in both the 2nd and 3rd Sydney International Song Prize adjudicated by Richard Bonyng AC CBE.

Opera roles performed include Donna Anna in Don Giovanni (Opera Hunter), Arminda in La finta giardiniera (Operantics), Countess Almaviva in The Marriage of Figaro (Pacific Opera), Natasha in The Gondoliers Dream Getaway (Pacific Opera), Belinda and Second Woman in Purcell's Dido & Aeneas (various companies). Pamela now works fulltime as a Soprano in the Opera Australia Chorus.

CHRISTINE ATKINSON

Dance



Christine Atkinson originates from Cardiff, South Wales, UK and relocated to Sydney, New South Wales, Australia in 1992.

At the age of 10 she joined The Welsh National Ballet School, then run by the late Joyce Marriot (Espinosa School). At the age of 16 Christine became a full time student of The Rambert School of Ballet, Mercury Theatre, London under the guidance of Dame Marie Rambert.

On completing her training Christine went on to dance professionally and then to teach for The Welsh Arts Council and Ogwr Borough Council, was voted onto The Executive Committee of The Dance Council for Wales and The Royal Academy of Dancing's South Wales Committee, UK. Christine was privileged to be coached by Mrs. Peggy Olden A.R.A.D.

and completed both the R.A.D. Teaching Diploma and Teaching Certificate with Distinction.

Christine is an Examiner, Registered Teacher, Freelance Faculty Tutor, CBTS Mentor and CPD Tutor for the Royal Academy of Dance and is Principal of and teaches regularly at The Ballet Class, Rose Bay, Sydney as well as privately tutoring in Australia and overseas.

KAREN BARKER-ROGERS

Dance



Newcastle born Karen Barker-Rogers trained under Tessa Maunder and is a Graduate of the Australian Ballet School and a member of the National and NSW AICD Committees.

As a performer she was principal dancer with Kolobok National Character Company, also Kasatka Cossacks during which time she toured the UK, Europe, Asia, North America, and South Africa. She also spent time in the USSR undertaking further training and completed her R.A.D Solo Seal in London. Upon returning to Australia, Karen joined the Sydney City Ballet under

Marilyn Jones, before returning to Newcastle to teach and then open her own Studio. Karen is also an RAD registered teacher and has a Diploma Dance Teaching and Management (2016) and Licentiate Diploma of ATOD (2016).

Karen is looking forward to celebrating the dancers return to the stage.

BLAKE BOWDEN

Contemporary Singing



Most recently Blake Bowden was seen playing Elder Price in the musical "The Book of Mormon" across Australia and New Zealand, a role for which in 2019 he was nominated for a Helpmann Award for Best Leading Actor in a Musical. Blake's other recent leading roles include Perchik in Fiddler on the Roof (TML), Anthony Hope in Sweeney Todd (Victorian Opera), Edward Lyons in Blood Brothers (Enda Markey Presents), Anthony Pemberton in Beyond Desire (Neil Rutherford Productions) and Lt. Joseph Cable in South Pacific (Opera Australia/GFO).

In 2018 Blake produced and performed his solo show and released his debut EP "Blake Bowden: Straight From The Hart" featuring the reimagined songs of Rodgers and Hart (Noosa Alive!). Other theatre credits include: Tony in Masterclass (LeftBauer Prods), Lysander in A Midsummer Nights Dream (Belvoir). Pat Matthews in Moonshadow (Cat Stevens/Sue Farrelly Productions); Snowboy in West Side Story (ATG); Jekyll and Hyde (TML); The Boy From Oz Arena Spectacular with Hugh Jackman (Gannon/Fox) and original cast of Dirty Dancing (Jacobsen Entertainment).

Blake has appeared in concert with The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber (R.U.G), The Sound of Rodgers (Stuart Maunder) and Musical Melodies in the Park (City of Stonnington). In 2014 and 2016, Blake starred as Mario Lanza, alongside Phil Scott in the hit cabaret MARIO (Adelaide Cabaret Festival/Hayes Theatre/ Canberra Theatre/Noosa Long Weekend Festival).

Screen roles include Young Jack in the film The Dam, Brusco in Home and Away, Mr & Mrs Murder, The Chaser and as the Young Boy Pirate in The Wiggles Movie.

In 2011 Blake was the winner of The Rob Guest Endowment Award and in 2013 Blake received the Gertrude Johnson Fellowship at The Opera Studio Melbourne.

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TANITH BRYCE *Classical Singing*



Tanith Bryce completed the Diploma of Opera course at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music after having attained her Bachelor of Music. She was also awarded a distinction in her Licentiate of Music. She has appeared as a soprano soloist in numerous orchestral works, some of which include: J.S. Bach's *St. John Passion*, Haydn's *Nelson Mass*, *The Creation*, Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Mozart's *Requiem and Great Mass in c minor*, Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*, Britten's *Hymn to St Cecilia* and Handel's *Messiah*. Tanith has competed successfully in many Eisteddfods and competitions. She was a finalist in the Australian Singing Competition Mathy Awards in 2003 and the winner of the National Eisteddfod Aria 2005. She has also been a national finalist in numerous Opera Foundation Awards, including: Covent Garden National Opera Studio Scholarship (2005 & 2007), Barilla

Italian Scholarship (2005), and The German Opera Foundation Award (2006 & 2007). Tanith now adjudicates at eisteddfods Australia wide.

Tanith has performed the roles of Mimi (*La Boheme* – Puccini), Marjorie in Drew Crawford's Australian premiere of his opera *Eugene and Roie*, Despina (*Così fan Tutte* – Mozart), Lucy (*The Beggar's Opera* – Britten), Nerina (*La Fedelta Premiata* – Haydn), and Rosalinde (*Die Fledermaus* – J. Strauss). She has worked with Opera Australia in many of their productions, including: *Così fan tutte*, *Falstaff*, *Turandot*, *Carmina Burana / Chichester Psalms*, *Jenufa*, *Tannhauser*, *Un Ballo in Maschera*, *La Forza del Destino*, *Otello*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *Aida*, *The Mikado*, *Carmen*, *Die Tote Stadt*, *La Traviata* and performed the role of Isobel in *Pirates of Penzance*.

PRUDENCE CALDWELL *Dance*



Prudence Caldwell was born and grew up in Newcastle, New South Wales where she began dance classes at the age of 4 and completed her RAD examination under the guidance of Marie Walton Mahon. In 2002, after winning the prestigious Sydney Eisteddfod Ballet Scholarship and gaining her Royal Academy of Dance Solo Seal Award, Prudence began her formal training at the Australian Ballet School.

After completing her advanced Diploma in Dance, Prudence's performances have included those with The Australian Ballet Dancers Company, The Queensland Ballet (under the directorship of Francois Klaus) and further abroad with The Royal New Zealand Ballet, Hong Kong Ballet and many leading European ballet companies. During Prudence's career as a ballerina, she has performed hundreds of ballets from the classics

of Swan Lake and Nutcracker to contemporary pieces from renowned choreographers such as Natalie Weir, in Wuthering Heights.

More recently, Prudence based herself in the USA and began training in Las Vegas and Florida with the illustrious Cirque Du Soleil and famous Sandou Trio. It was here, Prudence studied Aerial Arts and has gone on to produce and perform the show Two Worlds where she has combined her ballet artistry with aerial and contortionist skills. Performing Two Worlds has wowed audiences and gained accolades worldwide.

With over 20 years' experience, from performing to guest teaching internationally, Prudence especially enjoys sharing her wealth of knowledge with young aspiring artists.

CARON CHAN *Instrumental*



Caron Chan is the Chief Strings Examiner for the Australian Music Examinations Board (AMEB). Caron has taught in the tertiary and pre-tertiary programs at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and has given master-classes throughout Australia and New Zealand. In demand as an adjudicator and clinician, Caron co-convened the Australian Violin Pedagogy Conference in 2017 and 2019 in Sydney and regularly presents professional development seminars for AUSTA (NSW) and the Victorian Music Teachers' Association. Caron was the Syllabus Consultant for the Level 2 of the new AMEB Series 10 violin Grade books.

Caron's students have been prizewinners in the NSW Secondary Schools Concerto Competition, the Sydney Eisteddfod, the Piano

and Strings Festival and Singapore Raffles International Music Competition. Her students have been soloists with the Australian Chamber Orchestra Academy, Penrith Symphony Orchestra and Kuring-Gai Philharmonic Orchestra.

In addition to her work as a teacher, AMEB (NSW) examiner and adjudicator, Caron performs with the Opera Australia Orchestra and has been a guest musician with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, Sydney Symphony Orchestra and the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra.

VIVIAN CHOI MILTON *Piano*



Acclaimed by Fanfare as 'an exemplar of the modern global pianist', pianist Vivian Choi Milton has toured extensively as a recitalist, concerto soloist, and chamber musician throughout Australia, New Zealand, Europe, North America and Asia.

Her 2020-2021 season highlights include the release of her latest album with the Grammy Award-winning Boston Modern Orchestra Project which was included in the Arts Fuse's Best Classical Recordings of 2020, Sequenza21's Best Albums of 2020 and Best Orchestral Recording of 2020, and Classic Today's Top Ten Recordings of 2020. Vivian made her Tanglewood Festival debut with the Boston Symphony Chamber Players in 2020. Her world premiere performance of Kate Moore's Piano Concerto

was named a finalist in the APRA AMCOS Art Music Award in the Work of the Year "Large Ensemble" category of 2020.

The First prize winner of the Maria Yudina International Piano Competition in Russia, Vivian has won top prizes in international piano competitions in Italy, Russia, Holland and Bulgaria.

Vivian Choi grew up in Sydney, Australia, where she received her earliest musical education. She continued her training at Russia's Saint Petersburg State Conservatory, graduating summa cum laude, and holds graduate degrees from the New England Conservatory and Carnegie Mellon University in the USA.

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KRISTIAN CHONG *Piano*



Kristian Chong has performed throughout Australia and the UK, and in China, France, New Zealand, Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, USA, and Zimbabwe. His wide-ranging performance schedule finds him equally at home as concerto soloist, chamber musician and recitalist.

