

40th  
Anniversary

# Bel Canto

Edition 18  
July 2018



## 8th JSRB Bel Canto Award Finalists

The Joan Sutherland & Richard Bonyngre Bel Canto Award had its second highest number of entrants this year with 57 singers entering the competition. In 2018 auditions were held in Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Auckland, London, Berlin and New York. We look forward to your company at this year's Preliminary Final and Final which will be held on 30 Aug and 1 Sept in conjunction with the Elizabeth Connell Prize.



**OLIVIA CRANWELL**  
Soprano (30)

A former BCA semi-finalist and Melbourne University graduate, Olivia has performed for Victorian Opera and extensively for Opera Australia including in their 2016 Ring Cycle.



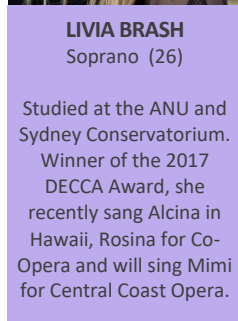
**ANDREW WILLIAMS**  
Baritone (27)

Studied at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and is currently living and studying in Weimar, Germany. He is also a finalist in the 2018 German-Australian Opera Grant in Victoria.



**JESSIE WILSON**  
Soprano (27)

Jessie received an Encouragement Award in 2017. She has degrees from Qld and Sydney Conservatoriums. She recently took part in Opera Australia's *La bohème* on the Harbour.



**LIVIA BRASH**  
Soprano (26)

Studied at the ANU and Sydney Conservatorium. Winner of the 2017 DECCA Award, she recently sang Alcina in Hawaii, Rosina for Co-Opera and will sing Mimi for Central Coast Opera.



**FILIFE MANU**  
Tenor (25)

New Zealand born, Filipe trained at the University of Waikato and Trinity College London. He is currently studying at the Guildhall School of Music and was the 2017 winner of the Aust Singing Comp.



**BENSON WILSON**  
Baritone (27)

Born in New Zealand, Benson studied at Auckland University, IVAI in New York, Solti Accademia and is currently studying at the Guildhall in London. He is a Samling Artist for 2017-2018.



## Elizabeth Connell Prize

INTERNATIONAL SINGING COMPETITION FOR DRAMATIC SOPRANOS

## 5th Elizabeth Connell Prize Finalists

A record 78 entrants competed in this year's Elizabeth Connell Prize. Auditions were held in San Francisco, London, New York and Berlin. We welcome these visiting sopranos from around the world to Sydney and wish them every success for this year's competition.



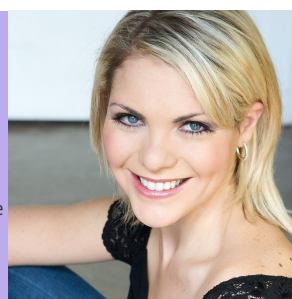
**MAARI ERNITS**  
Estonia (32)

Maari studied in Estonia and at the Dutch National Opera Academy. In 2017 she received a Wagner Scholarship from the Netherlands and will take part in the Int. Vocal Arts Institute in New York and Montreal in 2018.



**ELIZABETH LEWIS**  
Australia (27)

Elizabeth lives in Chicago and has degrees from QLD & Melbourne Conservatoriums. A previous BCA semi finalist, she will sing the role of Ariadne later in the year for the Lisa Gasteen Summer School to be conducted by Simone Young.



**MARIA NATALE**  
U.S.A. (33)

Studied at the Manhattan School of Music, in Texas and San Francisco. She sang the Faure Requiem in Carnegie Hall this year and Nedda for San Jose Opera where she will sing Madama Butterfly in 2019.



**CLAIRE DE MONTEIL**  
France (27)

Began her studies in the Children's Choir for the National Paris Opera, then at the Conservatorium of Fresnes in France and later in Geneva. She is currently a resident artist at the Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia.



**ARMINIA FRIEBE**  
Germany (34)

Arminia did a teaching degree then Bachelor of Music in Cologne. She had considerable success in 2017 in various competitions and will perform The Gypsy Princess in 18/19 in Koblenz, Germany.



## A Message from the Artistic Director

*Inspiring and developing our opera singers for the future!*

Welcome to the eighteenth edition of *Bel Canto*.

### THE RESULTS ARE IN!

Having recently returned from hearing over ninety singers in eight cities I can safely say that the 2018 competitions are going to be extremely interesting and exciting. Many new faces and voices presented themselves plus a number of singers trying again for the illustrious titles. As ever, the decisions made were sometimes difficult with many singers just missing out on either a place in the Final or an Encouragement Award. A number of judges assisted along the way including Marilyn Zschau, Deborah Polaski, Dame Anne Evans, Ruth Falcon, Patricia Price, Anne-Maree McDonald and Bernadette Cullen.

