

Bel Canto

Edition 7
December 2014

The 2014 Final - success for the ladies in red from New Zealand and Poland



L to R - Anna Patrys (Poland) - winner of the inaugural Elizabeth Connell Prize, Richard Bonyngé, Marlena Devoe (New Zealand) - winner of the Joan Sutherland & Richard Bonyngé Bel Canto Award.





A Message from the General Manager

Inspiring and developing our opera singers for the future!

Welcome to the seventh edition of the *Bel Canto* newsletter.

2014 - THE YEAR OF MANY FIRSTS

The Foundation has undertaken an enormous amount of work over the last six months culminating in what we believe to be yet more defining moments in the history of the organisation. Without a doubt this year's Finals Concert was breathtaking and featured some extraordinary singing by the eleven singers who took part. Six in the *Bel Canto Award* and five in the inaugural *Elizabeth Connell Prize*. With a full house, the stage was set for some serious singing and the captivated audience was not disappointed. Incredibly, this year we auditioned 100 singers from seventeen nations across three continents for two competitions with the judges unanimously agreeing on both winners. The Final was also broadcast on ABC Classic FM. To view the full list of prize winners and press articles, see our website. I want to personally thank Annemarie Kinnon OAM, our volunteers and those families who billeted our visiting divas. We simply could not have done it without you. In the meantime, don't forget to keep **19 September, 2015** free for next year's *Bel Canto Award* and *Elizabeth Connell Prize* Finals Concert.



Matthew Reardon, Morgan Balfour, Richard Bonyng, Justine Viani, Vincent Collaguri.

Yet again, this year's *Joan Sutherland Bel Canto Evening Gala Dinner* in August was a resounding success thanks to Mr Alan Jones AO. We raised much needed funds for the Foundation and continue to slowly build our Capital Fund to ensure our sustainability. The *Richard Bonyng Masterclass* was an enjoyable and fascinating afternoon for many of our members and donor patrons and *Rodelinda* in Melbourne, our first foray outside of NSW, was yet another artistic triumph for the Foundation. Plans for 2015 will be announced in the New Year, meanwhile I hope you can join us on **7 December at 2pm** for our "*A Little Christmas Music*" concert at *Paddington Uniting Church* - our final event for the year. Thank you....*Fiona Janes*

2014 Bel Canto Award Finalists



Matthew Reardon



Rachel Bate



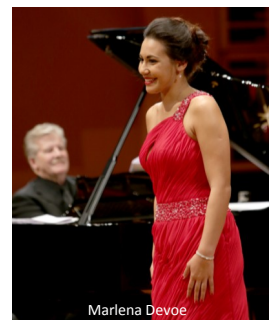
Morgan Balfour



Kathryn Radcliffe

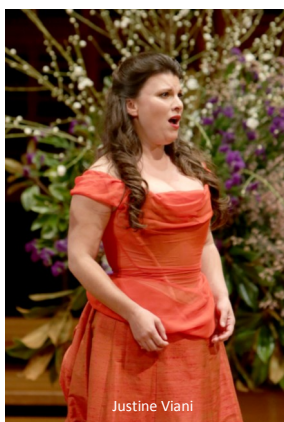


James Ioelu



Marlena Devoe

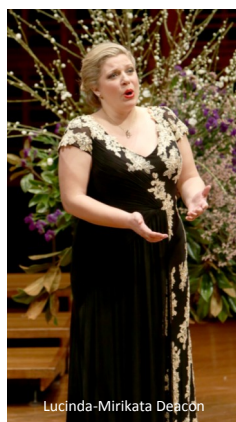
2014 Elizabeth Connell Prize Finalists



Justine Viani



Anna Patrys



Lucinda-Mirikata Deacon



Diane Kalinowski



Tracy Cox

Wishing all our supporters a very Merry Christmas and prosperous 2015, from everyone at the **Joan Sutherland & Richard Bonyng Foundation.**