As concerto soloist he has appeared with the Adelaide, Melbourne, Queensland, Sydney and Tasmanian Symphony Orchestras, and orchestras in the UK, New Zealand and China with conductors such as Werner Andreas Albert, Andrey Boreyko, Nicholas Braithwaite, Jessica Cottis, Fabian Russell, Roy Goodman, Sebastian Lang-Lessing, Nicholas Milton, Benjamin Northey, Tuomas Hannikainen, Marcus Stenz, Arvo Volmer and Marco Zuccarini. Highlights have included Rachmaninoff 3rd with the Sydney Symphony, Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini in Beijing and Canberra, and Britten with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra. More recent concerto highlights include Shostakovich 2nd, Chopin 2nd, Rachmaninoff 3rd, Beethoven's Emperor in Melbourne, Ravel's Left Hand concerto in Melbourne (Australian Youth Orchestra) and Dunedin (Dunedin Symphony Orchestra) and Saint-Saëns 2nd and Rachmaninoff's Paganini Rhapsody with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra.

Described by The Age as 'a true chamber musician at work', Kristian is highly sought after with extensive collaborations with ensembles such as the Tinalley and Australian String Quartets, cellist Li-Wei Qin, flautist Megan Sterling and baritone Teddy Tahu Rhodes, with whom he has recorded with ABC-Classics. Other collaborations include violinists Ilya Kononov, (concertmaster Israel Philharmonic), Vadim Gluzman, Rebecca Chan, Sophie Rowell, Dale Bartrop, Daniel Dodds, Jack Liebeck, Natsuko

Yoshimoto and Satu Vänskä, violists Christopher Moore and Caroline Henbest, and clarinetists Michael Collins and Philip Arkinstall amongst many others.

His festival appearances include the Australian Festival of Chamber Music, Adelaide Festival, Huntington Estate Music Festival, Mimir Chamber Music Festival and the Bangalow Festival.

Other recent solo and chamber highlights include the Xing Hai Festival in Guangzhou, Australian Music Week on Gulangyu Island (Xiamen) with the Melbourne Symphony, Port Fairy Spring Music Festival, and the complete Beethoven Piano & Violin Sonatas as part of the 'Kristian Chong and Friends' series at the Melbourne Recital Centre, which is in its ninth year in 2022 and features cellists Timo Veikko-Valve, Elina Faskhi and pianist Konstantin Shamray.

Kristian studied at the Royal Academy of Music (London) with Piers Lane and Christopher Elton, and earlier with Stephen McIntyre at the University of Melbourne where Kristian currently teaches piano and chamber music. His competition successes include the Symphony Australia Young Performers Award (keyboard) and the Australian National Piano Award. He also adjudicates regularly as a panel member in competitions such as the 2022 Australian National Piano Award, and 'Composing the Future' for the Sydney International Piano Competition.

NOEL CISLOWSKI *Speech & Drama*



Noel Cisowski is a highly esteemed adjudicator of Music and Speech and Drama throughout Australia and New Zealand. His extensive experience in the arts includes performance (singer and actor), teaching at all levels, curriculum development, production and direction, examining and adjudicating.

In the NSW Dept Education Noel held the positions of Inspector of Speech and Drama, Head of the Performing Arts Branch, Chairman of Schools Debating and State Convenor for the Australia-Great Britain Public Speaking Award. At tertiary level Noel was Deputy Chairman of the Board of Studies for NIDA for over 30 years and lectured in drama at the Australian Catholic University and in music for the Australian School of Pacific Administration (ASOPA).

Noel is currently the President of the NSW Speech and Drama Association and is a former President of the NSW Music Teachers' Association. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Australian Performing Arts Academy (AMPA) and Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Australian Performing Arts Grammar School (APGS).

The Eisteddfod movement has been a large part of Noel's life stemming from his early experiences as a successful performer (singing and acting) through to his ongoing passion and commitment to Sydney Eisteddfod as an adjudicator, long-term member of the Board and as its current Chairman.

CHRISTINE DOUGLAS *Classical Singing/Choirs*



Christine Douglas is an established soprano, singing teacher, opera director and mentor.

Her operatic career saw her perform extensively throughout Australia in leading principal roles. Undergraduate studies at the Victorian College of the Arts with Dame Joan Hammond, were followed by a Master of Music Studies (Vocal Pedagogy) at Griffith University.

Following a distinguished operatic career, Christine moved into directing with Opera Australia, becoming Assistant and Revival director. She was awarded a Churchill Fellowship to explore best practice in opera training in the UK and USA, following which

she returned to Australia and founded Pacific Opera (PO), the Sydney based Young Artist development company which now has alumni singing in opera houses around the world. She has directed numerous operas for Pacific Opera and served on the PO board as Executive Vice Chair until 2021.

Christine remains passionate about developing the next generation of singers and has recently worked with Opera Scholars Australia (Vic). Christine now has a thriving private singing studio in Melbourne, Australia and holds the position of Artistic Director, Classical Faculty at Singing School New Zealand.

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THOMAS EGAN

Dance



Thomas Egan is a choreographer, creative, and tap dance performer from Sydney Australia. He has performed with Tap Dogs (touring France, Singapore, Hong Kong, UAE, China and Australia), Singing' In The Rain, Fame The Musical, Baz Luhrmann's "The Great Gatsby", Young Peter Allen in The Boy From Oz, Oliver, Gypsy and worked with Kylie Minogue, Timomatic, X-Factor, Australia's Got Talent, and So You Think You Can Dance.

He is a Creative on the show 'The Tap Pack', which has recently finished a tour of the USA traveling to over 30 different theatres. The show has been nominated for two Green Room Awards, a Dance Award, A Matilda, and won a Spirit Of The Fringe Award at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. The show has had seasons on

the West End in London, Beijing, Berlin and toured extensively in Australia including the Sydney Opera House. Thomas also founded The Tap Project Australia, an initiative that mentors young tap dancers, and The Australian Tap Dance Company, a professional tap company that collects inspiring Australian talent to present engaging tap works. Recently, Thomas choreographed Hugh Sheridan's new show Hughman for the Adelaide Fringe and Brisbane Festival.

He credits his training to Sharon Lawrence (his Mother), Barbra Lynch, Chris Horsey, Paul Davis, and the Victorian College Of The Arts. Also to the many instructors throughout the USA training at Millennium, Debbie Reynolds Dance Studio, Movement Lifestyle, and the LA Tap Festival.

GEORGE ELLIS

*Contemporary Singing/
Instrumental*



George Ellis conducted the Sydney Symphony Orchestra at the Opening Ceremony of the Sydney Olympic Games in front of 110,000 people and for an international television audience of 3.8 billion people. He has conducted concerts in Paris, London, Vienna, Venice, Rome, Florence, Amsterdam, Brussels, New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Washington DC, Los Angeles, Athens and Kuala Lumpur. He has conducted the Queensland Symphony, Tasmanian Symphony, West Australian Symphony, Canberra Symphony Orchestras and Orchestra Victoria, Melbourne. He has also worked with international popular artists including Lou Reed.

He has presented concerts for international events including the Sydney Festival, Athens Olympic Torch Relay, Jakarta Arts Festival, Greek Festival of Sydney, Sydney International Crave Festival, and for the NSW Premier's Department of Protocol and Special Events at the Sydney Opera House.

George Ellis conducted Stravinsky's The Rite of Spring in Bruce Beresford's film Mao's Last Dancer and was Musical Director of stage productions including Sugar, Some Like it Hot, Man of La Mancha and Neil Armfield's Snugglepot and Cuddlepie. He conducted the opera Little Women for the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. His concerts have been broadcast on national television and radio including the world premiere

of Matthew Hindson's Violin Concerto. He has performed with esteemed classical instrumental and vocal artists including Diana Doherty, Lorina Gore, Simon Tedeschi, David Hobson, David Pereira, Gerard Willems, Kathryn Selby.

His composition Pop Mass received first prize in the orchestral and choral composition section of the Sydney Eisteddfod. His Celebration Overture was given its world premiere by the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra in Kuala Lumpur and his musical Matters of Consequence was premiered at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. He also composed the soundtrack to award-winning short film Frank. His orchestral arrangements have been performed by the Danish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Copenhagen and by the Sydney Symphony Orchestra in combination with popular Australian singer/songwriter Josh Pyke.

George Ellis has presented countless education programs for the Sydney Opera House Proms series, Sydney Symphony Sinfonia, Queensland Symphony, Canberra Symphony and the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestras and theatre companies including Monkey Baa Theatre. He lectures in conducting at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, University of Sydney and gives orchestral workshops around Australia.

PETER ELIIS

Choirs



Peter Eliis is a native of Halifax, UK and read Music at the University of Birmingham, studying violin, organ and conducting. He was Music Director of the Birmingham University Chamber Choir and also a member of the renowned City of Birmingham Symphony Chorus, performing at the BBC Proms, on BBC Radio and Channel 4 television and on the Gramophone award winning EMI recording of Syznanowski's King Roger.

Peter qualified in Music Education from the University of London Institute of Education in 2000 and relocated to Australia in 2002. Peter has held a number of artistic positions including Music and Artistic Director of both the Newcastle University Choir and Eastern Sydney Chamber Orchestra and Music Director for Tenor Australis. He has made regular guest conducting appearances for a number of leading vocal ensembles including Coro Innominata, Macquarie University Singers and the Choirs of Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle and St. Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney. Peter also enjoyed four years as pianist for the David Jones Christmas Choir. In addition, as a participant in the Symphony Australia conductor development program, Peter conducted the Tasmanian, Adelaide and Queensland Orchestras.

Always heavily involved in church music, Peter was Assistant Organist/Director of Music at Sydney's St. James', King Street from 2005-2009. He directed a number of orchestral masses and also recorded and broadcast with the choir and Australian Baroque Brass. He was latterly Director of Music at St. Luke's, Mosman from 2009 to 2015. Peter continues to make appearances as organist and harpsichord continuo player.

