

# OPERA FOR ALL NEWS



The WA Opera Lovers Society Official Newsletter



## Special points of interest:

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- \* Resident Artists 24/25
- \* HIP Company
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## New era for WA Opera Lovers Society—Opera For All

The new committee met for the first time and we are looking forward to see what it will bring with some old activities and some new ideas to assist promote the world of opera.

The new President, Ian Westrip OAM brings new ideas to the group so expect a lively year under his leadership.

### Ian Westrip OAM—President

### Gail Spiers—Vice President

### Helen Brown—Past President

### Robin Evans—Secretary- Shelly Miles—Treasurer

### Committee—Nigel Penfold, Natalia Skarina, Beth Redwood, Noah Humich, James Pinneri, Sophie Hamer.

We are hoping lots of other members will wish to help out with our many new events, concerts, workshops and presentations so please let one of the committee know if you are one of those willing.

We are calling our annual programme of events **OPERA FOR ALL**, a tag line that really says what we stand for and aim to achieve.

Our main goal for this year is

to increase our membership, so please help by joining a friend or two. There are going to be lots of events and performances to interest you and new members. It's through our membership we can achieve our goals. We can always do with extra helpers as well so please let us know if you want to become involved either as an artist or as a helper.

We are very grateful for the use of the Dalkeith Church of Christ Hall, which has a new Grand Piano and a proper stage.

## Bi monthly meetings—Events to Keep us in Touch.

So that we are meeting regularly, events will be planned to fit into a bi-monthly format, on Tuesday evenings, together with special events such as the Opera Gala, The Opera For All

Secret Garden Concerts, Xmas dinner etc included. These bi monthly meetings will take place at our regular venue at the **Dalkeith Church of Christ** on the corner of Edward St and

Dalkeith Rd, Nedlands. The first meeting to be on **Tuesday June 11th @ 7pm**. We look forward to seeing you there for some light entertainment.

## Opera of the Month Dvorak's Rusalka

**Act 1** Rusalka the water nymph tells her father, Vodnik the water goblin that she has fallen in love with a human Prince who hunts around the lake. He tries to warn her off and sends her to a witch Jezibaba. She sings to the moon about her love and the witch tells her that loving him will make her lose speech and mortality and if he doesn't love her



The poster for Rusalka premiere, 31 March

in return he will die and she damned. Nevertheless in true operatic fashion she drinks a potion. The Prince embraces her much to her father's dismay.

**Act 2** A gamekeeper and kitchen boy notice that the Prince is to be married to a speechless bride. Witchcraft? The Prince notices a Princess wedding guest. The Princess is jealous and curses the wedding couple. The Prince rejects Rusalka who returns to the lake and

her father. The princess is annoyed at the Prince's fickleness and tells him (in not too nice a manner) to go back to Rusalka!

**Act 3** Rusalka asks for Jezibaba's help and supplies a knife with which to kill the Prince. Rusalka then becomes a spirit that lures humans to their death. The gamekeeper and boy meet Jezibaba who lets them know it was the Prince who betrayed Rusalka. The Prince meets Rusalka, they kiss and he dies. Her father says, "it is all futile." Rusalka finishes the opera, wishing the Prince, God's mercy on his soul!

"To facilitate our Opera for All programme, we will have a number of singers and a repetiteur as our resident guests for the year."

## Resident "Opera for All" Singers

To make our year exciting we propose to have resident singers to facilitate our Opera For All programme. They will perform at our events and at least once each season in a special concert. We are expecting that they will be graduates and looking for this experience as performers. Along with the singers will be a resident repetiteur to also take part in our programme.

A Gala concert will be part of this Opera For All series as well as the Opera For All Secret Garden Concerts and entertainment at the Xmas dinner.

The WAOL main goal is to support young singers and with our resident singers, we not only support these but are encouraging others.

We are expecting the nature of the programmes to be eclectic with

Music theatre and other genres of singing, so look forward to this aspect of the Opera For All programme.

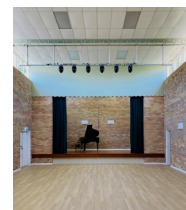
Singers are invited to submit an application and after audition, those suitable will be chosen for 24/25.

If you have a friend interested, let them know to apply by writing or emailing the committee. We will wish to have them in place by 30th June.

## OPERA Dates for Your Calendar

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June, 7.15,** WAOL Meeting Dalkeith Rd Church of Christ Hall  
**18 July – 27 July,** Rusalka, WAO HMT  
**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August, 7.15** WAOL Meeting Dalkeith Rd Church of Christ Hall  
**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August, Opera for All Concert,** WAOL Meeting Dalkeith Rd Church of Christ Hall  
**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October, Secret Garden Concert No 1**  
**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October, Secret**

**Garden Concert No 2** 24 Oct – 2 Nov, Orpheus and Eurydice, WAO HMT  
**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November, OPERA FOR ALL GALA** WAOL Meeting Dalkeith Rd Church of Christ Hall  
**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December, WAOL XMAS DINNER** Dalkeith Church of Christ Hall  
**TBA February '25 Barber of Seville Act 1 Workshop performances**



Dalkeith Church Hall

## Penny Shaw Cabaret Festival Diary of a Teenager

### Diary of a Teenage Diva, from Podcast to Cabaret!

"In the year that literature coined keeping a diary as the ultimate 'thought crime', a diva-in-waiting aged 13, started one. A frenzy of wholesome activities; roller-skating, riding ponies and singing practice starkly contrast

with Cointreau-fuelled midnight feasts and relentless pursuit of lush boys as our heroine turns from adorable child to revolting teenager.

