

Bel Canto

Edition 2
July, 2012



RODELINDA

Saturday, 20th October, 2012 at 7pm
City Recital Hall Angel Place, Sydney

In memory of the late Dame Joan Sutherland, the Maestro returns to Australia for one concert performance only of HANDEL's great 18th century operatic masterpiece, RODELINDA. Richard Bonyng has hand picked the Australian cast, which features rising young stars to seasoned international performers, for this Australian premiere performance. The Sydney Lyric Orchestra will showcase some of our finest musicians including the internationally acclaimed flautist Jane Rutter and Sharolyn Kimmorley. In a story of love, revenge, power and finding freedom, RODELINDA is filled with glorious arias and duets. This will be an historic evening for all lovers of beautiful singing and great opera.

With a who's who of dignitaries invited and a special souvenir programme on the night, this may be one of the last chances Australian audiences have of seeing our greatest living conductor on the concert platform. Tickets are on sale now, so don't delay, tell your friends and be one of the few to be a part of this special evening.

Tickets: City Recital Hall Angel Place Box Office
61+2 8256 2222 or www.cityrecitalhall.com.

Photo: Joan Sutherland as *Rodelinda* and
Huguette Tourangeau as *Bertarido* in the 1973 Holland Festival

THE AUSTRALIAN CAST

CONDUCTOR
MAESTRO
RICHARD BONYNGE



RODELINDA
Queen of Lombardy
VALDA WILSON



BERTARIDO
Rodelinda's husband and
usurper King of Lombardy
FIONA JANES



GRIMOALDO
Duke of Benevento,
usurper of Bertarido's throne
JOHN LONGMUIR



EDUIGE
Bertarido's sister
betrothed to Grimoaldo
LIANE KEEGAN



UNULFO
Bertarido's friend
counsellor to Grimoaldo
LORINA GORE



GARIBALDO
Duke of Turin
Grimoaldo's counsellor
MICHAEL LEWIS



SYDNEY LYRIC ORCHESTRA
featuring some of our
finest musicians including
JANE RUTTER



A Message from the General Manager

Developing great opera singers for the future!

Welcome to the second edition of *Bel Canto* Newsletter.

THE FOUNDATION

A considerable amount has happened since our first newsletter. Richard Bonyngé was made a **Companion of the Order of Australia** and the NSW Government announced that the Sydney Opera House Opera Theatre will be renamed the **Dame Joan Sutherland Opera Theatre**. We also paid tribute to the Society and past Presidents, Arthur Haddad and Douglas Cremer, at the Presidents' Champagne Brunch, and in the coming months will embrace the transition from Society to Foundation thanks to the remarkable efforts of Middletons Lawyers. **2011/2012 Members and supporters will be sent new Foundation membership forms for renewal by email or post later in the year.**

ELIZABETH CONNELL

On a sadder note, soprano and Foundation Board Member, Elizabeth Connell, passed away in February. We pay tribute to Elizabeth on page four of the newsletter.

REV JOHN KOHLER

We were also deeply saddened to hear of the loss of the Rev John Kohler, formerly of St Paul's Church, Burwood. Rev Kohler supported the JSS for over 10 years and will be greatly missed by his family and the inner-west community.

2012 BEL CANTO AWARD

Bel Canto Award fever is nearly upon us with the heats due to start in August. Operatic legends Joan Carden, Bernadette Cullen and Rosemary Gunn will join Richard Bonyngé as judges for the Final. Compered by Stuart Maunder, this will surely be one Final not to miss in the awards season.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Richard Bonyngé will record Massenet songs in the UK, adjudicate the Ferruccio Tagliavini Song Competition in Austria, conduct "Acis and Galatea" in London, give Masterclasses for the Solti Academy, Cuautauqua Festival & Dennis O'Neill's Academy of Voice in Cardiff. He will take part in the New York Int. Festival of Ballet La Havana and adjudicate the Francisco Vinas Int. Singing Contest in

Barcelona and Veronica Dunne Int. Singing Competition, Dublin. **Pacific Opera** will be presenting a Double Bill, "La Dolce Vita" featuring Mozart's *The Deluded Bridegroom* and Arthur Benjamin's opera *Prima Donna*, 15th-17th November in Sydney.