Peter has been Director of Choral Programs at Sydney's Barker College since 2012. As well as direction of one of Australia's largest school choral programs, Peter is conductor of the college's renowned Chamber Choir. With Barker's choirs, he has performed in Boston, New York, Washington DC, Istanbul,

Cannakale and Gallipoli, as well as giving the first performance outside the USA as well as the Boston and New York premieres of Eric Whitacre's choral version of Goodnight Moon. 2017 Tour appearances saw concerts in Edinburgh, York, London, Cambridge, Villers-Bretonneux and Paris. Peter also directs a number of junior and alumni ensembles and teaches both middle and senior school classroom music. He is fanatically committed to music education and community outreach.

In August 2015 Peter became Music Director of Willoughby Symphony Choir. He has since conducted recordings, prepared them for performances of Beethoven Choral Symphony, Poulenc's Gloria, Christmas, Opera Gala and Promenade concerts as well as conducting performances of Mendelssohn's Elijah, Faure's Requiem, Gjeilo's Sunrise Mass, Brahms' Ein Deutsches Requiem and Handel's Messiah with the WSC and WSO. In 2018 Peter conducted the WSO and WSC in a program of Vaughan Williams choral works as part of the WSO subscription series. Peter was also privileged to conduct the first Australian performance of the Paul McCreesh translation of Haydn's The Seasons with WSO/WSC in 2018.

In recent years, Peter has made a number of appearances with the Ku-ring-gai Philharmonic Orchestra, including the 2017, 2018 and 2019 Kids Proms and several collaborations between the KPO and WSC, with Stravinsky's Pulcinella/Rossini's Stabat Mater in 2017 and Debussy's La Mer/Prokofiev's Alexander Nevsky in 2018. Other 2018 highlights included a debut with English Masters, directing Queensland Baroque from the harpsichord.

In 2019, Peter conducted WSC/WSO in a rare performance of Eugene Goossens' 1959 reorchestration of Messiah, several performances of Beethoven's Choral Symphony in collaboration with the Eastern Sydney Chamber Orchestra and two concerts of English Choral Classics in Sydney and Bathurst.

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JO FABRO

Contemporary Singing



Jo Fabro is a Singing-Voice specialist with 20 years of teaching experience. Having taught voice at many of Sydney's most prestigious schools including ASCHAM, Sydney Grammar & Newington College, Jo went on to lecture at The Australian Institute of Music and operates a thriving private studio in Waterloo, specialising in CCM voice & voice rehabilitation. Jo currently teaches the 'Contemporary Singer' and 'Contemporary Vocal Studio' courses at the Sydney Conservatorium Open Academy and is the current Vice-president of the NSW chapter

of ANATS. Jo has performed as a vocalist across Australia and internationally and holds a Bachelor of Music from UNSW and a Master of Music (Vocal Pedagogy), from Brisbane Conservatorium of Music (Griffith University). In 2018, Jo's research on the use of Registration Terminology in CCM singing teaching was published in the journal *Australian Voice*.

NICOLE FORSYTH

Instrumental



Nicole Forsyth is a performer, researcher, curator and educator, with an extensive freelance career encompassing historical performance, new music and orchestral performance. She is an alumni of AYO programs 1990-94, including the first New Music program at 1991 National Music Camp, tours of Europe, New Zealand and Australia with AYO, Japan and Indonesia with Camerata of AYO.

Nicole co-founded groundbreaking historic performance chamber group Ironwood in 2006 with Rachael Beesley, Julia Frederdsdorff, Daniel Yeadon, which Anna McMichael, Neal Peres Da Costa & Robin Wilson joined from 2010-12 and with them toured Australia, USA & UK. Ironwood currently focuses on 18th and 19th century chamber music performance practices in string quartet and pianoforte quintet, but commissioned new work from living composers while Nicole was also general manager of the group.

Nicole has a great interest in working with living composers, working with Kevin March, Rosalind Page, Damian Barbele, Dan Walker, Christopher Willcock, Felicity Wilcox; notably for Tasmanian International Arts Festival Ten Days on the Island 2015 and Vivid 2016 with Barbele & music technologists John Taylor & Benedict Carey to create a sound interactive performance "Bruce's Shed" as part of Big hArt Inc's "The Acoustic Life of Sheds", and for Soft Soft Loud at Fremantle Arts Centre 2014 with Bryce Dessner and Artistic Director Matthew Hoy. Nicole has also worked with leading Australian new music groups Ensemble Offspring, Halcyon and Kammer in programs for Melbourne Recital Centre, Ngeringa Arts South Australia, Sydney Festival and Aurora New Music Festival (Western Sydney). She

has also performed and recorded with most other Australian HIP groups.

Nicole's orchestral work covers historical performance – Pinchgut Opera & Hobart-Brisbane Baroque principal viola, Australian Brandenburg Orchestra, as well as 'modern' orchestral work with Sydney & Tasmanian Symphony Orchestras, Opera Australia (AOBO & OV) in Sydney & Melbourne, and the Australian Chamber Orchestra.

Her festival appearances include Melbourne, Sydney, Queensland, Perth, Ten Days on the Island, Ballarat Goldfields, Peninsula Summer Festival.

Nicole's current research is in historically informed performance of domestic chamber music in New South Wales, examining the collection of Rouse Hill House, Western Sydney, which includes creating new audience interactives and socio-historical ways of hearing this collection for Sydney Living Museums. Her education work includes lecturing in historical performance at Sydney Conservatorium of Music, The University of Sydney, teaching for pre-professional & music in community programs with AYO, SYO, Ironwood, VCA-MCM, Penrith Strings, Mooorambilla Voices, as well as string programs at Santa Sabina College, Meriden School, MLC School & Burwood Girls High School.

Nicole was a viola student of the late Deborah Lander, in whose name AYO grants a scholarship to current AYO violists. Nicole is proud to have been a student of Debbie's, as well as having been one of the first Suzuki violin students in Australia studying with the late Hiroko Primrose, and from 1979 with Yasuki Nakamura OAM.

KATH GORDON

Speech & Drama



Kath Gordon began teaching acting over 27 years ago after training as an actor, in Los Angeles, under and with such greats as Shelly Winters, Angelina Jolie and Donna McKechnie. Kath now has students who have booked roles in stage and screen, in such shows as Frozen, Matilda, Les Miserables, The Sound of Music, Annie, Strictly Ballroom, The King and I, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Dream Lover, The Boy From Oz, The Body Guard, School of Rock, Charlie & the Chocolate Factory, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child, Investigators & Utopia (ABC), Underbelly and Winners & Losers.

At the age of thirteen, Kath trod the boards in Cat on a Hot Tin Roof for the Melbourne Theatre Company. Her film credits include The Playbook, The Resident Magician, Submerge and she took off Best Actress in The Los Angeles Movie Awards for Life Through a Lens. Some of her TV credits include Doctor Blake, City Homicide, Blue Heelers, All Saints, Neighbours, Satisfaction, Water Rats and Prisoner. She has played over 60 characters on 'The Ossie Ostrich Video Show' for the nine network. Kath recently completed a season of Status, at The Melbourne Arts Centre to rave reviews.

DAVID GRECO

Classical Singing



Internationally regarded for his interpretations of Schubert lieder and works of J.S Bach, ARIA-nominated baritone David Greco has sung on some of the finest stages across Europe, and has appeared as a principal in the world's most exciting opera festivals including Festival Aix-en Provence and Glyndebourne Festival Opera.

David regularly appears as a soloist with Australia's finest ensembles such as the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra, Pinchgut Opera and Australian Chamber Orchestra. Most recently he made his debut in Helpmann Award-winning concerts of music of J.S. Bach with Sydney Symphony.

In 2014, he was the first Australian appointed a position with the Sistine Chapel Choir in the Vatican, Rome.

David is an active researcher into historical performance practice of nineteenth-century voice and recently received his doctorate from Melbourne University. His PhD has led to the first Australian recording project into the historically informed performance of Schubert's songs cycles Winterreise and Die schöne Müllerin on the ABC Classic label, the latter receiving an ARIA nomination for Best Classical Album in 2020.

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FRANCIS GREEP

Classical Singing



Francis Grep is the General Manager and Associate Artistic Director of The Song Company, Australia's national vocal ensemble. He has an international reputation for his work as a vocal coach, recitalist, chorus master, continuo player and conductor, having worked extensively for Opera Australia and held the position of Head of Music at both West Australian Opera and Houston Grand Opera.

Francis has prepared artists and choruses in more than 60 operas. As a vocal coach, he is particularly known for his skill in preparing singers for role debuts through his extensive repertoire experience, and for enabling singers to continue developing and refining their voices through a deep understanding of vocal production, language fluency, musical

styles and performance psychology. His highly developed sense of empathy makes him both an ideal coach and recital partner and has performed across Europe, North and South America, New Zealand and Australia.

Francis gained both his Master of Music and Artist Diploma from the University of Cincinnati along with other qualifications from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and the University of Western Australia. He is currently completing his PhD at the University of Melbourne.

DAVID GRESHAM

Instrumental



David Gresham began playing the cornet with the Forbes town Band before continuing his studies in Orange under Simon Bartlett and Campbell Barnes. He attained a BMus (Mused) at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, studying trumpet under Paul Goodchild. Further study included a Masters of Music technology from the University of Newcastle; conducting with Jerry Nowak; as well as studies in Orff Schulwerk and Kodaly Pedagogies.

David is currently the director of Music at a leading Sydney private school, and in this capacity regularly teaches music from

Junior School to HSC. He has led numerous international tours, including performances at Westminster Abbey and the Vatican and has been the musical director for numerous shows such as thoroughly Modern Millie and the Secret Garden. David is a Committee Member of the NSW Branch of the Australian Band and Orchestra Directors Association (ABODA NSW) and a Member of the Willoughby Symphony orchestra.

JERARD HEFFERNAN

Piano



Jerard Heffernan studied at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music with Sonya Hanke, earning a Bachelor of Music with High Distinction.