To say there was much discussion about the singers that were heard is an understatement. Firstly, all seventy-eight ECP singers submitted over one hundred and sixty video links which had to be forwarded to five judges, viewed, deliberated over, and voted on as to whether or not they would be heard in the second round. Many people ask how we make this decision and the answer is simple. If any one judge wishes to hear a singer live then they are heard. So from seventy-eight entrants, thirty-seven made the final cut. For the Bel Canto Award, entrants in Perth, London, New York and Berlin also sent preliminary videos. Nearly all were heard live excluding a few who cancelled at the last minute due to illness and some who didn't quite make the grade!

We had a number of long days and endeavoured to offer instant feedback at the auditions to try and help the singers understand how to move forward in this profession. Singers are a strange breed, some are very open to constructive criticism whilst others are not so willing to be told. The wall goes up and as judges we instantly know that this singer is going to find life harder than those willing to listen. Many singers complain about competitions not giving feedback which is why we interview every single singer. This part of the process also gives us an insight into the singer and their mental attitude toward the profession. There is no point having a wonderful voice if the singer simply has no idea how to make the transitionary leap from tertiary education into the profession. We came across a number of singers, especially in the ECP, who were still doing degrees in their thirties. The eternal student, as we often refer to these singers, rarely ends up treading the boards as they feel safe inside these institutions. In saying that there are always exceptions. A case in point was last year's ECP finalist Silja Aalto who had come to singing late having been a flight attendant in her previous life. We made the exception because of her voice, musicality, mind set and talent. Fortunately she is doing well

having recently performed the Countess before heading for Bayreuth to work with coaches as part of a Wagner Scholarship she won in Finland. So the "decisions" made are never easy but always interesting.

As part of the trip I was also fortunate to have a brief stopover in Hong Kong to see the inaugural Hong Kong International Operatic Singing Competition thanks to a colleague, soprano Nancy Yuen. With a star studded panel of judges include Dame Kiri te Kanawa, Dennis O'Neill, Sumi Jo and Pater Katona (casting director of the ROH Covent Garden), it was wonderful to see two Australian's make the top 24 singers - Samantha Crawford and Joeline Griffith. Samantha made it through to the Final with nine other singers. Norway took first prize with Denmark second and China third. As part of the competition it was an absolute privilege to sit in on masterclasses with Dame Kiri and Dennis O'Neill. Both worked with singers using old school methods of teaching which reinforced what we had all been looking for in the singers we chose who made it through to our Finals.

*This is why I am confident you will thoroughly enjoy this year's singers. But don't take my word for it, come along and support these aspiring young singers and judge for yourself by placing your Audience vote.*

*See you there!.....Fiona Janes*

### 40 YEARS OLD - 2ND SYDNEY SONG PRIZE

To celebrate our 40th Anniversary we will be giving away 40 tickets to long standing supporters for this year's Sydney Song Prize which will be held at the Mosman Art Gallery and judged by Richard Bonyng, Deborah Humble and Vincent Colagiuri.

**Saturday 25 August at 6.30pm - Mosman Art Gallery**

### THE JOAN SUTHERLAND BEL CANTO DINNER

It's that time again, well actually not quite. This year's gala dinner will be held after the competition which means Richard Bonyng will be in attendance to celebrate his 88th Birthday. The discounted price for Foundation supporters and their friends is \$175 per person.

**Thursday 13 September at 6.30pm - Le Montage, Lilyfield**

**Tickets to all our events can be purchased by calling  
Annemarie Kinnon OAM on 02 9817 4919.**



You are cordially invited to the 6th

*Joan Sutherland Bel Canto Evening*

*Annual Gala  
Charity Dinner*

Thursday 13 September 2018 at 6.30pm  
Le Montage, Lilyfield

Hosted by: Alan Jones AO  
Guest of Honour: Richard Bonyng AC CBE

*40th  
Anniversary  
1978-2018*

*Joan Sutherland  
Richard Bonyng  
FOUNDATION*



## WHAT ARE THEY UP TO?

Many of our past scholarship winners have been extremely busy of late, here are just a few of them. **Darren Pene Pati** with his wife **Amina Edris** had a triumphant return to New Zealand starring in *L'Elisir d'Amore* recently.



**Bronwyn Douglass** has just completed the Solti Accademia in Italy where she worked with Richard Bonyngne, Barbara Frittoli (below left) and Alessandro Corbelli.



**Marlena Devoe** has made her debut as Alice Ford in *Falstaff* at Garsington Opera in the UK. (right)



(left) **Livia Brash** has triumphed as Alcina at the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival under the direction of Jennifer McGregor. **Alasdair Kent** is in hot demand, recently singing *L'italiana in Algeri* in Toulon and making a sudden Portland Opera debut (left) in *La Cenerentola*.



