



2020 Bel Canto Award Covid Competition Recipients Announced

Total Grants: \$71,000

SAMANTHA CLARKE (29) Perth soprano based in the UK, will sing Tytania at Grange Park Festival in 2021. \$10,000 grant.

KIANDRA HOWARTH (30) Qld soprano will sing Micaëla for Covent Garden and Agathe in Hannover in 2021 . \$10,000 grant.

SAMUEL SAKKER (35) Qld tenor will sing Des Grieux for Grange Park Festival and Laca in Montréal. \$8,000 grant.

ASHLYN TYMMS (32) Perth mezzo soprano recently sang Dorabella for West Australian Opera. \$8,000 grant.

ALEXANDRA FLOOD (30) Melbourne soprano will sing Nanetta in Malmö in 2020. \$8,000 grant.

ZOE DRUMMOND (28) Sydney soprano will sing Woglinde for Birmingham City Opera in 2021. \$6,000 grant.

STEPHEN MARSH (29) Melbourne bass baritone will sing Marcello at the 2021 Verbier Festival in Switzerland. \$6,000 grant.

MORGAN BALFOUR (28) Qld soprano based in San Francisco is a Resident Artist for Lyric Opera of Kansas. \$5,000 grant.

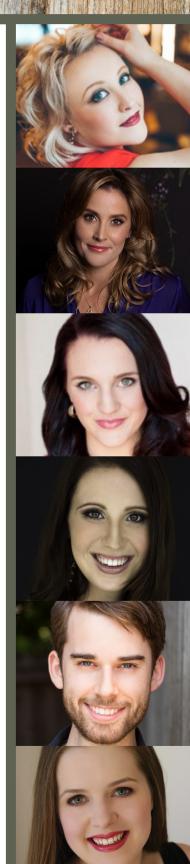
NICHOLAS JONES (32) Melbourne tenor will sing Tamino for Opera Australia in 2021. \$4,000 grant.

JEREMY KLEEMAN (29) Melbourne bass baritone was invited by the London Handel Players as bass soloist. \$3,000 grant.

GEORGIA WILKINSON (27) Melbourne soprano is the recipient of the Sydney Savage Club Encouragement Award \$2,000.

BRYONY DWYER (34) Sydney soprano will sing Gilda in Klagenfurt in 2021. \$1,000 Wagner Society of NSW Award.

The Art is in the Giving! Thank you to all our donor patrons.



Welcome to the twenty-fifth edition of $Bel\ {\it Canto}.$

Where to begin? Since the last newsletter, we have had much to celebrate during lockdown. Richard Bonynge's 90th, the Chalet Monet book arrival, Dame Joan's 10th Anniversary of her passing, the release of her 'My Favourites' CD, and what would have been her 94th Birthday. An extraordinary year in many ways.

RICHARD BONYNGE'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

After months of sending emails to colleagues and BCA winners throughout the world, we managed to put together a birthday surprise for the Maestro. Ninety birthday messages came in the form of video links and written greetings, all of which were compiled into an electronic book and video reel. John Longmuir created a very clever video and the great Fiorenza Cossotto sang "Tante Auguri Maestro" from lockdown in Italy. Angela Gheorghiu sent an ebullient message from her dressing room, while the students at WAAPA and the Solti Accademia in Venice all sang Happy Birthday. These tributes all conveyed the same heartfelt message for the man who has dedicated his life to the art of Bel canto, opera and ballet. Many can be viewed on facebook or at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGxLZM-RSNc3-ZvZKGssdag/videos

Ninety-three year old Irish soprano Veronica Dunne, sent her message via video as did ninety year old Professor The Hon Dame Marie Bashir, Simone Young, José Carerras, many Australian colleagues, scholarship winners and Aprile Millo singing a snippet of *Norma*. Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Dame Beryl Grey, Eva Marton, Marilyn Horne, Giacomo Aragall, Cecilia Bartoli, Teresa Berganza and more sent signed letters. On pages three and four, you will see the full list of artists with many of these photos taken from their actual videos.

These were all sent in secret to Richard's secretary, Ruth Jaeger, who organised for them to be projected onto a large screen on the evening of Richard's birthday celebrations in Switzerland. Following this, the Tait Memorial Trust's concert was streamed from Australia House in London. Richard said he had never had a birthday like it.

CHALET MONET BOOK - the ideal Christmas gift

The Chalet Monet book finally arrived, all 350 of them without their dust jackets! For a week, three of us painstakingly folded edges making sure not to damage the covers, wrapped all the pre-orders in bubble wrap then posted them off in padded bags or boxes to all corners of the globe. There are so few left I think we're



going to have to order some more! We are still folding the covers on the remaining stock, ninety of which are for the Deluxe Limited Edition which is on its way. This can be ordered through me or Classics Direct.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all those people who have bought the book and those who have sent wonderful messages saying how much they are enjoying their Swiss adventure.

2020 BEL CANTO AWARDS

Because the Foundation was unable to hold the usual competitions this year, I decided to create the online Bel Canto Awards for professional singers who have lost work due to the pandemic in 2020. Richard Bonynge, Bernadette Cullen and Cyrus Meher-Homji from Universal Music had the arduous task of sifting through the over sixty applications, covid statements and their video links. A short list of twenty was decided then the hard task began!