After winning numerous piano scholarships and competitions, Jerard travelled to the United States. He completed a Master of Music in piano performance at the prestigious Peabody Institute, where he won the school's Memorial Award for outstanding achievement. He was taught at that time by Julian Martin and Marc Durand, while also participating in masterclasses with Leon Fleisher, Vladimir Feltsman and Ann Schein.

Jerard has participated in many international festivals, including in Aspen, Calgary, Banff and Orford. He recently visited the Juilliard School of Music in New York, where he attended lessons and doctoral seminars.

In Australia, Jerard has taught piano at all levels, including at the Newcastle Conservatorium and the Australian Institute of Music.

BRENDA JONES

Piano



Brenda Jones enjoys a diverse career as a music educator and performer. She is highly regarded as a collaborative pianist, playing duo recitals with principal musicians from the ACO and the Sydney Symphony as well as touring with the ACO on their national concert series. Brenda was recently a guest pianist on tour with the Australian String Quartet, performing at the Dunkeld festival and at Ukaria.

American born and trained, Brenda studied with renowned pedagogue John Perry at USC where she obtained a BM and MM with academic distinction before furthering her studies with Joan Havill at the Guildhall School in London. She was named a Gilmore Young Artist and a finalist for Presidential Scholar of the Arts, two of the USA's most distinguished honours for young

musicians. Brenda was a major prize winner in the 2003 Dublin International Piano Competition and a Semi Finalist in the 2004 Sydney International Piano Competition.

Brenda has had solo engagements with the Pacific Symphony Orchestra, YMF Orchestra, Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra, and the Irish National Symphony. In addition to founding Forest Piano Academy, she is on the faculty at Sydney Grammar School and the Sydney Conservatorium High School, where she teaches piano majors and wrote the Keyboard Musicianship Program. Her prizewinning students have won honours in prestigious competitions, including the Nan Price Memorial Scholarship and the Canada International Piano Competition.

KERRYN JOYCE

Instrumental



Kerryn Joyce joined Australia's premier music ensemble Taikoz in 2001 and is regularly seen on stage as a taiko player, dancer, singer and shinobue player (Japanese side blown flute). She is also a much sought after freelance percussionist working with various orchestras including The Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra and previously with Queensland Symphony and Sydney Symphony Orchestra.

Kerryn's highlights include working premiering 3 Australian world premier concertos with Taikoz with 3 major Australian symphony orchestras MSO, SSO and QSO; also working with Australian choreographer Meryl Tankard on Kaidan: A Ghost Story and performing at Japan's National Theatre as part of Eitetsu Hayashi's 25th Anniversary celebrations. She is also

extremely excited about performing with the Musica Viva inschools program.

From 2008-2018, Kerryn was Taikoz's Education Co-ordinator, establishing events and opportunities for school students to work with members of Taikoz. She is a sought after performer and educator, taiko and percussion teacher and eisteddfod adjudicator.

Kerryn graduated with a Bachelor of Music from the University of Queensland, a Postgraduate Diploma from the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University and continues to extend her studies in Japan.

2022

ADJUDICATORS



IAN KNOWLES *Dance*



Ian Knowles has been fortunate enough to work as a dancer, choreographer, teacher and entertainment director for over 30 years. He has performed in many shows both in Australia and internationally - these include: Anything Goes, West Side Story, My fair Lady, Cinderella, Hello dolly, Fiddler on the Roof, Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines and has worked alongside such great artists as Kylie Minogue, Kd Lang, Jimmy Sommerville, Rhonda Burchmore, Geraldine Turner and tom Burlinson. Ian's choreographic and direction credits include: Bali Agung - Legend of A Goddess (Choreographer) which is still performing in Bali and is up to its 1400th show; Colours of Malaysia opening Ceremony 2009 (Choreographer); Sound of Music 2008

(Choreographer); Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games (Assistant Choreographer Ceremonies); Perth fashion festival (Choreographer); NSW Small Business Awards (entertainment director); Rugby World Cup - Opening Ceremony (Associate Choreographer); Rugby World Cup - Closing Ceremony (Choreographer); Pan (Choreographer) and Rhonda Burchmore in Cabaret (dancer/Choreographer). Ian has taught in many studios across Australia and was proud to be the Artistic director of the fulltime course at the Space Dance and Arts Centre in Melbourne from 2010-2013. He continues to direct, choreograph and teach, both nationally and internationally.

TONY LEE *Piano*



Sydney born pianist, Tony Lee, has gained a reputation as one of Australia's finest young pianists. Tony was artist in residence at the Chapelle Musicale Reine Elisabeth in Belgium and is a protege of the renowned Portuguese-Swiss pianist, Maria-João Pires. As the most highly awarded pianist in Australia, Tony is the First Prizewinner of the Lev Vlassenko Piano Competition, Australian National Piano Award, Australian Youth Classical Music Competition, John Allison Sydney Eisteddfod Scholarship and was named as the Best Australian Pianist at the Sydney International Piano Competition in 2016. Internationally he is

a top prize winner of the Louise Henriette International Piano Competition, Scriabin International Piano Competition, Keri Keri International Piano Competition, Adilia Alieva International Piano Competition, Euterpe International Piano Competition and the Nordic International Piano Competition.

Tony is an active concert pianist and teacher, with a particular interest in supporting and nurturing the next generation of young pianists in Australia, guiding them through various workshops, recitals and also private lessons at his studio in Ryde.

EMMA LOGAN *Dance*



Emma Logan completed her professional training at ED5INTERNATIONAL in Sydney before working as a professional performer across Australia, UK, Asia and the Middle East. Emma spent many years touring live shows internationally including Kat in HIT Entertainments the Little Big Club, Madison in Barney the dinosaur world touring shows and a Singer/Dancer for Princess cruises.

and the Middle East. This included choreographing Peppa Pig's Celebration, the live Peppa Pig musical that is continuing to tour around the world.

Emma now works with Viacom CBS in Australia managing and producing events across Nickelodeon, Nick Jr., MTV and Channel 10.

Emma also relocated to London where she continued her training in dance, singing and acting. She also worked professionally within touring shows, corporate and commercial dance jobs.

Alongside her passion for the arts and live entertainment Emma holds a great love of teaching having taught all ages and styles both here in Australia and the UK for over 18 years. Emma also teaches and lectures across full time and professional courses. Emma is invested in passing on her knowledge and experience to her students and loves what dance brings to both physical and personal growth.

More recently Emma has worked as a choreographer and event manager working with clients in Australia and Asia. She worked as the resident choreographer, director and casting assistant for MEI Worldwide Entertainment for shows across South East Asia

JUDITH MALONE *Classical Singing*



Judith Malone has extensive experience as a performer, teacher, AMEB examiner and adjudicator of classical singing. She is a graduate of the University of Sydney in both Music and English Language and Literature, the holder of diplomas in performing and teaching of voice, and attends national and international conferences, masterclasses and workshops to enrich her knowledge.

Australian singer to participate in the Barcelona Festival of Song in 2014.

She has a wide experience of teaching all age groups, and prepares students for grade and diploma exams, auditions and competitions. Her expertise is sought to adjudicate eisteddfods in NSW and interstate. She is dedicated to the development of vocal technique, optimum repertoire and artistry for all singers, and seeks to realise the potential of each one.

In addition a performing career in opera, operetta, oratorio, Lieder, French and English Song, her ongoing special interest has been in Spanish artsong, culminating in her being the first

ROBERT MCDUGALL *Contemporary Singing*



Robert McDougall holds a Bachelor of Music (Classical Voice) from Sydney Conservatorium, and a Master of Teaching (Secondary) from UNE, and has performed in most of Australia's largest venues, including the Sydney Entertainment Centre, Sydney Opera House, Sydney Cricket Ground, ACER Arena and the Myer Music Bowl. He is in high demand as a corporate performer throughout Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, and has sung in front of the Australian Parliament as well as multiple visiting heads of state. Rob has toured nationally with Newcastle Jazz group "Ultra Swing Lounge", joining them in 2008.

in the Sydney Opera House. He has since performed as Javert in Les Miserables (Packemin Productions), Walter in Chess (The Very Popular Theatre Company) and was cast as Dr Neville Craven, playing opposite Anthony Warlow in The Secret Garden (GFO).

As a passionate advocate of regional education in the arts, Rob gives a great deal of time to ensuring regional students have the same musical opportunities that city students receive. He regularly gives workshops for the NSW Department of Education and is featured artists coordinator and conductor of CAPERS (Creative Arts in Public Education, Regional Spectacular) in Tamworth. In 2016 Rob was a conductor on the NSW West of the Divide tour of Europe, conducting in venues throughout Vienna, Salzburg and Prague. He conducted a similar tour of Vatican city, Italy, Slovenia and Croatia in 2019.

In 2013, Rob was cast in the Australian National Production of Les Miserables, as Legles/Javert cover/Bishop cover, and remains one of the youngest Javerts in the world. Rob performed the role of "The Proprietor" in the Hayes Theatre company production of "Assassins", joining them for an extremely successful season

2022

ADJUDICATORS

JONATHAN MILL *Speech & Drama*



Jonathan Mill graduated from NIDA in 1986. He has worked with the Sydney Theatre Company, Melbourne Theatre Company, State Theatre Company of South Australia, Belvoir St Theatre, Ensemble Theatre, Sport For Jove, GFO, Cameron Mackintosh and many others in productions including *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *A View From the Bridge*, *Cabaret*, *King Lear*, *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*, *Oliver!*, *The Crucible*, *The Ham Funeral*, *Moby Dick*, *Meet Me in St Louis*, *Buddy*, *Jolson*, *The Government Inspector*, *Twelfth Night*, *Waiting for Godot*, and four and a half years as Officer Krupke in *West Side Story*.

He has written and directed many shows including cabarets for Caroline O'Connor, Margi de Ferranti, Leonie Page and Maree Johnson.

TV includes *A Country Practice*, *Water Rats*, *Home and Away*, *All Saints* and several seasons of *Andrew Denton* shows on the ABC.

His teaching credits include NIDA, Actors Centre Australia, Flinders University, Adelaide Centre For The Arts, Brent Street, Sydney Actors School and Westside Actors Studio.

He served four terms as the Federal Vice President of Actors Equity.