## EMMA MOORE UPDATE 2016 Richard Bonyngne Award Winner

In June, Emma Moore was chosen from over 1200 entrants to compete in the Final of one of the world's largest competitions - the International Hans Gabor Belvedere Singing Competition. While she wasn't a placed winner she received rapturous applause for her stunningly beautiful rendition of *Depuis le jour* from the audience. As of September Emma will join the ensemble in Weimar where she's been part of the studio and will perform the roles of Donna Anna, Gretel, Susanna and Fiordiligi in her first season. Congratulations Emma.



**RICHARD BONYNGE** has been giving classes in three Italian Summer Schools this July. The Solti Accademia in Castiglione della Pescaia, at Aprile Milo's Operavision Academy in Busseto and the Martina Franca Bel Canto Academy which Jessica Harper is attending.

## ECP Update

Anna Patrys has performed Elisabetta in *Don Carlos* at the Gut Immling Festival in Germany. Julie Adams has debuted as Freia in San Francisco Opera's Ring, Deirdre Angenent has sung Sieglinde in Essen, Katie Lowe will sing 3rd Norn, Helwige and cover Brunnhilde for Longborough Festival's 2019/2020 Ring Cycle and Ksenia Muslanova performed in *Macbeth* in Moscow.

**L-R** Anna Patrys, Julie Adams with Jamie Barton, Ksenia Muslanova and Deirdre Angenent.





presented by The Joan Sutherland & Richard Bonyng Foundation

5 Singers and their Pianists will each present a 20 minute programme of Song

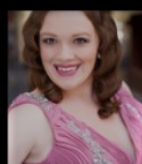


**Judges:**

*Richard Bonyng AC CBE,  
Deborah Humble, Vincent Colagiuri*



Jonathan Alley



Pamela Andrews



Georgia Hall



Louise Keast



Jaekwon Kim



Thomas Johnson



Claire Howard Race



Claire Howard Race



Mark Connors



Eun-Jung Byun

**Saturday, 25 August 2018 at 6.30pm | Mosman Art Gallery**

**\$7,300  
in Prizes**

Tickets: Members/Donors/Conc. \$15, Adults \$25, Full-time Students \$5, Under 15 Free

**Bookings: 02 9817 4919**

**Details: [www.jsrbfoundation.com](http://www.jsrbfoundation.com)**



**New Donor Patrons & Members  
since Newsletter No. 17**

Margaret Binder  
Jennette Binns  
Dr Monica Bullen  
Dr Andrew Byrne and Allan Gill  
Elizabeth Corbett and Mark Finlay  
Shanneen Crouch  
Dr Pru Dunstone  
Michael Hawker AM  
Helen Johnstone  
Catherine Lee  
Julie Lonie  
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Pru McSween  
Olive Meredith  
Roslyn Packer AO  
Wagner Society of NSW  
Bruce and Karen Wilson  
Terisina Zanon  
Anonymous (2)

**Members**

Jennette Binns  
Jan Bowen AM  
Dr Monica Bullen  
Jennifer Emmerton  
Cheryl Forrest-Smith & Janine Burdeu  
Dr Marguerite Foxon  
Joan Graeme  
Estela Grandich  
Diana Heath  
Elizabeth Kinnon  
Allan Lees OAM  
Julie Lonie  
Alan Munday  
Helen Munday  
Richard Nott  
Valda Silvy



**IN MEMORIUM**

The opera world was saddened to hear of the death of the French Canadian mezzo soprano Huguette Tourangeau in April at the age of 79. Many of you will remember she sang often with Dame Joan in such opera's as Lakme (left), Norma, Rodelinda and Julius Caesar.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

Don't forget to let us know if you change your address or update your email which is our preferred way of contacting people. Most of all stay in touch and don't forget to invite your friends to become members or bring them along to our events.

**Dates for your Diary**

Saturday 25 August, 6.30pm - **Sydney Song Prize Final** - Mosman Art Gallery

Thursday 30 August, 6.30pm - **BCA & ECP Preliminary Final** - Shore Grammar School, Nth Sydney

Saturday 1 September, 4.00pm - **BCA & ECP Final** - Sydney Conservatorium of Music

Thursday 13 September, 6.30pm - **Joan Sutherland Gala Dinner** - Le Montage

Sunday 11 November, 2.30pm - **Joan Sutherland Birthday Concert** - Independent Theatre, Nth Sydney

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**We always need volunteers. If you would like to assist us at one of our events you will receive two free tickets to that event.**  
**Call Annemarie on 02 9817 4919.**

Join us on Social Media



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