

Six Finalists Announced for the inaugural Joan Sutherland & Richard Bonyngé Bel Canto Award



Angela Brun (27) Amy Corkery (23) Naomi Johns (25) Eva Kong (29) John Longmuir (27) Darren Pene Pati (23)

On 1st August 2011 eleven singers competed in a tightly contested semi final at the Sydney Conservatorium for the privilege of taking part in the Final of the inaugural Joan Sutherland & Richard Bonyngé Bel Canto Award. These six finalists will be vying for over \$50,000 in prizes including a place in the Solti Te Kanawa Accademia di Bel Canto in Tuscany. The Final, which will be held on 23rd September, will be adjudicated by Richard Bonyngé AO CBE, Joan Carden AO OBE, Anson Austin OAM and Bernadette Cullen with the incomparable Sharolyn Kimmorley AM as our official accompanist. *"Beautiful singing is the basis of Bel Canto. It's more than just singing, it's creating living, dramatic characters who sing gloriously."* Richard Bonyngé

Secure your seat today to witness the launch of a Star!

Spotlight on the Bel Canto Judges

Very few singing competitions in Australia can boast the decades of experience clocked up by the three adjudicators assisting Richard Bonyngé for the Final of the Bel Canto Award. All three have excelled at the highest level of their profession bringing to the Bel Canto Award a wealth of knowledge and experience.

JOAN CARDEN AO OBE is without doubt one of a very elite group of Australian sopranos who've maintained a long and illustrious career. Known as the People's Diva, Joan is regarded as one of Australia's greatest Mozart and Puccini experts. She's triumphed in over 50 roles including, Butterfly, Countess, Gilda, Violetta, Tosca and Leonora, as well as playing the Mother Superior in The Sound of Music. Her recording of Mozart arias is acclaimed and she is one of only a few sopranos to successfully sing all four heroines in the Tales of Hoffmann.

BERNADETTE CULLEN is Australia's leading international dramatic mezzo soprano of her age. She has sung everything from Mozart and Rossini to Verdi and Wagner, including: Amneris, Eboli, Adalgisa, Dalila, Charlotte, Venus, Fricka and Brangane. Her concert work is equally impressive having recently performed with Zubin Mehta and Vladimir Askenazy. She is one of only a few singers to have performed solo alongside Joan Sutherland in opera and concert. Bernadette is currently singing the role of Herodias in *Salome* for Singapore Lyric Opera.

ANSON AUSTIN OAM has quite possibly spent more time on stage with Joan Sutherland than any other Australian singer. His stellar thirty-four year career encompassed all the great leading tenor roles at Opera Australia including, Ferrando, Rudolfo, Tonio, Romeo, Hoffmann, Werther, Alfredo, and Nadir. He also performed the role of Raoul in Dame Joan's farewell performances of Meyerbeer's *Les Huguenots* in 1990.

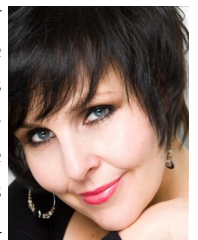
Her Excellency Prof. Marie Bashir AC CVO, Governor of New South Wales will be our Guest of Honour at the Gala Foundation Dinner and Joan Sutherland & Richard Bonyngé Bel Canto Award Final.

September with Richard Bonyngé

Richard Bonyngé is in town for less than two weeks in September so here is your chance to catch up with him at some of our events.

15 Sept - The Gala Foundation Dinner - Come dine in style at Le Montage in Sydney. With special guest soprano, Emma Matthews this memorable evening will be a fundraiser for the Bel Canto Award. The evening will include an Auction with some very special items including 2 tickets to La traviata on the Harbour.

18 Sept - The Members' Afternoon Tea - How often do you get to ask Richard Bonyngé the questions you really want to know the answers to? Well here is your chance. Soprano Anne-Maree McDonald (pictured) has the enviable task of interviewing Richard Bonyngé at this special Members only event. With strictly limited seats, tickets are selling fast. **Parking available.**



23 Sept - The Bel Canto Final - Richard Bonyngé will be adjudicating the Final of the inaugural Joan Sutherland & Richard Bonyngé Bel Canto Award on 23rd September at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

BOOKING FORMS ON THE WEBSITE or call 9817 4919

JS & RB BEL CANTO AWARD FINAL

Tickets: Full \$35, JSS Memb and Pens: \$30, Stdts: \$20.