JASON NOBLE *Instrumental*



Jason Noble is one of Australia's most versatile clarinetists – experimental to classical – a soloist and core member of Ensemble Offspring. Jason has performed at festivals locally and internationally, from Warsaw to London, Shanghai to Kabul, and all major cities across Australia. "His expertise and virtuosic playing give new insights into the versatility of the bass clarinet" (Sounds Like Sydney)

His album releases include *THRUM* (2020) – a collection of improvised ambient sounds created with Kim Cunio on piano – and *Chi's Cakewalk* (2017), an album of new Australian works for clarinets. He has also made guest appearances on albums

for Gurrumul, Sally Seltmann, ABC Classics, Gondwana Voices, Paul Mac, Halcyon, SICKO improvising orchestra, and the Tiwi women's choir Ngarukuruwala. Recently he performed at the Adelaide Festival in *Incredible Floridas*, curated by Kim Williams, appearing as soloist with the Australian String Quartet.

Jason collaborates with living and emerging composers, and is an in-demand music educator and examiner. He has been invited to teach two winter academies at the Afghanistan National Institute of Music in Kabul, and maintains links with staff and students there.

ADELE OHKI *Instrumental*



From a young age, Adele Ohki was surrounded by music and encouraged by Mary Tatchell, Canberra Girls Grammar School, and Lindy Reksten, Principal cellist of the Canberra Symphony Orchestra. At the age of 15 Adele attended the AFCM Winterschool and met the American pedagogue, Charles Castleman, who encouraged her to move to the USA where she completed a High School Diploma at the Idyllwild School of Music and the Arts in California, followed by a Bachelor of Music at the Eastman School of Music at Rochester, NY. In 2002, Adele undertook the Advanced Performance Program at ANAM. After ANAM, Adele returned to the USA for further studies (Master of Music from Northwestern University, Chicago and Boston University Master in Baroque Violin, 2014) and forged a very successful career as a freelance musician and teacher.

From 2006-2008, Adele performed with the Goteborg Opera and Goteborg Symphony Orchestra-National Orchestra of Sweden in Goteborg, Sweden. Adele has performed with many of America's most successful regional performing ensembles, such as the Vermont, Cape, Portland and New Hampshire Symphony orchestras, and has also participated in some of the most prestigious chamber music festivals in the world (Spoleto Festival,

Music Academy of the West, Bach Akademie Stuttgart, Oberlin Baroque Institute, Adriatic Chamber Music Festival in Italy, and Cursos Internacionais de Música de Guimarães Portugal). Whilst in Boston for almost two decades, Adele established herself as an active freelance musician, playing regularly with the Boston Ballet, Opera Boston, Landmark Symphony Orchestra and the Boston Philharmonic.

Adele has also taught violin at the Vermont Youth Orchestra Summer Program and the Indian Hill School of Music in Boston. Her USA teaching experience culminated in a Full-time Artist in Residence position at the Boston Conservatory Lab Charter School, overseeing the El Sistema Program.

In late 2020, Adele and her family moved from Boston to Sydney when she took up the position of Head of Strings, Newington College.

As of 2021, Adele has performed with the Australian Haydn Ensemble and the Sydney Philharmonia, and is focusing on establishing herself as a baroque violinist.

LISA PAVANE *Sydney Eisteddfod Ballet Scholarship*



Born in Newcastle, NSW, a student of Tessa Maunder, Lisa Pavane joined The Australian Ballet School in 1978 and the Australian Ballet in 1981. Lisa rose swiftly to Soloist in 1983 and Principal Artist in 1986. In 1994 Lisa joined English National Ballet as Senior Principal. Lisa has appeared internationally as guest artist, including with the Boston, Kirov and Birmingham Royal Ballet Companies. Later, Lisa combined work in administration at ENB with further studies. Returning to Australia in 2001, Lisa

freelanced and ran a Property Management business. In 2007 she joined The Australian Ballet School staff and in 2008 became the first graduate of the School's Vocational Graduate Certificate in Elite Ballet instruction. In 2012 Lisa became Head of Student training, was awarded a Churchill fellowship and gained her Graduate Certificate in Professional Education and Training. Lisa commenced her tenure as director of the Australian Ballet School in 2015.

2022

ADJUDICATORS



DR SARAH PENICKA-SMITH

Choirs



Versatile, perceptive, and a passionate advocate for music as a force for change, Dr Sarah Penicka-Smith is one of four artists with a socially-engaged practice selected for the inaugural CASE Incubator program. She was recently appointed as Willoughby Symphony's Associate Conductor, conducting two acclaimed collaborations with Legs On The Wall. Sarah's other positions include Artistic Director & Principal Conductor of River City Voices, Head of Creative Arts at St Andrew's College, Principal Conductor with the Macquarie Singers & Macquarie Chamber Orchestra, and Artistic Director of Pacific Pride Choir. She also founded the Lifehouse Volunteer Orchestra, bringing music to patients and their families at the Chris O'Brien Lifehouse.

Sarah made her international debut in Dallas in 2018 through the Hart Institute for Women Conductors at The Dallas Opera. She has conducted a number of operas with Sydney companies, as

well as guest conducting for various ensembles including Sydney Philharmonia Choirs, Penrith Symphony Orchestra, Ku-ring-gai Philharmonic Orchestra, and Sydney Youth Orchestra.

Sarah's current projects include libretto development for The Klein-Arkininstall Project, a new one-woman opera about living with OCD; Festival Choir Director for the Blackheath Choral Festival, and a recording/performance project with River City Voices and the neurodiverse musicians of Club Weld in Parramatta.

Photo credit: Karen Almond

JAMES PENSINI

Instrumental



James Pensini is one of the leading conductors of youth instrumental music in Australia and is currently the Head of Orchestral Training and Community Engagement at the Sydney Youth Orchestras and Head of Music Performance P-12 at Santa Sabina College.

James studied trumpet and conducting at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and has performed and toured extensively with many orchestras and ensembles. Performance highlights include performing as Principal Trumpet with the Sydney Youth Orchestra for five years including a tour of Spain and Portugal; performing as Principal Trumpet with the Australian Youth Orchestra including a tour of France, Germany and the Netherlands with pianist Jean Yves Thibaudet; performing as a member of the Sydney Symphony Training Orchestra and performing as Lead Trumpet with the Australian Youth All-Star Big Band including a tour to the Monterey Jazz Festival.

As a conductor James has worked in and run many of the finest instrumental music programs for young people at a school and representative level in Australia and has been privileged to lead multiple international tours to the United States and Europe. James is a former National Board member of the Australian Band and Orchestra Directors Association and is regularly called upon as an adjudicator and guest conductor.

James is the Founding Conductor of the Western Sydney Youth Orchestra which he continues to conduct alongside the Symphonic Wind Orchestra for the Sydney Youth Orchestras. In 2017 James conducted the Sydney Youth Orchestra on a European Tour including workshops with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra and Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra.

LACHLAN PHILPOTT

Speech & Drama



Lachlan Philpott is a graduate of The University of NSW [BA Theatre and English], Sydney University [Education], NIDA [Playwright's Studio] and VCA [Directing]. His plays have been produced in Australia, England, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland and the USA. He is a long term collaborator with director and academic Dr Alyson Campbell who has worked on many of his plays and directed premieres of his works *Bison*, *Catapult*, *The Trouble with Harry*. Together they work under the banner of their company *wreckedAllprods*.

Lachlan has been a writer in residence at The American Conservatory Theatre San Francisco, Cite Internationale des Artes Paris [through The Australia Council], Griffin Theatre Company, Sydney, Kansas State University, The Traverse Theatre Edinburgh as part of The Traverse Fifty, The Playwrights Foundation San Francisco and Red Stitch Theatre, Melbourne.

As a playwright Lachlan is proud to have worked with The American Conservatory Theatre San Francisco, Amnesty International, Australian Theatre for Young People, Belvoir Sydney, Bell Shakespeare, Brisbane Powerhouse, Canberra Youth Theatre, Checkpoint Theatre Singapore, La Comedie Francaise Paris, Cre8ion, Crowded Fire Theater San Francisco, Edinburgh Festival, Edinburgh University, Feast Festival Adelaide, Focus Theatre Sydney, Glen St Theatre Sydney, Griffin Theatre Company Sydney, Hothouse Theatre Albury, IronBark London, Kansas State University, La Boite Brisbane, The Lark New York, London Pride, Malthouse Melbourne, Mardi Gras Sydney, The Mac Belfast, Midsumma Melbourne, Melbourne Festival, MKA New Writing Theatre, The National Theatre of Croatia Rijeka, The New Theatre, NIDA, The NSW Drama Ensembles, Outburst Belfast, Oval House London, Perth Theatre Company, The Perseverance Theatre Juneau Alaska, Playwriting Australia,

Q Theatre Penrith, PACT Sydney, The Playwright's Centre Minneapolis, The Playwright's Foundation San Francisco, Red Stitch Melbourne, Rock Surfers Sydney, Sydney Theatre Company, Tantrum Theatre Newcastle, Theatre Libre Saint Etienne, Theatreofpluck Belfast, The Traverse Theatre Edinburgh, Troisieme Bureau Grenoble, Red Stitch Melbourne, St Martins Melbourne, The Victorian College of the Arts and The Victorian Arts Centre.

Lachlan does extensive work as a teacher, mentor and dramaturg at theatre companies, schools and tertiary institutions around the world.

In 2013 he was awarded an Australia Council Cultural Leadership grant to study new play development models. This grant included residencies at The Playwrights' Centre and The Lark Play Development Centre in the US. In 2016 he was awarded a six month residency in Paris in the Keesing Studio through The Australia Council. As the inaugural Australian Professional Playwright Fulbright Scholar, Lachlan travelled to the USA in late 2014 to work with The American Conservatory Theatre San Francisco, The Lark Play Development Centre New York and Kansas State University.

