

NSW President's Report August 2022

Hello members,

As the impacts of COVID ease, we have seen many members returning to lessons face-to-face. Despite this easing, our committee has found that many members are still choosing to attend events online. The switch to online events over the past two years has come with many benefits. Our events have been more accessible for our valued regional members and the ability to record and watch back events has allowed those who usually teach or gig on the weekends, to still have access to professional development. Despite these benefits, as an organisation we recognise the importance of continuing to provide in-person events. The ability to network and socialise have long been a focus for the ANATS organisation and we are committed to offering our members these opportunities as regularly as possible. For this reason, the ANATS NSW committee has made a concerted effort to provide a hybrid delivery of both online and in-person for our 2022 events and will continue to do so where possible for 2023.

Our last event for 2021 was **“Vroom your Zoom – Upgrading your online singing teaching”** with presenters Lauren and Tim Moxey. This event was a response to requests from our members to provide more insight into programs and technology that teachers could use to continue working online with their students in a post-COVID world. This online event saw Lauren and Tim discuss home exam recordings, hardware and software options for all budgets and tips to build constructive relationships with students online. This event saw a profit of \$359.24.

As 2022 hit, we were so delighted to be able to offer our first face-to-face event in several years. **“The Ins and Outs of Improvisation”** was presented in a hybrid format allowing participants to be present both in the room and online. It was lovely to see so many members joining us at the Sydney Park Pavilion on February 13th. The day started with jazz improvisation with Trish Delaney-Brown. This session was highly practical as Trish was able to breakdown the difficult task of jazz improvisation into small, teachable steps. This was followed by a talk on classical ornamentation with Dr. David Greco. The day finished with a talk from Pat Powell on R'n'B/pop melisma. It was uplifting to hear Pat discuss his experience working in the R'n'B industry and made all those present reflect on the importance of voice across different cultures.

This event was our first attempt at live streaming and aside from a few technical hiccups, it highlighted the benefit and achievability of livestreaming events in the future. This event saw a small profit of \$30.75.

We continued our sponsorship of the prize for the English Art Song or Australian Art Song (21- 26 years old) category of the Sydney Eisteddfod in memory of Elizabeth Todd. After the cancellation of the eisteddfod last year, it was exciting to see this category go ahead. The section was won by Olivia Oxley and the committee would like to extend a big congratulations to both Olivia and all the singers who performed on the day (results below).

1st place – Olivia Oxley

2nd place – Rebecca O'Hanlon

3rd place – Aidan O'Donnell

Highly Commended – Kirsten Busby, Daniel Rae, Charlotte Plum, Ellena Hicks, Karl Elbourne

Back by popular demand was our **World Voice Day concert**, held on April 9th. As in 2021, a number of talented singers submitted online auditions to perform at this event. The One Voice Choir joined us again, led by committee member Elizabeth Lecoanet, and presented two beautiful songs.

We were delighted to be able to engage two guest performers for the evening. The Voice Australia 2021 star Penelope Pettigrew was in attendance and performed a beautiful acoustic rendition of Lady Gaga's 'Rain on Me'. It was heartening to see Penelope engage with several younger performers, answering questions and taking photographs. Our second guest performer, Natalia Melnik delighted the audience with a beautifully moving performance of O Mio Babbino Caro.

Jo

There were 82 in attendance and entrance was by donation. Prior to the event, several charitable organisations were presented to the committee who voted for one charity that would receive 100% of the donations from the event. The committee voted on a charity called Music for Change.

"Music for Change Inc. is a not-for-profit organisation founded in July 2013 by Melbourne based singer Sandra Bell. The motto for Music for Change is 'Make real change to make change real'. Music For Change Inc believe that music can bring about an amazing transformation and know that it can often be the one great thing in a persons' life. and is dedicated to providing assistance to students - predominantly under the age of 18 - who show particular talent in a music related field who are also considered financially disadvantaged. Such assistance may be in the form of financial support for tuition or purchase of an instrument."

\$309.30 was raised and donated.

On July 31st, after two years in the making, we were delighted to (*finally!*) host Dr. Leslie John Flanagan from the University of Oklahoma. Leslie presented a one-day event at the Academy of Music and Performing Arts entitled "***The past, present and future of classical voice***". To improve our livestreaming capabilities, the committee voted to invest in some lapel mics to ensure high quality sound for event. I would like to extend a huge thank you to our vice-president Jo Fabro for her work investigating and ultimately running this new technology. There were 45 attendees at this event, with 16 attending face-to-face and 29 online. The event saw a profit of \$1727.25.

Due to the difficulties faced over the past two years, ANATS NSW is aware of the isolation felt by many singing teachers, particularly those in the early years of their career. To support our early career teachers, the ANATS NSW committee introduced our **Early Career Teachings sessions**. These free sessions are offered to all ANATS members and are a chance for singing teachers within the first 5 years of their careers to get together, discuss pedagogy, and network.

Two sessions have been held so far. The first was held online on March 20th and was hosted by committee member Liz Lecoanet. This session discussed creating lesson plans and structuring the first singing lesson with a new student. The second session was held on August 20th in the beautiful Green Square Library Music room. Committee member Christina Wilson hosted this hybrid event and guided participants through discussions around vocal exercises. These two events had 29 unique registrants.

The committee must again be recognised for their hard work over the past 12 months. I would like to extend my gratitude to Meryl Jackson-Kew, Debbie Grace, Lisa Genovese, Jo

Fabro, Dr. Naomi Cooper, Christina Wilson, Liz Lecoanet, Robyn Wells, Carol-Ann Bentley, Judith Lindeman, and Sue Carson for their efforts over the past 12 months.

Thank you also to Christina Wilson, Debbie Grace and Jo Fabro for representing our chapter on the ANATS National Council the past year.

This year has been such a positive one for the ANATS NSW committee. We have been able to offer six different professional development opportunities to our members and are starting to feel our sense of community return.

We are so excited to see what 2023 brings and can't wait to share our event plans with you all.

Kind regards,

Nadine Manion