

Congratulations John Longmuir
winner of the inaugural
Joan Sutherland & Richard Bonyng
Bel Canto Award



The Bel Canto Finalists L-R, Naomi Johns (3rd), Angela Brun, John Longmuir (winner), Darren Pene Pati, Amy Corkery (2nd), Eva Kong.

The Bel Canto final was no ordinary singing final, in fact many commented on the high standard of singing, including Richard Bonyng, making the decision for the judges all the more difficult. The Sutherland/Bonyng name brought out some of the best singing we have heard all season from these six young singers,



something they should all be extremely proud of. In the presence of Her Excellency, Prof. Marie Bashir, AC, CVO, nearly 300 patrons were in attendance on 23rd September at the Sydney Con to hear tenor John Longmuir be crowned the inaugural Bel Canto Award winner. He sang arias from The Abduction from the Seraglio and La Cenerentola. Sopranos Amy Corkery and Naomi Johns were a delighted second and third respectively. The other three exceptional finalists were, Angela Brun, Eva Kong and Darren Pene Pati. Amy Corkery also won \$2,500 worth of cds and dvds courtesy of Universal Music, Eva Kong won the Dante Alighieri prize and baritone James Roser was the guest artist.



The finalists with the Governor and judges, Bernadette Cullen (left) Richard Bonyng (Ctr back), Joan Carden, and Anson Austin, (right) and accompanist Sharolyn Kimmorley (3rd left).

The Joan Sutherland Memorial Concert
Sunday 6th November, 2011 at 2pm

It is hard to believe a year has passed since the world said goodbye to Dame Joan Sutherland. Much has happened since then and an even greater amount has been said and written about the life and achievements of Australia's greatest opera singer. On 6th November, we will be paying tribute to her memory at the Joan Sutherland Memorial Concert. Presented in St Paul's Church Burwood at 2pm, this concert attracted over 300 people last year



to hear some of our most exciting young singers. The promotion of young singers was Dame Joan's passion, therefore, in keeping with tradition we will endeavour to carry out her wishes and keep on promoting and supporting our rising talent. Featuring the Bel Canto winner, the 2nd place getter, one of the finalists, a previous JSS Scholarship winner, grant recipients, our raffle and a memorabilia sale, this will be an afternoon of glorious singing. Starring Amy Corkery, Eva Kong, Dominica Matthews, John Longmuir, Brad Cooper, Russell Harcourt, Christopher Hillier, Sarah Ann Walker, accompanied by Tahu Matheson, compered by Geoffrey Chard AM. Tickets can be booked by calling **Elizabeth Pidd on 9181 3073**.

Congratulations **Naomi Johns**, winner of the 33rd
Joan Sutherland & Richard Bonyng
Vocal Scholarship

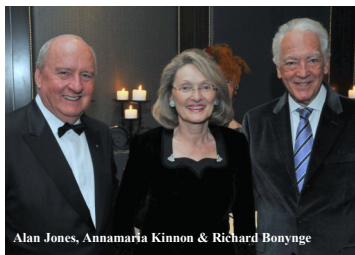
It was third time lucky for soprano Naomi Johns in this year's Sydney Eisteddfod. Twice before the WA singer has come second in the vocal scholarship, however this year she beat a field of 10 other singers to finally take out the first prize. The Rosina Raisbeck second prize went to baritone Morgan Pearse, the third place Eva Maria Szekely Award to tenor Samuel Sakker. Naomi is also a finalist in the Australian Singing Competition and plans to head to the U.S.A. & London in November for further study. Burwood Council was this year's major sponsor with former Mayor, John Sidoti and current Mayor, John Faker present.



L-R, The Hon. John Sidoti, Morgan Pearse (2nd), Naomi Johns (winner), Samuel Sakker (3rd), Mayor of Burwood, John Faker.

September Highlights

The Foundation Dinner - September 15th



The Foundation's inaugural dinner was held at Le Montage in Lilyfield this year. Over one hundred guests including Her Excellency, Professor Marie Bashir AC, CVO, Sir Nicholas Shehadie AC, OBE, Richard Bonyngé AO, CBE, Mr Alan Jones AO, the Hon. John Sidoti, Cyrus Meher-Homji from Universal Music, Megan Diamond, Lauris Elms AM, OBE, Simon Tedeschi, plus a table of young JSS singers were in attendance. Nick Scali and Alfredo Bovier added to the Italian feel of the evening and soprano, Emma Matthews stunned the audience with four exquisite arias accompanied by Kate Golla. Bidding for the Sutherland portrait (below) was thrilling with Alan Jones casting the final bid. JSS member, David Palmer bought Dame Joan's turquoise necklace and Duncan and Annamaria Kinnon her silver hairbrush. The dinner raised much needed funds for the Bel Canto Award which has been wholeheartedly supported by Professor Marie Bashir. Plans for next year's dinner and Award are already in the pipeline so keep an eye out for details in the coming months. Thank you also to Lola Crossingham for her stunning decoration of the room, Paul Ferris for borrowing some appropriate looking props from Opera Australia, our generous sponsors of the silent auction prizes and all the patrons in attendance for making the night so special.



