

Bel Canto

Edition 36 - March 2024

SAMANTHA CLARKE

The soprano to watch!

For the past couple of years, Australian audiences have witnessed the rise of this young soprano from Perth. During the pandemic, the Foundation helped Samantha, like many others, by providing her with a \$10,000 grant to assist with her vocal development. Since that time, she has slowly risen to become “the” soprano of her generation to watch. Currently in Japan singing Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte*, she recently revisited Violetta for Opera Australia, having debuted the role in 2022 for West Australian Opera. During the summer, she also sang the title role of *Theodora* in Sydney. In May, she takes part in the Mozartists Concert at Wigmore Hall in London and sings Countess in *Le nozze di Figaro* for Garsington Opera in the UK. Mahler’s *8th Symphony* and the Mozart *Requiem* follow in Perth, before she returns to Sydney as Cleopatra in Pinchgut Opera’s production of *Giulio Cesare*. The *Messiah* for Adelaide Symphony Orchestra complete’s Samantha’s year so catch her where you can.



Keith Saunders © Opera Australia



Michael Pöhn, © Wiener Staatsoper

ALASDAIR KENT

Tenor extraordinaire!

Also from Perth, the extraordinary Alasdair Kent, seen here as Count Almaviva in the Vienna Staatsoper’s recent production of *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, has just finished singing Thespis in Rameau’s *Platée*. Our 2016 Bel Canto Award winner, is currently in Duisburg at the Deutsche Oper am Rhein singing Don Ramiro in *La Cenerentola*. Following this, he is back to Vienna for a Salieri opera, *Cublai, gran kan de’ Tartari*, then Stavanger, Norway for a concert followed by Achille in Gluck’s *Iphigénie en Aulide*, and Carmina Burana in Italy. Here’s hoping Australian audiences get to hear this remarkable young tenor in the near future!

Stars in the making!

A Message from the CEO | Artistic Director

Welcome to the thirty-sixth edition of *Bel Canto*.

As we enter our 46th year of financially supporting young singers and pianists, I realise that the Joan Sutherland & Richard Bonyngé Foundation is one of the longest running charitable opera organisations in Australia, that doesn't receive government funding. Sadly, many similar organisations have closed down due to ageing members and younger generations not willing or able to commit to their ongoing presence.

Running any charity in today's climate is difficult - for the smaller boutique style arts charities, it is even harder. I was deeply saddened to hear late last year, that the Sydney Savage Club had to close its doors having supported so many young artists for decades, including the Foundation through its funding for the Megan Evans OAM Encouragement Award.

In saying this, I am delighted to reassure you that the JSRB Foundation is strong, and will continue for many more years thanks to the level of support we have received and careful investment of our Scholarship Fund with Paradise Investments.

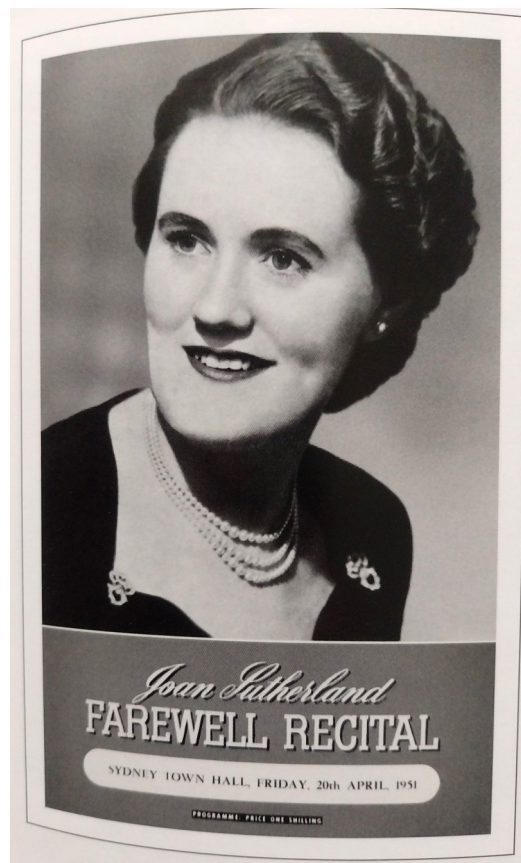
We head into 2024 with the same dedication as ever, that is to support as many young artists as possible through the Bel Canto Award and Sydney International Song Prize. The dates for these competitions are **7 and 8 September** and will again be held at the Independent Theatre. **"SAVE THE DATE"** and do bring your friends along to hear these wonderful new voices.