The amount of work lost by these singers due to covid was quite staggering and upsetting. To survive lockdown, one singer was handing out PPE equipment in NHS hospitals in London, another had just set up a home in Sydney to start work with OA when lockdown struck so had to return to Perth. Others returned from the UK to Australia to weather it out, waiting until it is safe to return. Two singers finally opened in an opera in Germany last month only to have all their performances in November cancelled.

We were aiming for ten awards, then the Sydney Savage Club generously donated the Megan Evans OAM Encouragement Award of \$1,000, which we matched, plus, the Wagner Society of NSW, at the last minute, offered a \$1,000 grant for a singer based in Germany or Austria, so twelve it became. The Awards were announced on Dame Joan's birthday on, 7 November as a tribute to her legacy.



This brings our total Scholarship programme to:

JSRBF individual Scholarships 316
JSRBF individual Scholarship Recipients 171
JS Society of Sydney Scholarships \$159,536
JSRBF Scholarships since 2011 \$1,042,200
JSRB Total \$1,201,736
ECP Recipients/Scholarships Total 29/\$262,000
Grand Total \$1,463,736

An immense thank you to the following people and organisations for assisting the Foundation to award \$71,000 as part of the 2020 Bel Canto Awards covid scheme.

- ♦ Chalet Monet Book Project
- ♦ Packer Family Foundation
- ♦ Mrs Shaneen Crouch
- ♦ Mr Kerry Stokes AC
- ♦ ClubsNSW
- ♦ Hancock Prospecting
- ♦ Alasdair Kent
- Winning Appliances
- ♦ Sydney Savage Club
- Wagner Society of NSW

Merry Christmas to you all and thank you for being there for the artists and JSRB Foundation in 2020. Warmest regards,





CHALET MONET **Deluxe Limited Edition**

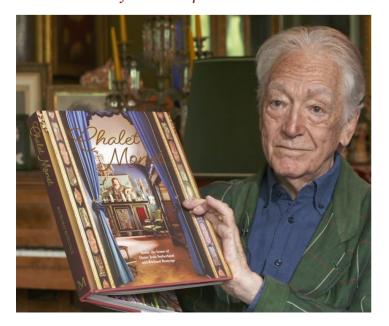
Pre-order through the Foundation or Classics Direct at https://www.classicsdirect.com.au/chalet-monetdeluxe.../ or call Classics Direct on (02) 4782 9697.



Only 90 copies available in the world containing;

- A unique piece of Dame Joan's embroidery;
- The Chalet Monet Book:
- A Certificate of Authenticity personally signed by Richard Bonynge;
- A copy of Sutherland's 'My Favourites' CD;
- All housed in a lavish red material coated case.
- A must for the avid collector.
- Price \$499.95

The Ultimate Christmas Gift for that Special Person





NEWS FLASH

Nicole Car has made her Vienna Staatsoper debut, stepping in at short notice as Tatyana in Eugene Onegin.



Overleaf: Richard Bonynge Birthday Messages

Left to Right

Row 1: WAAPA, Georg Solti Accademia, Olivia Cranwell*, Brad Cooper*, Matthew Reardon*, Helen Sherman*, Bronwyn Douglass*, James Roser*, Naomi Johns*, Emma Moore*, Jeremy Silver, Livia Brash*, Kiandra Howarth*, Zoe Drummond*.

Row 2: Imogen-Faith Malfitano*, Jane Rutter, Cyrus Meher-Homji OAM, Nelly Miricioiu, Simone Young AM, Aprile Millo, Maria Vetere, Giacomo Aragall, Bernadette Cullen, Glenn Winslade, Dame Malvina Major ONZ GNZM DBE, Emma Matthews.

Row 3: Fiorenza Cossotto, Martina Arroyo, Angela Gheorghiu, Teresa Berganza, Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO. Éva & Zoltán Marton, José Carreras, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa ONZ CH DBE AC, Marilyn Horne, Cecilia Bartoli, Veronica Dunne.

Row 4: Paul Ferris, Suzanne Johnston, Stuart Maunder AM, Robert Gard OBE, Nance Grant AM MBE, John Pringle AM, Fiona Janes*, Dame Beryl Grey DBE, Anne Maree McDonald, Jennifer McGregor, Lorina Gore, Jennifer Bermingham OAM, Patricia Price.

Row 5: Jessie Wilson*, Jaewoo Kim, Vincent Colagiuri, Benson Wilson*, Greta Bradman, Nichola McAuliffe, Glenn Amer, John Longmuir*, Lauris Elms AM OBE, Moffatt Oxenbould AM, Graeme Ewer, Deborah Cheetham AO.

Row 6: Tiffany Speight, Anthony Warlow AM, Isabella Moore*, Natalie Aroyan, Andrew Sinclair, Valda Wilson*, Hannakaisa Nyrönen* and Esa-Pekka Salonen (Finnish Opera), Cynthia Johnston AM, Luise Napier, Nick Schlieper, Ghillian Sullivan, Rosemary Gunn, David Harper.

Row 7: Michelle Ryan*, Louise Keast*, Morgan Balfour*, Thomas Johnson*, Paull-Anthony Keightley*, Roxane Hislop, Eliza Boom*, Katherine Allen*, Jessica Harper*, Andrew Williams*, Damian Arnold*, Emilio Sagi & Alasdair Kent*, Amelia Farrugia. * Scholarship recipients

POSTAL ADDRESS

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