Based on her podcast of the same name, DivaLicious comedian Penny Shaw explores her tumultuous teenage years through the iconic sound-

track of Gen-X's coming of age; Queen, Madonna, The Cure, Chess - The Musical and more! Soak up the timeless allure of the early 80s when hair was big and dreams were even bigger..."

**Book Now for this sure to be entertaining evening.**



**15 - 16 June 2024 His Majesty's Theatre, Downstairs at The Maj**

### HIP Company Presents *With Darkness Deep*

**Friday 7th June, 7.30pm, at St Andrew's Church, Subiaco.**

A programme of early Baroque delights by Purcell, Handel, Locke, Lully and Charpentier. This reverie on dreams, rest and the magic of night-time will be sure to warm the soul. HIP Company directors

Bonnie de la Hunty (soprano), Sarah Papadopoulos (violin) and Krista Low (viola da gamba), will be joined by associate artists Eliza McCracken (violin) and Matthew Jones (theorbo).

The hour-long concert will conclude with a complimentary drinks

reception including Victory Point Wines.

**Tickets:** [events.humanitix.com/with-darkness-deep](https://events.humanitix.com/with-darkness-deep)

**Enquiries:** email [info@hip.company](mailto:info@hip.company)

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"When I joined, I thought WAOL would meet regularly and chat and discuss opera etc in a mutual atmosphere, I was so disappointed."

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## DID YOU KNOW

### Did you know

An **Opera radio station** in New York permanently puts out opera works, on line at

**[www.wqxr.com/operavore](http://www.wqxr.com/operavore)**

And **Penny Shaw** has a radio programme with interviews and music.

**Radio Fremantle 107.9fm**

### Did you know

**Luna Theatre** in Leederville regularly shows films direct from the Metropolitan Opera in New York on Sunday afternoons. The last one at time of editing was *La Rondine* and the next one is on Saturday **15th June, 11am**, or Sunday **16th, 11am** being **Puccini Madama Butterfly**.



### Did you know

*Butterfly* is a play by David Henry Hwang. The story, while entwined with that of the opera *Madama Butterfly*, is based most directly on the relationship between French diplomat Bernard Boursicot and Shi Pei Pu, a Beijing opera singer. The play premiered on Broadway in 1988 and won the 1988 Tony Award for Best Play.

**You read it here.**

The WA Opera Lovers Society (Inc)

The Society exists to promote opera and assist young artists in their studies. It provides funds toward further study and to projects and groups who have a similar goal.

Secretary

Email: [rr\\_evans@hotmail.com](mailto:rr_evans@hotmail.com)

Towards this end it presents evenings, concerts, workshops and events to raise funds.

'Opera For All' is its motto and creed.

OPERA FOR ALL NEWS.

If you have a news item, please

contact Ian

[concent@inet.net.au](mailto:concent@inet.net.au)

We welcome any assistance and support either in kind or financial that you are happy to give towards these goals and our volunteer committee.

For information please contact the secretary or through our web site.

[www.operaloverswa.com.au](http://www.operaloverswa.com.au)

## Where are they now?

**Fleuranne Brockway** has come a long way since her appearance as Pitti Sing in the ICW Production of The Mikado, and her studies under Megan Sutton at UWA.

She trained after UWA through scholarships from the Melba Opera Trust, the Australian Opera Awards Scholarship and the German Australian Opera Grant.

Fleur is now a member of the principal ensemble at the Hessisches Staatstheater in Wiesbaden. She has performed in various roles in operas such as Rigoletto, Don Carlo, Falstaff, Così fan tutte, Die Zauberflöte, Le Nozze di Figaro, Der Rosenkavalier, Werther, Manon, Der Ring des Nibe-

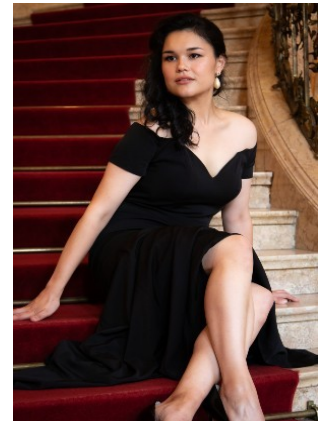
## Fleuranne Brockway

lungen, Lady Macbeth of Mtensk, Anna Nicole and Carmen.

She won several awards including The Dame Heather Begg Memorial Award, The German Australian Opera Grant, the Concorso Lirico di Portofino and the Joan Sutherland and Richard Bonyngel Bel Canto Award.

She is now an accomplished opera artist with a growing international presence.

We should be proud to call her ours and look forward to when she returns to sing for us again in WA.



Fleuranne Brockway