In this month's newsletter, we're able to highlight yet more achievements from our past winners. Samantha Clarke and Alasdair Kent are unstoppable right now as are many others. Last year's winner, Rebecca Gulinello, is off to Italy soon to make her way in the world. Her *All Roads Lead to Rome* concerts will feature the indomitable Glenn Amer. I sincerely hope to see you in Sydney at St Peters' in Cremorne to help support Rebecca's career, and that our Melbourne patrons can do the same there. Details are on the poster and do book your tickets in advance. I also thought you might like to see what Dame Joan's Farewell Concert programme from 1951 looked like. It's remarkable to think that a relatively unknown 25 year old singer could give a concert in the Sydney Town Hall back then!

Annual Giving & Membership

For those patrons wishing to make a donation or fund a prize, please give me a call. Membership can also be renewed or applied for, it's still only \$30 per person. We have various methods of payment for membership and donations - both can be done online - but the very best method is via direct bank deposit or cheque. This way we avoid all bank fees and receive the full amount. But if you can't do either, that's fine, just do whatever makes you happy. I look forward to keeping you up to date of our alumni and welcoming you in 2024.

With warmest best wishes.....Fiona Janes 



SOPRANO
REBECCA GULINELLO
ALL ROADS LEAD TO ROME
2024

April 5
Melbourne
45 Downstairs
45 Flinders Lane CBD
7.30pm

April 14
Sydney
St Peters' Anglican Church
29 Waters Road, Cremorne
3.30pm

PIANIST:
GLENN AMER

BEL CANTO AWARD
JOAN SUTHERLAND
RICHARD BONYNGE

Rebecca Gulinello is the Winner of the 2023 Joan Sutherland & Richard Bonyngé Bel Canto Award

Joan Sutherland & Richard Bonyngé

Melbourne Tickets
<https://fortyfivedownstairs.com/event/all-roads-lead-to-rome/>

Sydney Tickets
<https://www.trybooking.com/CPNSO>

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What are they up to!



A word from JAMES YOUNG - bass baritone

2023 Richard Bonyng Award Winner and man on a mission!

"Things are going really very well in Germany since the competition. I have now received my roles for Wiesbaden and it is looking very promising. I am mainly doing small to medium sized roles, but with a lot of performances, I will also get to do my own liederabend. I feel like I have made some of the biggest progress in my singing in the past couple of months. I actually applied for a second masters at the Hochschule in Nuremberg on the advice of my professor. Now I can prepare the roles for Wiesbaden with my teachers over the coming months. They are: Fiorello in *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, Sciarrone in *Tosca*, Sparck in *Fantasio* from Offenbach (this is actually quite a big role which I am excited about), and a small role in *Le Grand Macabre* by Ligeti.

The other exciting news to share was that I recently got back from Houston, Texas after being invited to sing in the final five of the 'Houston Saengerbund Awards'. They had 175 entrants and I ended up getting third place. This was hugely affirming for me, because I was the only non-American in the final and some of the others are already singing lead roles at the Met.

Again, I am incredibly grateful to the competition, I didn't realise it perhaps at the time, but I wouldn't have been able to continue in Germany without having won second place and the Mozart award. Now I feel like I have the best chance possible of preparing the roles for Wiesbaden and impressing them enough to be kept on and/or gaining another contract or an agent after this one is finished. Thank you so much, I want to convey just how much the competition's support has meant for me. It is still the greatest experience of my life and greatest honour."

Theodora by Handel

In February, Pinchgut Opera and Opera Australia presented this rarely done work by Handel in concert. Starring four JSRB Foundation alumni, it was wonderful to see and hear mezzo soprano, Helen Sherman back in Sydney performing the role of Irene. Our 2023 Sydney Int. Song Prize winner, tenor Michael Petruccelli was Septimius and David Greco sang Valens - all Pinchgut favourites performing along side Samantha Clarke in the title role. The performances were conducted by Erin Helyard in the Joan Sutherland Theatre of the Sydney Opera House.



