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Melbourne Welsh Male Choir Singer of the Year 2012 Final

2 pm Sunday 9th September 2012
Karralyka Centre, Ringwood

Compere Ted Davies Conductor Lucas de Jong Accompanist Simon Walters

Men of Harlech *from Fantasia on Famous Welsh Airs* arr. Mansel Thomas
Llanfair Robert Williams arr. Mansel Thomas
Bugeilio'r Gwenith Gwyn *Watching The White Wheat* arr. Derek Jones
Cwm Rhondda John Hughes arr. Arwel Hughes

Finalists - accompanist Janet Perkins

Kate Amos - *Soprano*
Quel guardo il cavaliere *from Don Pasquale* Donizetti
Lotte Betts-Dean - *Mezzo Soprano*
Le Spectre de la Rose *from Les Nuits d'été* Berlioz
Nathan Lay - *Baritone*
Bella siccome un angelo *from Don Pasquale* Donizetti
Lee Abrahmsen - *Lyric Soprano*
Dis-moi que je suis belle *from Thais* Massenet

Gwahoddiaid Hartsough arr. John Tudor Davies
O Hear Us, Isis and Osiris *from the Magic Flute* Mozart
Ave Verum Mozart arr. Louis Saar
Stout Hearted Men Hammerstein & Romberg arr. Scotson

INTERVAL

American Trilogy arr. Alwyn Humphreys
A Reflection on Welsh Mining
Sing Rhondda Eleanor Purdy
Suo Gan traditional Welsh melody arr. Linda O'Brien
A Miner's Poem by William Holman read by Bill Spawton
Take Me Home Rod Edwards and Roger Hand
When I'm Sixty Four John Lennon/Paul McCartney

Finalists - accompanist Janet Perkins

Lotte Betts-Dean - *Mezzo Soprano*
Surabaya Johnny *from Happy End* Kurt Weill
Nathan Lay - *Baritone*
Some Enchanted Evening *from South Pacific* Rodgers & Hammerstein
Lee Abrahmsen - *Lyric Soprano*
If I Loved You *from Carousel* Rodgers & Hammerstein
Kate Amos - *Soprano*
Vilia *from The Merry Widow* Lehar

Shelter Eric Bogle arr. Leon Paix
Anthem *from Chess* Anderson/Rice arr. Doug Heywood
The World in Union Holst/Skarbek arr. M D Williams

Presentation - Singer of the Year

Mae Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau - Welsh National Anthem



Kate Amos - Soprano

Kate completed her Bachelor of Music (Performance) at the University of Melbourne in 2011 with a Diploma in Languages (Italian), and is currently completing Honours in Voice under the tutelage of Rosamund Illing. As an Australian Opera Scholar for several years with Australian Music Events, Kate was chosen as the joint 2011-2012 Opera Scholar of the Year singing solos at Opera in the Alps and Opera in the Market accompanied by the Alpha Sinfonia and conducted by Guy Noble. Kate is the recipient of numerous awards including the Mabel Kent Scholarship, EC Wellisch Bequest Scholarship and Athenaeum Competition from Melbourne University as well as twice winning the Robert Stolz Viennese Music Award in competitions. Kate recently performed alongside mezzo-soprano Suzanne Johnston in "From Bizet to Broadway" in Morning Melodies in the State Theatre at the Arts Centre, Melbourne.



Nathan Lay - Baritone

Nathan completed his Bachelor of Music at the Melba Conservatorium of Music in 2008. During his time there, he was awarded the 'Melba Conservatorium Scholarship' and twice awarded the 'Robert Salzer Scholarship' for showing operatic potential. In 2010, Nathan was named the Australian Music Events 'Opera Scholar of the Year' and was the winner of the National Liedertafel. He was also a semi-finalist in the 2010 and 2011 Herald Sun Aria. In 2011, Nathan was one of the scholarship recipients of the Dame Nellie Melba Opera Trust. This year, Nathan was the winner of the Eisteddfod By the Bay Aria, semi-finalist in the 2012 Sydney McDonald's Aria, and was Runner-Up and winner of the People's Choice Award at the 2012 Royal Melbourne Philharmonic Aria competition. In 2012, Nathan made his debut with Melbourne Opera playing the role of 'Schaunard' in Puccini's La Bohème, followed by 'Guglielmo' in their new production of Mozart's Cosi fan tutte.



Ian Cousins - Adjudicator

Ian is well known as a recital and concert performer, singing teacher, adjudicator and examiner for various music organisations throughout Australia. Ian received his music training at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music and the National Theatre Opera School in Melbourne. In 1975, he represented Australia in the Pan Pacific finals of the Metropolitan Opera Auditions and won the Victorian State Final of the ABC Instrumental and Vocal Competition.

Ted Davies (compere) was born in Swansea (the original one in Wales!). He grew up in a Welsh speaking family although, sadly, the only little Welsh he can still recall is that of the Chapel! He has sung in choirs all his life, including a very enjoyable and memorable period with the Melbourne Welsh a few years ago. He currently sings with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra Chorus. Ted is a volunteer with 3MBS, Melbourne's local community fine music station. He presents a regular program, Daybreak, on Wednesday mornings.