Lachlan is currently developing new theatre work with The American Conservatory Theatre San Francisco, Barking Gecko Perth, Merringong Theatre, The National Theatre of Croatia Rijeka and Alyson Campbell, The NSW Arts Unit, Michael Sieders Productions and UK based director Emma Calendar. Lachlan is currently developing film work with Vanguard Productions and Dirty Films. Lachlan was Chair of the Australian Writer's Guild Playwrights' Committee between 2012 and 2016.

2022

ADJUDICATORS

LYN PIERSE

Speech & Drama



Lyn Pierse, teacher and NIDA Acting Graduate, is Australia's most recognised teacher of Improvisation teaching a generation of actors, improvisers, teachers, comics & corporates for 40 years including NIDA (22 years), ACA, SAS, AIM DRAMA, HUB Studios, STS, UNSW AGSM, UNE, Macquarie Uni., Sophia University Tokyo, ATYP, Drama NSW, Speech & Drama Teachers' Association NSW, Genesias Theatre, Darlo Drama, UNESCO Chair Romania, and a host of Corporate clients.

As National Coach, Lyn pioneered Theatresports® teaching across Australia and New Zealand for Belvoir Street Theatre. She established Theatresports® and Improvisation companies in Japan. She's staged Improvisation and Charity extravaganzas; Cranston Cup, Celebrity, National, International Theatresports® Challenges, Much Ado About Improvised Shakespeare, 30th Anniversary Theatresports® Celebrity Challenge to capacity audiences at Sydney Opera House, Enmore Theatre, Belvoir St., NIDA Playhouse, QPAC, State Theatre South Australia. Her Acting credits include Three Sisters Sport For

Jove, The Importance of Being Earnest, The Pigeons Griffin Independent, Roberto Zucco Old Fitzroy, The Women Of Lockerbie, Australian Premier Berkhoff's Greek, Rex Cramphorne's Measure For Measure, Neil Armfield's Season At Sarsaparilla, Woyzek and Nick Enright's original Summer Rain. As her alter ego Sr. Mary Leonard she has hosted Theatresports® at the Sydney Opera House, Enmore, Belvoir Street, Virgin Comics, Comics on the Cross, and appeared at Melbourne's Last Laugh Le Joke, the Tokyo British Club and ABC's Big Gig.

Her recent film appearances include 2021 Flickerfest Finalist The Jump, 2020 2017 feature film and webseries Skinford, 2016 improvised feature Lovestuck, 2016 Tropfest Finalist The ATM. TV appearances include Rake, How Not To Behave, The Balmoral Protection Unit, Going Home SBS, All Saints, Home and Away.

Lyn is the author of the widely studied text, Improvisation: The Guide.

KARINA POBEREZNIC

Dance



Karina Pobereznic joined The Australian Ballet in 1992 upon completion of her at The Australian Ballet School. During her time in the company Karina was fortunate to work with Maina Gielgud AO who was Director of The Australian Ballet at that time. Maina staged her highly acclaimed 'Giselle' and 'The Sleeping Beauty' for the company which Karina thoroughly enjoyed performing both in Australia and overseas. She has worked with many leading choreographers and guest teachers during this time, including Gelsey Kirkland and Jiri Kylian when he came to Australia to stage one of his famous ballets 'Forgotten Land'.

In 1996, Karina joined Birmingham Royal Ballet as a First Artist. She danced many leading roles with the company and worked with leading choreographers and coaches from England, Europe and America. She toured with the company both nationally and internationally during this time. Karina especially enjoyed working with leading choreographer and director of Birmingham Royal

Ballet, David Bintley CBE. Some highlights of Karina's career are dancing one of her first principal roles in David's full length ballet 'Far from the Madding Crowd' with former Principal dancer and soon to be Director of The Royal Ballet Kevin O'Hare and dancing with Chi Cao (principal dancer with Birmingham Royal Ballet and lead star in the movie 'Mao's Last Dancer') also in one of David's one act ballets 'The Protecting Veil'. In 2002, after retiring as a dancer with the Birmingham Royal Ballet due to the birth of her first child, Karina was offered a position within the Communications Department of the company.

In 2005, Karina was asked and was honoured to adjudicate the McDonalds Ballet Scholarship at City of Sydney Eisteddfod and realised adjudicating had become another passion of Karina's and she was delighted to be returning this year.

PETER POOLE

News Reading & Radio Announcing



Peter Poole is a passionate advocate of the ability to present the spoken word in an interesting and informative way, which has application well beyond the world of broadcasting, and hopes that the opportunity offered by Sydney Eisteddfod encourages young people to develop their abilities in this area.

He has been involved in Radio Presentation for over 25 years, first as a reader of newspapers and magazines with 2RPH, and since 2016 has been a classical music programmer and presenter

with 2MBS Fine Music Sydney. Prior to that, Peter participated in musical theatre for many years. He has also volunteered as a guide for Sydney Living Museums and has been a member of Sydney Philharmonia Choirs' Symphony Chorus since 2004.

Peter has adjudicated the Newsreading event for Sydney Eisteddfod in 2019 and 2021 and was recently heard as a voice-over on ABC Radio National's Science Show.

GEOFF POWER

Instrumental



Geoff Power is an experienced brass teacher, ensemble director and performing musician. He has many years' experience teaching trumpet, trombone, euphonium and tuba to tertiary level, directing concert bands, jazz ensembles and brass ensembles in some of Sydney's leading private schools, and performance experience across the music industry. In

particular, he is regarded as one of Australia's finest Traditional Jazz musicians, having played and recorded with musicians of the calibre of Bob Barnard, Tom Baker, James Morrison, Don Burrows, Vince Giordano, The New Wolverine Jazz Orchestra and many others. He has appeared as a featured soloist at festivals and jazz clubs throughout Australia, Europe and the USA.

2022

ADJUDICATORS



DR SIMON POWIS *Classical Guitar*



A passionate and expressive style coupled with a formidable technique has garnered attention for Simon Powis as a talented soloist, chamber musician and innovator. Growing up in Sydney, Australia, Powis began his studies at the age of five on the cornet. Inspired by his brother's musical pursuits he took up the guitar at age eleven and began an enduring obsession that would result in performances throughout Europe, Australia and the Americas. After completing his studies at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music with Raffaele Agostino in 2004, Powis traveled extensively throughout Europe to study with some of the world's most renowned virtuosos. Oscar Ghiglia, David Russell, Pavel Steidl and

Aniello Desiderio have had a great impact on the musical style and technical foundation that Powis possesses. In 2006 Powis was invited to undertake a Masters of Music at Yale University on a full scholarship and upon completing this degree he was accepted as the first guitarist in over two decades to undertake doctoral studies at Yale.

Powis has toured extensively as a soloist and chamber musician with performances in Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, Australia House, the GFA symposium, and the Banff Center for the Arts.

PAULINA QUINTEROS *Dance*



Paulina Quinteros is a WAAPA graduate. As a dancer she has worked with artistic directors Graeme Murphy and Paul Mercurio. Her major love is for choreography where she has built a repertoire of more than 30 original works. She has produced works for festivals and been commissioned by companies and organisations as diverse as the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, the Sydney Peace Prize, UNSW, NAISDA, WAAPA, VCA, The Australian Ballet Company and Queensland Ballet.

She is the Founding Artistic Director of Danza del Arte with the express mission of building an artistic hub for the many independent dance artists and performers based in Sydney and beyond.

Paulina's new work Sui-generis is scheduled to be performed in September and November 2022.

GLENN RIDDLE *Piano*



Glenn Riddle studied piano at the University of Melbourne before undertaking post-graduate studies at the Royal College of Music, London and the University for Music and the Performing Arts in Vienna. He has recorded 15 CDs for ABC Classics, Move Records, Tall Poppies and Hal Leonard, and is also featured on the internationally acclaimed DVD Classical Destinations III. His latest CD features the chamber music of Australian composer Christine McCombe.

presenting recitals, workshops, masterclasses, examining and adjudicating. He has also been a member of international competition juries in the United States, Greece, Indonesia and Thailand.

One of Australia's leading piano pedagogues, his students have been prize-winners in international competitions in France, USA, China, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Indonesia, performing concertos with orchestras from China, Thailand, Vietnam, Morocco, Poland and Austria, as well as the Queensland, Sydney and Melbourne Symphony Orchestras. A much sought-after lecturer, adjudicator and pedagogue, Glenn has worked extensively throughout Asia, USA, Australia and New Zealand

Glenn has edited 12 volumes of piano music for the Australian Music Examinations Board and a recent article on teaching gifted children appeared in the Piano Teacher. He has also published in Psychology of Music and in Clavier Magazine.

A Lecturer in Keyboard at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, Glenn Riddle is a member of the National Committee of the Australasian Piano Pedagogy Conference, Federal Examiner for the AMEB, a member of the AMEB International Examining panel, and Senior Music Critic for Australia's leading online cultural magazine Classic Melbourne.

FABIAN RUSSELL *Instrumental*



Fabian Russell has been at the forefront of the Australian classical music industry in his 30 year career as an award winning conductor, artistic director, orchestral musician, soloist and educator.

Adams' Nixon in China, where he received the Green Room Award for Opera Conductor. He has also served as Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the Melbourne Youth Orchestra, the Monash Academy Orchestra, University of Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and has worked with every major youth orchestra in Australia. He has enjoyed a long relationship with the internationally acclaimed Australian Youth Orchestra as Associate Conductor and in 2013 was Conductor-in-Residence at the Australian Youth Orchestra National Music Camp in Adelaide.

He is the Founder, Artistic Director and Conductor of The Orchestra Project: the Melbourne based training orchestra that presents major orchestral concerts comprised of Australia's finest young musicians playing alongside members of Australia's professional orchestras. Since 2016, Fabian has been Principal Conductor of the NSW Youth Orchestra.

Fabian Russell was the recipient of a 2012 Sir Winston Churchill Memorial Fellowship and holds a Masters Degree in Music Research from the Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University.