Left: Helen Sherman

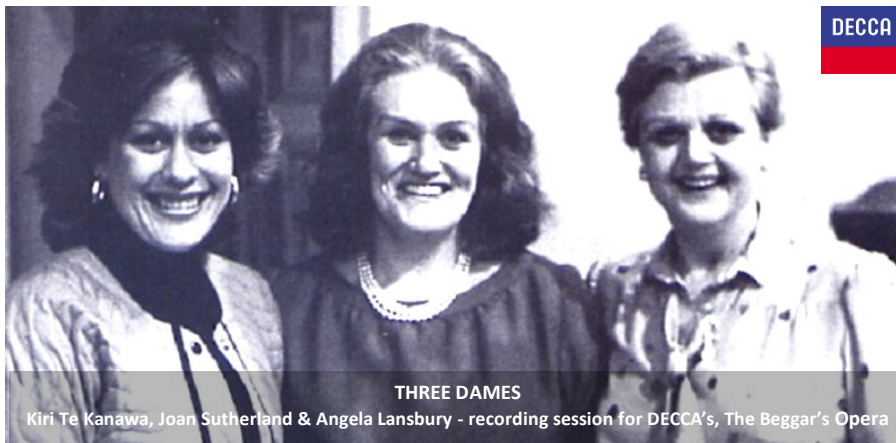
Right: Michael Petruccelli, David Greco, Samantha Clarke



Dame Kiri turns 80 and Filipe wins gold in Spain



NZ tenor and BCA 3rd prize winner, **Filipe Manu** was the joint first prize winner of the prestigious €16,000 Concurso de Canto Tenor Viñas Competition in Barcelona. Filipe was congratulated by Dame Kiri Te Kanawa on the night. Dame Kiri turned 80 this month and is a champion of New Zealand singers, mentoring them through her own Foundation. We wish her a very Happy Birthday. Filipe will make his OA and Vienna Staatsoper debut as Ferrando in *Così fan tutte* this year. He will also sing Nemorina in *Don Pasquale* in Hamburg and is currently singing Eduardo in *The Exterminating Angel* in Paris.



THREE DAMES

Kiri Te Kanawa, Joan Sutherland & Angela Lansbury - recording session for DECCA's, The Beggar's Opera

Nurturing the next generation closer to home.

This year at West Australian Opera

2013 BCA winner, **Naomi Johns**, is performing The Foreign Princess in *Rusalka* with BCA grant recipient **Ashlyn Tymms** who will sing Ježibaba along with 2023 Encouragement Award winner, **Bella Marslen** as the First Wood Sprite. Ashlyn will duet with 2022 BCA John Wegner Award winner, **Lachlann Lawton** in *Dido & Aeneas* and counter tenor **Russell Harcourt** will sing Orpheus in *Orpheus and Eurydice*.

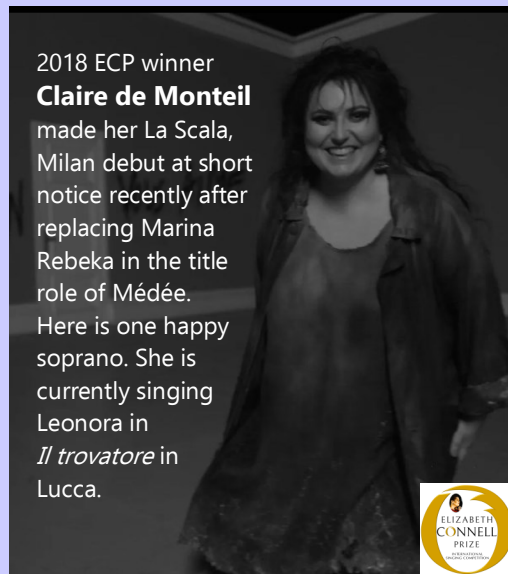
This year at Victorian Opera

Don't miss 2019 BCA winner, **Kiandra Howarth** in *La Rondine* this August. 2023 SISP winner, **Michael Petruccelli** will feature in the world premiere of Jonathan Mills' new opera, *Eucalyptus*.



2011 BCA winner, **John Longmuir** as Arbace in OA's *Idomeneo*

2018 ECP winner **Claire de Monteil** made her La Scala, Milan debut at short notice recently after replacing Marina Rebeka in the title role of *Médée*. Here is one happy soprano. She is currently singing Leonora in *Il trovatore* in Lucca.



2023 ECP winner **Sonja Herranen** will sing the 3rd Norn for Finnish Opera in May/June and debut at Savonlinna Festival as Donna Elvira in July.



2022 ECP scholarship winner, mezzo soprano **Deniz Uzun** recently in Boito's *Nerone* at the Teatro Lirico di Cagliari. She will sing Fricka and Waltraute in *Dallas* this year.



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