When: 23rd September, 2011 @ 7pm

Verbruggen Hall, Sydney Conservatorium of Music

Call: (02) 9817 4919

See our website for full details.

News

We Hear that.....



With Amelia Farrugia

The Lauris Elms 80th Birthday Concert at Kincoppal-Rose Bay was one of our most successful concerts to date, second only to Richard Bonynges 80th Birthday concert last year. This inaugural concert for the Foundation raised much needed funds for the new Bel Canto Award. Nearly 400 enthusiastic friends, family, colleagues and dignitaries filled the packed hall to enjoy an afternoon of opera highlights featuring three generations of artists. Guests included, Margaret Whitlam, Elizabeth Briger (Sir Charles Mackerras' sister), Joan Carden, John Pringle, Ghillian Sullivan, Anne-Maree McDonald, with tributes from colleagues

Robert Allman, Bernadette Cullen, Glenn Winslade, Michael Lewis, Fiona Janes and Lauris' daughter Deborah de Graaff who also played clarinet on the day. Thank you to all the artists, our generous sponsors, patrons and hardworking volunteers for making the day so special for one of our greatest singers.

33rd Joan Sutherland & Richard Bonynges Vocal Scholarship

The JS & RB Vocal Scholarship Final will be held on 21st August at St Paul's Church, Burwood with the Burwood Council as a major sponsor this year. Mr Alan Jones AO has again sponsored the Rosina Raisbeck Award and committee members Duncan and Annamaria Kinnon have sponsored the 3rd prize Eva Maria Szekely Award. Universal has also donated a Sutherland/Bonynges opera CD for every finalist. June Dally-Watkins has agreed to present another invaluable seminar for the finalists consisting of advice on deportment, presentation, dress and make-up, all important elements for every young singer. The eleven finalists are: Daniel Belle, Claire Candy, Bryony Dwyer, Lauren Fagan, Louise Fenbury, Sylvie Humphries, Naomi Johns, Fiona Jopson, Tabitha McFadyen, Morgan Pearse, Samuel Sakker.

Helen Sherman, Cardiff, Charlie Brown, JDW and Qantas



June Dally-Watkins was a major instigator in helping Helen Sherman find a dress for the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World. Charlie Brown came to Helen's rescue and Qantas couriered the dress over to London and back. Helen married the Charlie Brown black silk dress with one of her own coats and was named *Frock of the Year!* The JSS also financially assisted Helen with her preparation for Cardiff. Helen says, "The wonderful people at the Joan Sutherland Society have quite simply been my heroes. For the inspiring support of Ms June Dally-Watkins, Charlie Brown and Qantas - I cannot thank you enough. I wonder what I would have done without you!" This year's winner was 24 year old Moldovan soprano Valentina Nafornita who also won the Dame Joan Sutherland Audience Prize. We congratulate Helen on her mighty achievement.

The New York Tribute for Dame Joan was reported to have been loving and very amusing. JSS President, Doug Cremer, was in attendance to hear guest speakers Marilyn Horne (pictured), Regina Resnik, Sherrill Milnes and Martina Arroyo pay tribute to their beloved colleague.



Marilyn Horne & Richard Bonynges Photo Beth Bergman

Richard Bonynges will adjudicate the Elena Obraztsova Int. Comp. for Young Singers in Russia with Berganza, Pons, Bruson & Sabbatini. Clarissa Spata has won the NY Study Award, Rachel Bate the \$5,000 Wollongong Aria and James Roser the 2011 Vienna State Opera Award.

POSITIONS VACANT

We're expanding and seeking enthusiastic opera supporters to join the Committee of the Joan Sutherland Society. Do you have knowledge of ticketing, bookkeeping, sponsorship, web design, database technology, publishing, graphic design, business, artistic knowledge or simply have good organisational skills and want to help our young singers? Please give us a call on 9789 1910.

Dame Joan Sutherland \$1 Coin



The Royal Australian Mint, as part of their inspirational Australians series, has issued an uncirculated \$1 coin of Dame Joan. The coin costs AUD \$12.95 and can be ordered online or purchased at your local

Australia Post Office. For orders and details <http://mintissue.ramint.gov.au/mintissue/product.asp?code=310074>



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Joan Sutherland Society
Joan Sutherland & Richard Bonynges
Opera Foundation

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