Fabian has conducted most of Australia's professional orchestras, Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra and numerous youth and orchestras throughout Asia and Europe. He has regularly appeared as Guest Conductor with Victorian Opera since making his debut in the acclaimed 2013 production of John

2022

ADJUDICATORS

LUKE SPICER

Instrumental



An acclaimed violist and chamber musician, Luke Spicer is now making his mark as an operatic and symphonic conductor. Graduating with a Masters of Conducting from the Sydney Conservatorium, he has furthered his studies in Freiburg, and Manchester, and attended the Fondazione Musicale Chigiana, Siena, working under Maestro Gianluigi Gelmetti. Luke was also a participant in the Symphony Services International Conductor Development Program during 2016.

2017 saw Luke join Opera Australia as Music Director of the NSW schools tour and make his conducting debut with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra and Canberra Symphony Orchestra. In 2018 he conducted Willoughby Symphony Orchestra as part of their subscription series, The Tales of Hoffmann with Rockdale Opera Company as part of their 70th Anniversary celebrations, and the inaugural gala concert of Coast Opera Australia, featuring Jose Carbo and Sally-Anne Russell.

In 2014 Luke was appointed Principal Conductor of the Sydney University Symphony Orchestra, became Music Director of Blush Opera in Sydney in 2016, and has been the Associate Conductor of the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra for several years. He made his operatic debut in 2015 with Gluck's Orfeo ed Euridice, directed by Shannon Murphy and featuring Silvia Colloca, Stacey Alleaume, and Catherine Bouchier in the principal roles, as part of the Spectrum Now Festival. Luke has also conducted Mendelssohn's Elijah, Walton's Façade, Wagner's Wesendonck Lieder, and in 2016 conducted a sell-out production of Puccini's Il Tabarro, directed by Constantine Costi.

Luke has also been Guest Assistant Conductor at The Bruckner Orchestra Linz and the Saarländisches Staatstheater of Saarbrücken, and has been mentored by conductors including Marko Letonja, Johannes Fritsch, Giordano Bellincampi, and Dr Nicholas Milton.

LUIS SAGLIE

Piano



Luis Saglie has formal training as a composer, conductor and pianist from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) as well as the Konservatorium Wien Privatuniversität (MUK) and Hochschule für Musik in Vienna, Austria. He is constantly active as composer/pianist at an international level with regular performances and musical projects in Europe, North America, South America, Asia and Oceania. He is the recipient of several international prizes and awards and acts as curator and adjudicator for international music festivals and competitions.

With over ten years experience as a University Professor in three different countries, Luis Saglie has held positions as Head of Composition Department and Music Director/Conductor. Currently, he teaches at the University of Sydney - Conservatorium of Music. Renowned composer and pedagogue Samuel Adler states, "Luis Saglie is one of the most respected composers, pianists and pedagogues on the musical scene today".

CHRISTIAN TÁTCHEV

*Sydney Eisteddfod
Ballet Scholarship*



Queensland Ballet Academy Director, Christian Tatchev, trained at the National School of Choreography in Sofia, Bulgaria. Performing his first leading roles shortly after commencing his professional career at age 16, Christian was promoted to Principal Artist at 21. His repertoire includes principal roles in the major classical repertoire as well as in numerous works by celebrated choreographers of modern times.

Christian joined Queensland Ballet (QB), Australia, after participating in the Company's 2008 International Gala. Following his retirement from the stage in 2011, he was appointed QB's Ballet Master.

He took up the position of Director of Training in 2013 and became the Queensland Ballet Academy Director in 2016. In addition to QB, Christian has worked with The Sofia National Opera and Ballet, Bulgarian contemporary dance company Ballet Arabesque, PACT Ballet (Johannesburg), Cape Town City Ballet and the South African Ballet Theatre, where alongside his role as a Principal Artist, he was engaged as a Répétiteur.

Christian continues to perform with the Company as a Character Artist and frequently adjudicates at various national and international ballet competitions.

JAMES TAYLOR

Dance



Born in London and trained at the Royal Ballet School, where James Taylor received a scholarship to study at the Paris Opera, James has been a member of the Royal Ballet, London, the National Ballet of Portugal, Lisbon and the National Ballet of Canada, Toronto. He has worked on new productions with many world-renowned choreographers including Sir Frederick Ashton, Sir Kenneth MacMillan, Rudolf Nureyev, Jiri Kilian, William Forsythe, Glen Tetley, David Parsons and Graeme Murphy.

James has also performed with many international ballet stars including, Rudolf Nureyev, Sir Anthony Dowell, Silvie Guillem, Mikhail Barishnikov, Fernando Böhönes, Karen Kain, Alessandra Ferri, John Meehan, Margaret Illman, Rex Harrington, Leanne Benjamin and Viviana Durante. James joined Sydney

Dance Company in 1993 and after three years left to form his own business, Smeg Productions, producing dance based entertainment for corporate and private clients, including DKNY, BMW, Porsche, ABN Amro, MTV and the Attorney General.

In 2001 James was a founding member of the Bondi Ballet and has created five works as Resident Choreographer and later became the Assistant Artistic Director. James has created two works with Sydney Dance Company and two works for the West Australian Ballet.

James is also a recognised freelance teacher and choreographer and has adjudicated twice for the McDonald Challenge Ballet Final at the Sydney Opera House.

2022

ADJUDICATORS



CHRIS TINGAY

Instrumental



Born in England in 1969, Christopher Tingay studied with Alan Vivian at the Canberra School of Music, graduating in 1990 with a Bachelor of Music degree with Distinction. After studying in France and England, Christopher was appointed as 2nd Clarinet in the Sydney Symphony Orchestra in 1993; a position he has now held for 29 years. Since joining the SSO he has toured with them multiple times to Europe, the USA, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macau, Korea, China, and Malaysia. As an augmenting player Christopher has played with the Australian Chamber Orchestra, the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra, The Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, The Auckland Philharmonic, The Opera Australia Orchestra, the Canberra Symphony Orchestra and the Australia Ensemble. With the SSO and ACO Christopher has made many

recordings on the Channel Classics, Octavia, ABC Classics and Sydney Symphony Live labels.

Christopher is passionate about music education. He is actively involved with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra's Education Programs, particularly "Playerlink," a regional program bringing together high school students to play in a Symphony Orchestra, often for the first time. He tutors wind sections for both the Sydney and Australian Youth Orchestras, and is regularly on their audition panels. He has been the clarinet tutor at 6 National Music Camps, and Lectures part-time at the Sydney Conservatorium.

JOSHUA THOMSON

Dance



Joshua Thomson was appointed to the role of Artistic Director of Legs on the Wall in 2017, and has since made numerous works that have toured nationally and internationally. His latest Thaw has just premiered at Sydney Festival and is now on tour nationally and internationally. Thaw is a 2.5ton Ice sculpture suspended 20m high by a crane having an aerialist perform on it for over eight hours. He co-created work Highly Sprung is an outdoor large impact trampoline activation. Highly Sprung presented at Sydney Festival & Bleach Festival, Chile. Tide, a durational work he co-created took out Best Physical and Visual work at the Prestigious Helpmann Awards in 2018.

Joshua is a Performer, Choreographer, Director and Maker. He holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Dance) from the Queensland University of Technology. For the past 15 years Joshua has

worked nationally and internationally across many different performative art forms with company's such as Tasdance, Dancenorth, Perth Theatre Company, The Farm and PVC – Physical/Virus Collective (Germany), Legs On The Wall, Shaun Parker & Company, Stalker Stilt Theatre and Marrugeku. Joshua is one of the founding members of the new Gold Coast company The Farm. CockFight, a show that he co-created with other members of The Farm, was nominated in the "Best Ballet or Dance work" category at the prestigious 2016 Helpmann Awards. He specialises in dynamic physical performing work, ranging from live theatre to a 48 hour duration work in the ocean.

KRISTINA WALLBANK-HUTTON

Dance



Kristina Wallbank-Hutton is a Royal Academy of Dance qualified teacher and has over 10 years' experience as a professional ballet and contemporary dancer. She has spent several years abroad as a project manager and producer for large scale theatre productions in Europe while simultaneously mentoring & coaching pre-professional dance students in preparation for national and international competitions.

In 2017 Kristina won Swiss Champion, Professional Division in Jazz/Modern Dance and later represented Switzerland at the World Dance Olympiad in St Petersburg, Russia, ranking in the world's top 10.

Some of Kristina's performance credits include dancing with the Mystic Ballet, Ajkun Theatre and performing as a soloist with the

Lucerne State Theatre. She appeared regularly as a dancer and dance double for the ABC's television series Dance Academy as well as the feature film Dance Academy: The Movie in 2017.

Kristina's professional training began with Tanya Pearson's Classical Coaching Academy before going on to train with the Zurich Opera Ballet School. She later went on to expand her repertoire graduating Brent Street in 2013 and Sydney Dance Company's Inaugural Pre- Professional year in 2014.

She now resides in Sydney where she teaches at The Ballet Class and at Sydney Dance Company.

BARRY WALMSLEY

Piano



Barry Walmsley has enjoyed a distinguished career as a music educator, piano accompanist, writer, and adjudicator.

At the Sydney Conservatorium, he studied for the DSCM in piano with Eunice Gardiner and Gordon Watson, as well as organ with Robert Ampt at Sydney, and Sharon Raschke at Newcastle. He went on to add a music education degree after this, as well as the Associate and Licentiate diplomas from Trinity College London.

In the mid-80's, Barry took up a part-time lecturing position in music at Avondale University, teaching harmony, piano and curriculum studies to undergraduate students.

For 11 years since 1990, Barry was the music critic for The Newcastle Herald, writing a regular column each week, as well as reviewing new books and CDs. During this time, he attained the Master of Music degree from the University of New South Wales, and was subsequently made a Member of the Australian College of Education.

He is a member of numerous professional networks including the Music Teachers' Association of NSW (of which he is currently President). He is also a Fellow of the Institute of Managers and Leaders, and a member of both the Australian College of Educators and the Australian Council of Educational Leaders.

He has worked for Trinity College London since 1990, and was awarded Honorary Membership to the College by the College's patron, HRH The Duke of Kent at a ceremony in London's Wigmore Hall in 1995, in recognition of his contribution to music education and Trinity's work in Australia. He was appointed State Manager in 1998 and National Manager in 2000. In 2002 in London, he was again the recipient of an award: the Chairman's Award from Lord Geddes (Chair, Board of Governors).