Lee Abrahmsen - Lyric Soprano

In October 2010, Lee was the winner of the 86th Annual Herald Sun Aria. In 2012 she was nominated for a Green Room Award for her performance as Valencienne in Lehar's Merry Widow. Lee graduated from The University of Melbourne with honours in Music Performance. She was awarded scholarships to study and perform in Holland and Italy. Lee has performed in over 16 principal roles in Australia and abroad including; Violetta (La Traviata), Marguerite (Faust), Mimi (La Bohème), Cio Cio San (Madama Butterfly), Micaëla (Carmen), Valencienne (The Merry Widow), Zerlina (Don Giovanni), Adele (Die Fledermaus). She has appeared as Concert Soloist with Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra Victoria and Consort of Melbourne.



Lotte Betts-Dean - Mezzo Soprano

Born and raised in Berlin, Lotte began her musical life as a cellist. She is currently studying with Anna Connolly in her final year of the Bachelor of Music at the Conservatorium of Music, Melbourne University. As a recitalist of Lieder, Chanson, Russian and 20th Century repertoire, she regularly performs for The Lieder Society of Victoria and Liedertafel Arion, and is a vocalist for jazz ensemble The Raah Project. Lotte has been the recipient of several University awards - Ormond Exhibition, the Nellie Melba Prize, and the Murray Vagg Scholarship. She recently won the RMP Aria and the Armstead Award and came runner up in the Mietta Song Competition and the National Liedertafel. She will soon compete as a finalist in the 3MBS Young Performer of the Year and as a semifinalist in the IFAC Australian Singing Competition. Lotte is now a regular artist with Victorian Opera, most recently appearing in the Double Bill



Janet Perkins - Accompanist

Janet studied with Roy Shepherd at the Melbourne Conservatorium. She specialises in vocal accompaniment, and is in great demand for many Eisteddfodau in Melbourne and Regional Victoria. These include Ballarat's Royal South Street Competitions and the preliminary stages of the Herald Sun Aria. Janet works annually with many students toward tertiary examinations, and with professional singers in recitals and other concerts.

A Reflection on Welsh Mining

Sing Rhondda

A song about the coal mines in the Rhondda Valley

Father was a Miner (background Suo Gan)

My father was a miner, he worked deep underground;
The rush of drams and clanking chains, they were his daily sounds.
He worked so far below the ground, where coal was hewed by pick,
The work so hard and wages small he didn't dare go sick.
He crawled upon his belly in drifts so low and narrow,
The wind it whistled down the shaft, it chilled him to the marrow.
He ate his food from a Tommy box, shaped like a slice of bread,
While squatting down upon the ground, where spit and crumbs were shed.
His water, it was in a Jack, to wet down clouds of dust,
That gathered in his throat and lungs where it formed a deadly crust.
We would listen for his footsteps, he'd then come into sight:
This man, our Dad, as black as black, just like the darkest night;
His bath was always ready, set down in front of fire,
My mother then would wash his back, and tell us to retire;
Right down his back white rivers ran amongst the dirt and grime,
But you cannot wash away blue scars that you get down in the mine.
Years now have passed, my father gone, but I am proud to say,
My father was a miner, until his dying day.

Poem by William Holman

Take Me Home

*I remember the face of my father as we walked back home from the mine
He'd laugh and he'd say 'That's one more day,
and its good to feel the sun shine'
I remember my mother was smiling as I set out to make my own way
She seemed to know that I had to go, but I'd come back home one day.*

20th Anniversary of Singer of the Year

The Singer Of The Year was inaugurated in 1993 and has rapidly achieved a high status within the musical fraternity. Its aim is to enhance performance aspects by enabling young singers to perform in front of an audience. Winners of the Singer of the Year contest have gone on to grace the national and international concert stage.

The Choir wishes to thank and acknowledge The Opus 50 Charitable Trust, The Robert Salzer Foundation, and the Dorothy Andrewartha Bequest, for the generous sponsorship of this year's Singer of the Year competition. The Singer of the Year will receive \$5,000 and an invitation to sing with the choir at Hamer Hall Morning Melodies in November; Second Prize is \$2,500; Third Prize \$1,500; and the 4th placegetter an Encouragement Award of \$1,000 from the estate of Dorothy Andrewartha

Previous Winners

2010 - Barbara Zavros (Soprano)	2011 - Siobhan Stagg (Soprano)
2008 - Jacqueline Porter (Soprano)	2009 - Samuel Dundas (Baritone)
2006 - Suzanne Shakespeare (Coloratura-Soprano)	2007 - Adrian Tamburini (Baritone)
2004 - Mark Fowler (Tenor)	2005 - Lauren Oldham (Soprano)
2002 - Michelle Cook (Soprano)	2003 - Lisa Anne Robinson (Soprano)
2000 - John Bode (Tenor)	2001 - Amanda Forbes (Soprano)
1998 - Leslie Martin (Soprano)	1999 - Alexandra Sherman (Mezzo-Soprano)
1996 - Antoinette Halloran (Soprano)	1997 - Kim Wheeler (Soprano)
1994 - Paul Blewett (Baritone)	1995 - Sally-Anne Russell (Mezzo-Soprano)
	1993 - Paul Batey (Tenor)

The waistcoats we wear are of Welsh tartan and manufactured in Swansea from Welsh wool - made to measure in Wales, and sent over to us. We wear them with pride. If you are not on our mailing list, please fill out a form at the CD sales desk, or visit our website. We are particularly seeking email addresses to cut down on the cost of postage. Our rehearsals are at Federation Estate, Greenwood Avenue in Ringwood on Wednesday nights. We are always seeking new singers, particularly tenors. Come along to a rehearsal and check us out - maybe we can persuade you to join the choir. The choir acknowledges the support of wives, partners, friends and family who contribute to our ability to raise our sights.



Basses



Tenors

Baritones