Anne-Maree McDonald in conversation with Richard Bonyngé Over seventy JSS members gathered to hear soprano Anne-Maree McDonald charmingly probe into Richard Bonyngé's life, his favourite operas, composers, singers and who from the past he'd invite to dinner if given the chance. He talked about the need for singers to have secure techniques, his extraordinary home in Switzerland, Noel Coward, Elizabeth Taylor and of course his life with Dame Joan.

Supporting our next generation of Young Singers This year the Society and Foundation handed out over \$60,000 to young singers to assist them with their studies. This is thanks to our own fundraising activities and invaluable individual donors and corporate sponsors. Particular thanks must go to new sponsors Burwood Council, the Australian Opera Auditions Committee, Mr Paul Ferris for sponsoring the Deborah Riedel Award and Duncan and Annamaria Kinnon for their sponsorship of the remaining three finalists prizes in the Bel Canto Award and Eva Maria Szekely Award. Thanks must also go to Mr Alan Jones' continued and invaluable sponsorship and advertising he gives us through 2GB radio. If you would like to be one of our sponsors for 2012, please don't hesitate to contact us. All support is gratefully received.

Our Volunteers We would like to thank all our 2011 volunteers, in particular Margaret Binder who has been head of catering for many years. Margaret recently stepped down from the position however still helps us out at many of our events.



We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our Donors, Members and Supporters a very Merry Christmas and happy holiday season. We look forward to your company in 2012. Thank you!

Famous Operatic Couples

Ever wondered what other famous operatic couples there have been other than *Dame Joan Sutherland and Richard Bonyngé*? Here's just a few examples from Mozart to Netrebko.

Constanze Weber (s) & Wolfgang A. Mozart (co)
 Gioachino Rossini (co) & Isabella Colbran (s)
 Giuseppe Verdi (co) & Giuseppina Streponi (s)
 Ferruccio Tagliavini (t) & Pia Tassinari (s)
 Giulio Gatti-Cassaza (om) & Frances Alda (s)
 Clara (co) & Robert Schumann (co)
 Rafael Kubelik (c, co) to Ludmilla Bertlova (v)
 & Elsie Morrison (s)
 Mirella Freni (s) & Nicolai Ghiaurov (bs)
 Julia Varady (s) & Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau (b)
 Jussi Bjoerling (t) & Anna Lisa Bjoerling (s)
 Beniamino Gigli (t) & daughter Rina Gigli (s)
 Christa Ludwig (m) & Walter Berry (bb)
 Elizabeth Schwartzkopf (s) & Walter Legge (rp)
 Lucia Popp (s) to Gyorgy Fischer (c) & Peter Seiffert (t)
 Monsterrat Caballe (s) & Bernabé Martí (t)
 Leontyne Price (s) & William Warfield (bb)
 Peter Glossop (b) & Joyce Blackham (s)
 Thomas Stewart (bb) & Evelyn Lear (s)
 Marilyn Horne (m) & Henry Lewis (c)
 Alma Gluck (s) & Efrem Zimbalist (v)
 Lily Pons (s) & Andre Kostelanetz (c)
 Bidu Soyao (s) & Giuseppe Danise (b)
 Sesto Bruscantini (bb) & Sena Jurinac (s)
 Fiorenza Cossotto (m) & Ivo Vinco (b)
 Louise Homer (cont) & Sidney Homer (co)
 Richard Wagner (c, co) & Cosimo Wagner (d)
 Galina Vishneskaya (s) & Mstislav Rostropovich (c)
 Phillip Langridge (t) & Anne Murray (m)
 Ryland Davies (t) & Anne Howells (m)
 Norman Bailey (bb) & Kristine Ciesinski (s)
 Angela Gheorghiu (s) & Roberto Alagna (t)
 Anna Netrebko (s) & Erwin Schrott (bb)
 And of course that other famous couple,
 Gilbert & Sullivan!

*s - soprano, m - mezzo, cont - contralto t - tenor,
 b - baritone, bb - bass baritone, bs - bass, c - conductor,
 d - director, rp - record producer, co - composer,
 v - violinist, om - opera manager*

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JSS Enquiries: (02) 9789 1910
 Email: admin@joansutherlandandsociety.com
 Foundation Enquiries: (02) 4861 2440 | 0402 02 4118
 Email: Foundation@joansutherlandandsociety.com
 P.O. Box 880, Leichhardt N.S.W. 2040
 Tickets/Membership: (02) 9817 4919
 Email: accounts@joansutherlandandsociety.com
 Volunteers: (02) 9809 6561
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