DONATIONS OF \$2 OR MORE ARE FULLY TAX EDUCTIBLE

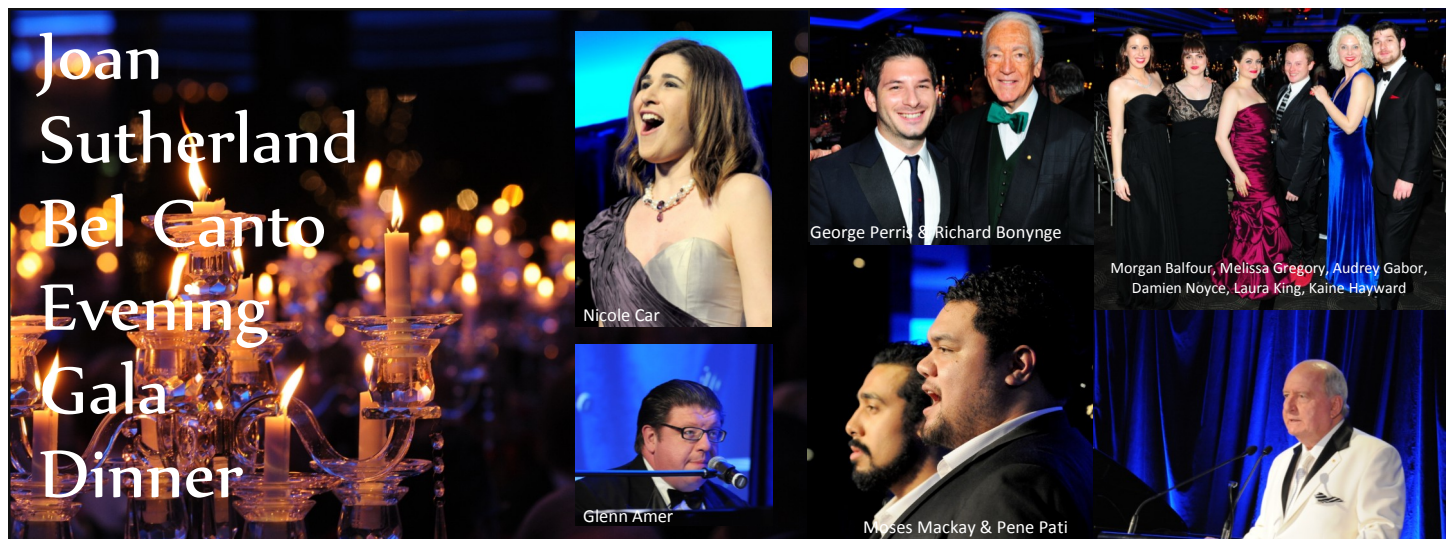
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Over 400 guests attended this year's Gala Fundraising Dinner in August. Board Member, Alan Jones AO (right), invited many of Sydney's finest and most generous benefactors to help raise money for the Foundation. An extraordinary number of artists took part including Nicole Car, Pene Pati, Moses Mackay, George Perris, Todd McKenney, Jean Kittson, Glenn Amer and many of our young bel canto singers who also helped out on the night. We'd like to thank all those artists and patrons involved for their generous support of the Foundation and for making this such a special and glamorous evening.

Rodelinda in Melbourne

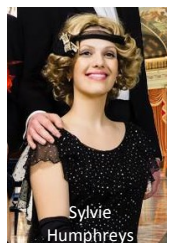
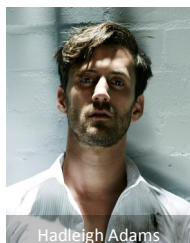


Rodelinda in Melbourne received a standing ovation in the Elisabeth Murdoch Hall in October. The cast was the same as the 2012 Sydney concert except for the title role, which was performed by Melbourne based soprano Greta Bradman, the grand daughter of the great Sir Donald Bradman, and the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra who accompanied magnificently. A highlights recording conducted by Richard Bonyngge from the 2012 concert is available at ABC Shops with proceeds going toward the Foundation.



FAST NEWS - WHAT ARE THEY UP TO NOW?

ECP finalist **Lucinda-Mirikata Deacon** has won the 2014 McDonalds Aria, BCA finalist **Kathryn Radcliffe** has won the Melbourne Herald Sun Aria and 3MBSFM Young Performers Award, **Andrew Moran** has won the Italian Opera Foundation Award, tenor **Thomas Strong** has won Opera Foundation's New York Study Award, **Sam Roberts-Smith** is one of the top 10 finalists for the Paris Opera Awards to be judged by **Richard Bonyngge** in November and NZ soprano **Isabella Moore** has won the Marianne Mathy Scholarship. BCA winner **Marlena Devoe**, who recently made her debut as Lucia in Auckland alongside James Ioelu as Raimondo, will sing at the Tait Memorial Trust's Winter Prom on 9 December in London with **Lauren Fagan** and **Gerard Schneider**. **Sam Sakker** has made his Covent Garden debut opposite **Placido Domingo** in Verdi's *I due Foscari*. **Margaret Plummer** made her debut as Charlotte in *Werther* for Lyric Opera of Melbourne and will perform in Pinchgut Opera's *Iphigenie en Tauride* in December. **Helen Sherman**, **Hadleigh Adams** and **Russell Harcourt** will perform in Pinchgut's production of Vivaldi's *Bajazet* in 2015 and ECP winner **Anna Patrys** will perform *Tosca* in Poland in 2016. **Sylvie Humphreys** has made her debut as The Merry Widow for Rockdale Opera, **Morgan Pearce** is currently starring in Houston Grand Opera's production of *Sweeney Todd* and former BCA finalist, soprano **Angel Brun**, has given birth to a baby boy, George.



The 2014 Finals Concert in Pictures