Barry has performed in such great venues as Sydney Opera House, Sydney Town Hall, City Recital Hall – Angel Place, Hoosier Dome (Indianapolis, USA) and the Cathedrals of St Mary's (Sydney), St Andrew's (Sydney), St Patrick's (Parramatta), St John's (Brisbane), Christ Church (Newcastle), and throughout USA and New Zealand.

He has been Musical Director for a number of productions and events. For the Gold Coast Arts Centre, he was the MD for the Australian premiere of Jekyll & Hyde starring Rob Guest (2004).

He has been Director of Music at two distinguished schools: The Southport School (2001-2005), and The King's School, Parramatta (2005-2020).

He was honoured by being invested in 2005 into the charitable organisation – the Sovereign Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller, and belongs to the Priory of Queensland.

2022

ADJUDICATORS

BRETT WEYMARK Choirs



Brett Weymark was born in Sydney and trained at the University of Sydney (voice) and the NSW Conservatorium of Music (conducting); he undertook further study in the United Kingdom, Europe and the United States.

In 2002, he was awarded a Centenary Medal for his service to music - in particular, choral performance.

He has held positions with The Song Company, Opera Australia, Pacific Opera, Sounds Baroque, Cantillation and The University of Western Sydney. He is currently the Music Director of The Sydney Philharmonia Choirs - a post he has held since 2004.

He has worked with many of the major musical organisations in both in Australia and internationally including the BBC Proms, Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, Queensland Symphony Orchestra, Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, The Orchestra of the Antipodes, Western Australian Symphony Orchestra and the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra. He has appeared in productions with Opera Australia and Pinchgut Opera and has recorded a wide range of films scores from *Happy Feet* to *Mad Max: Fury Road*. He appears on a number of ABC Classic recordings both as a conductor and a singer.

He has conducted many world premieres of works by composers such as Peter Sculthorpe, Dan Walker, Paul Stanhope, Elena Kats-Chernin, Andrew Schultz and Matthew Hindson. He initiated the ChorusOz project at the Sydney Opera House in

2005 which now draws hundreds of singers each year to explore choral works over the long weekend in June at the Concert Hall of the Sydney Opera House. The 2015 event attracted over 1000 singers. He has chorus mastered for Sir Simon Rattle, Sir Charles Mackerras, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Paul McCreech and Edo de Waart amongst others. His performance of Purcell's King Arthur was nominated for a Limelight Award and his work as chorus master on Stravinsky's *Oedipus Rex* and *Symphony of Psalms* (directed by Peter Sellars) won a Helpmann Award.

Recent conducting highlights have included the world premiere of Paul Stanhope's *Jandamarra* with the Sydney Symphony as well as conducting their *Tea and Symphony* and *Mozart in the City* series, Handel's *Messiah* for New Zealand Symphony, Purcell's King Arthur for Brisbane Baroque, ANZAC Day concerts for the Queensland Symphony, Haydn's *Creation* with the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, Bach's *St John Passion* with the Sydney Philharmonia Choirs, Handel's *Jephtha* and *Susanna for Handel in the Theatre* (Canberra) and acting as Chorus Master in Adelaide Festival's production of *Saul*. In 2019, he conducted West Australian Opera's season of *Sweeney Todd*.

2021 highlights include *Carousel* for State Opera of South Australia, *A Child of Our Time* for The Adelaide Festival and a full program of concerts with Sydney Philharmonia.

SIMONE WHETTON Speech & Drama



Simone Whetton's interest in effective oral communication in our daily lives, as well as in performance, stems from her early years as a regular entrant in many eisteddfods throughout NSW. Simone obtained her AMEB Speech & Drama teaching diploma and taught for some years while studying law at the University of Sydney.

Simone is a partner in the corporate and commercial group at Colin Biggers & Paisley. She is also a broadcaster on ABC Radio

Sydney, presenting *What's On* segments on the Weekend Show, reviewing theatre, art, music and other cultural events in Sydney.

She is the Chair of physical theatre company *Legs on the Wall* and is a board member of Griffin Theatre Company and the German Australian Chamber of Industry and Commerce. Simone is a former Senate appointed director of the University of Sydney Union.

DAMIEN WHITELEY Classical Singing



Australian Bass Damien Whiteley was born in Wellington NSW, studied piano & violin from an early age and graduated from the University of Sydney, RNCM Manchester & IOS at Opernhaus Zürich. He has performed at the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, with William Christie/Les Arts Florissants at Teatro Real Madrid (Monteverdi's *L'Incoronazione di Poppea*), and the Opera Comique Paris (Deborah Warner's production of Purcell's *Dido & Aeneas*) and with Pinchgut Opera in Monteverdi's *Orfeo* & Rameau's *Dardanus*. Major roles in Germany include Salieri's *Falstaff*, Graun's *Cesare e Cleopatra*, Gazzaniga's *Don Giovanni*, Paisiello's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*. Damien's recent appearances include *Musica Speranza* at the Salzburg Landestheater, Bartolo

in Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* with Lyric Opera Dublin, *Grande Inquisitore* in Verdi's *Don Carlo* in Spain, the world premiere of Sontow's *Dan No Ura* and *Sarastro* in *Die Zauberflöte* for Opera Siam in Bangkok. He features on numerous recordings including a solo CD entitled 'Bass Instinct' with Tamara-Anna Cislowska. Damien has toured Australia, New Zealand, Germany & Switzerland in 'Mozart & ME', a one-man show based on the life of Lorenzo Da Ponte, written by Melynn Morrow. He was engaged at Opernhaus Zürich as répétiteur at the IOS and works regularly as coach to several internationally renowned singers.

2022

ADJUDICATORS



WANDA WOJTULEWICZ-LEVINE
Dance



Wanda Wojtulewicz-Levine has a uniquely broad range of knowledge in National and Character Dance. She has more than 25 years teaching experience and has directed major national folkloric dance and music festivals for the Sydney Opera House. She has undertaken intensive study periods both in Australia and Moscow. Her numerous visits to Moscow included extended study at the University of Natalia Nesterova, the Moiseyev School, and a full scholarship at the Lunacharsky State Institute of Theatre Arts (GITIS) where she studied the teaching methodology of Character and Folk Stage Dance.

Wanda has trained in Spanish dance and has studied Cuban dance in Havana and Sydney. She performed for many years with various dance ensembles, where the repertoire included dances from Poland, Ukraine, Russia, Hungary, Philippines, Mexico, and Cuba.

She has taught and choreographed extensively in ballet schools, tertiary institutions and for performance groups. Her guest engagements include WVAAPA, the Royal Academy of Dance, the Cecchetti Society, Ausdance, NIDA, the University of Natalia Nesterova (Moscow), Theatre of Image and Sport for Jove.

JERRY WONG
Piano



Steinway Artist Jerry Wong has been described by Pulitzer Prize-winning critic Martin Bernheimer as "eloquent...sensitivity and a finely-honed sense of style" and the Orange County Register praised him for "clean technique, forthright sound and a straight forward approach to classical textures". He has performed throughout the United States, Europe and Asia in such prestigious settings as the Kravis Center in West Palm Beach, National Concert Hall of Taipei, National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C., Opera City Hall in Tokyo, Severance Hall in Cleveland and Weill Recital Hall in New York City. His widely praised recordings can be found on the Albany Records and MSR labels.

University, Northwestern University and University of Michigan, as well as in China, Hong Kong, Italy, Korea, Macau, Malaysia, Russia, Singapore and Taiwan. From 2003-2019, he was Professor of Piano at Kent State University in Ohio, where he has also served on the faculty of the Kent Blossom Music Festival.

In July 2019, Jerry relocated to Australia to join the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music as an Associate Professor of Piano and Co-Head of Keyboard.

Jerry has presented masterclasses throughout the United States in such noted institutions as Cleveland Institute of Music, Indiana

DR NARELLE YEO
Contemporary Singing



Dr Narelle Yeo is Senior Lecturer in Voice and Stagecraft and Director of the New Music Theatre course at the Sydney Conservatorium. Following graduate school at the Shepherd School, Rice University and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Narelle Yeo achieved considerable success in the USA, performing numerous professional roles ranging from CioCioSan in 'Madama Butterfly' to the soprano in Terence McNally's 'Masterclass' for Pacific Repertory Theatre, to Guenevere in 'Camelot' at Woodminster. Narelle balanced her performing with directing work for the Opera Program at the San Francisco Conservatory and the Sydney Conservatorium. On the concert stage, she performed as a soloist for the San Francisco

Symphony and the Berkeley Symphony before returning to Australia. Narelle has premiered new works in both the USA and Australia, including her portrayal of Catherine in the new Australian opera 'The Long Ride Home' by Thomas Rimes. She has premiered new works at the Moorambilla Festival and the Brisbane Festival. She appears on the Wirripang label in 'Psyche' and 'Grotesque'. Along with Rachel Bate she co-directs Opera Carnivale, a regional opera and music theatre touring project, and with Charlene Davison, she co-founded Bayumi Birrung, a talent project for young Aboriginal musicians.

SORINA ZAMFIR
Piano



Sorina Zamfir is a pianist and music educator with over 40 years of experience. She is a graduate of the Bucharest Conservatorium, Romania with a double bachelor's degree in Piano Performance and Music Education.

Sorina has also collaborated with prominent teachers from the Sydney Conservatorium and with members of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. She has a particular interest in coaching students for masterclasses, graduate and postgraduate recitals and competitions.

From a young age Sorina has performed and broadcast extensively as a soloist and chamber musician in Bucharest as well as Weimar and Prague. Prior to moving to Australia in 1995, she held a lecturer position at the Conservatorium of Music in Bucharest.

As a piano teacher, Sorina has broad experience at all levels and has established a solid reputation achieving consistent results in the HSC, examinations and competitions.

A founding member of the NSW Accompanists' Guild, Sorina is in constant demand as an associate artist for concerts, exams, broadcasts and recordings and has been awarded numerous prizes in eisteddfods and competitions, both nationally and internationally.