BEL CANTO SPONSORS

We welcome back Bel Canto sponsors Universal Music, Australian Opera Auditions Committee, Duncan & Annamaria Kinnon, Paul Ferris, The Only Group, Dante Alighieri, and welcome new sponsors, Salvatore Ferragamo to this year's award.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

2010 Vocal Scholarship winner, **Hadleigh Adams** has been accepted into San Francisco's Merola Programme and will perform in **Pinchgut Opera's** *Castor and Pollux* in December. 2009 VS winner **Phoebe Humphreys** has won the \$5,000 Wollongong Aria. Grant recipient **Cassandra Seidemann** recently sang Carmen for Sydney Philharmonia. **Amelia Farrugia** covered **Anna Netrebko** in Manon at the The Met. Mezzo **Helen Sherman** will sing the Governess in *Queen of Spades* for Grange Park Opera UK. **Valda Wilson** will make her Sydney debut as **Rodelinda**. Seen here (right), with that other well known Rodelinda from The Met, **Renee Flemming**.



AMBASSADORS

Joan Carden AO OBE, Isla Baring OAM, Megan Evans OAM, Diana Heath and Barbara Leser join Robert Allman AM, Malcolm Donnelly AM and Lauris Elms AM OBE as Ambassadors for the Foundation. Their support and continued involvement are invaluable for the Foundation's future.

THANK YOU

The Board and Committee thank you for your continued interest and support of the Foundation and look forward to seeing you at our 2012 events.....*Fiona Janes.*

THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS & PARTNERS

We couldn't do it without you!



RICHARD BONYNGE'S 50th

Anniversary Lunch

PARLIAMENT HOUSE SYDNEY - 27th September

The Hon. John Sidoti MP will host this year's Fundraising Lunch at Parliament House in honour of Richard Bonynges 50 years as a conductor. The lunch will include glorious singing and some unique Auction and Raffle prizes including: an original **Judy Cassab** painting, a signed baton of Richard Bonynges, **Dame Joan's personal stage makeup case**, a **Ferragamo Handbag** and tickets to **STC, OA, Pinchgut** and more. This will be a very special opportunity to dine with the Maestro. For bookings call **Annemarie Kinnon** on (02) 9817 4919.

PLACES ARE LIMITED SO BOOK EARLY.



\$100 per person.

If you can't make the lunch, then why not buy some raffle tickets!

\$5 each, 3 for \$10,
5 for \$15, 7 for \$20,
15 for \$30, 30 for \$50

Call: (02) 9817 4919

Richard Bonynges AC CBE, with the Governor General of Australia, Quentin Bryce AC, receiving his Companion of the Order of Australia in London June 2012.

Tait Memorial Trust in London offer their support.

We are delighted and honoured to join forces with the Tait Memorial Trust in London. Tait Chairman, Isla Baring (right) has graciously offered for the Trust to sponsor Liane Keegan's participation in Rodelinda and a prize in the 2013 Bel Canto Award. If you're interested in sponsoring one of the Rodelinda cast or a prize in the Bel Canto Award, please don't hesitate to contact the Foundation.



QUIZZ - Joan Sutherland performed the role of Rodelinda on stage only seven times in her career - in London, Brighton and Holland.

How many recordings did Sutherland make of Rodelinda?

Email or post your answer to us by 30 August to go into the draw for a Souvenir Rodelinda programme and CD/DVD pack valued at \$120.

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING PRIVATE DONORS AND CORPORATE SPONSORS

Elizabeth Bradhurst	Marjorie Morkham
Donald Cant & Robin Williams	Diana-Rose Orr
Judy Cassab CBE AO & John Seed	Alan Slade
Elaine Chew	Amanda Thane OAM & Glenn Winslade
Dr Prudence Dunstone	Glenise Trevella
Megan Evans OAM	Barbara White
Dr Marguerite Foxon	Teri Zanoni
Allan Gill & Dr Andrew Byrne	Anonymous (4)
Dianne Gillespie	Art Gallery Society of NSW
Arthur Haddad	Fish Records - Leichhardt
Barbara Leser	Linnaea Vineyards Wines
Julianne Lonie	Opera Australia
Marian Lorber	Pinchgut Opera
Maria Lydaki	Pacific Opera
June McDougall	Kathryn Selby of Selby & Friends
Olive Meredith	Sydney Theatre Company

Joan Sutherland & Richard Bonynges 2012 Bel Canto Award

Guest of Honour: **Her Excellency Prof. Marie Bashir AC CVO, Governor of New South Wales**

This year's Semi Final and Final will be adjudicated by **Joan Carden, Bernadette Cullen** and **Rosemary Gunn** with **Richard Bonynges** joining the panel at the Final. This is your chance to hear glorious young voices singing some of the most beautiful Bel Canto arias ever written. The Finals Concert includes a lucky door prize but please note, only 100 seats are available for the Semi Final.

Compere for the Finals: Stuart Maunder

Accompanist: Sharolyn Kimmorley

Tickets: \$10 - \$40. Call Annemarie Kinnon on (02) 9817 4919
or see the website for details at www.joansutherlandssociety.com

Semi Finals - Sunday 26th August, 2012 at 2.00pm Sydney Conservatorium of Music

Finals - Sunday 7th October, 2012 at 3.00pm Sydney Conservatorium of Music



2011 Semi Finalists Left to Right: Eleanor Lyons, Eva Kong (Finalist), Edmund Choo, Angela Brun (Finalist), Elizabeth Lewis, Naomi Johns(3rd), John Longmuir (Winner), Emma Moore, Amy Corkery (2nd), Darren Pene Pati (Finalist), Milica Ilic. **Photo:** Paul Ferris



ELIZABETH CONNELL

1946 - 2012

The mighty South African dramatic soprano passed away at the age of 65 on 18th February from cancer. Liza, as she was known by all, was a founding member of the JS & RB Foundation Board, an audience favourite and great supporter of young singers - some may remember her 2010 Masterclass. Her remarkable international career began as a mezzo, later becoming one of the greatest sopranos of her generation. Specialising in Wagner, Strauss and Verdi, her favourite role was Ortrud in *Lohengrin*. After twenty triumphant seasons in Australia, Liza was planning to retire to her beloved Sydney at the end of 2012, and was to judge this year's Bel Canto Award with Richard Bonyngne. Equally at home on the concert platform, her final concert was in Hastings, UK in November 2011 which can be seen on You tube. Liza touched the lives of many and will be greatly missed by all. Our thoughts are with Liza's extensive family and those who loved her.



Left - as *Norma* in 2004 for WA Opera. Above - 2010 Masterclass L to R - Sarah Ann Walker, Rachel Bate, Elizabeth Connell, Naomi Johns, Tahu Matheson, Abraham Singer and Rosa Krel.

THE JS & RB MUSIC STANDS



In 1983, Diana Heath commissioned Australian sculptor Mike Kitching to create two music stands to honour Sutherland and Bonyngne. The stands have been in use by Opera Australia, but at Diana's request, are now on loan to the Foundation. Each stand has a beautifully mounted silver butterfly set within a heavy, tinted perspex

frame, the idea of the butterflies having been taken from a design on the writing paper Dame Joan was then using. The stands will make their Foundation debut at the concert performance of *RODELINDA* and be used at subsequent concerts. The Foundation is proud to be associated with such beautiful artworks, created to honour the Bonynges – a sentiment shared by every member of the Foundation.

DAME JOAN'S CHILDHOOD HOME SOLD



Dame Joan's former childhood family home, Clyde Cottage, in Queen Street Woollahra has been sold for \$4million to a Singaporean couple who will no doubt restore the now derelict heritage listed property.

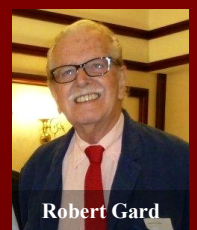
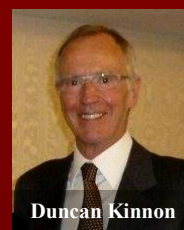
FAST NEWS



Congratulations to opera director Stuart Maunder AM, soprano Amanda Thane OAM (left) and ex Opera Australia chorister Jeanie Kelso AM, for their recent awards in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

The Presidents' Champagne Brunch

Ninety-five JSS supporters thanked past Presidents Arthur Haddad and Douglas Cremer at a Brunch held at the Women's Club in April. Also present was the current JSS President, Duncan Kinnon and founding member, Dianne Gillespie. Bel Canto 2nd prize winner, soprano Amy Corkery, delighted patrons with a selection of songs and arias. Other guests included JSS Patrons Lauris Elms and Malcolm Donnelly, the late Rev John Kohler, Robert Gard and sopranos Amanda Thane and Christine Beasley. Over \$1000 was raised which will go toward the 2012 Bel Canto Award. We thank the Women's Club and everyone who participated in making the Brunch so successful.



DONATIONS OF \$2 OR MORE ARE FULLY TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Cheques should be made payable to:

JS & RB Opera Foundation

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