

An abstract expressionist painting by Jackson Pollock, titled 'Stenographic Figure'. The artwork features a complex composition of overlapping shapes, lines, and colors. A large, central figure is rendered in shades of grey and white, with a prominent red and orange curved shape below it. The background is a mix of blue, black, and yellow, with numerous thin, gestural lines in white, yellow, and black scattered throughout. The overall effect is one of dynamic energy and visual complexity.

**MASTERCLASS WITH  
CHRISTINA HENSON HAYES**  
a Wagner Society in NSW Inc event

**NATHAN BRYON**, tenor  
**ANITA de LISEN**, soprano  
**MICHAEL JAMES**, heldentenor  
**PAUL McLEOD**, heldentenor  
**ELLEN McNEIL**, soprano  
**DAMIEN NOYCE**, tenor  
**ASHLEE WOODGATE**, soprano

**BRADLEY GILCHRIST**, piano

**2.00PM Sunday 13 March 2022**  
**St Columba Community Centre**  
**53A Ocean Street, Woollarah**

"Stenographic Figure" 1942 painting by Jackson Pollock (1912-1956)  
To find out more about the Wagner Society in NSW Inc.  
please go to: [www.wagner.org.au](http://www.wagner.org.au)





## REPERTOIRE

### **ASHLEE WOODGATE, Soprano**

*Die tote Stadt* Mariettas Lied Glück, das mir verblieb  
**Erich Korngold (1897-1957)**

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### **NATHAN BRYON, Tenor**

*Carmen* La Fleur que tu m'avais jetée  
**Georges Bizet (1838-1875)**

*L'Arlesiana* È la solita storia del pastore  
**Francesco Cilea (1866-1950)**

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### **PAUL McLEOD, Heldentenor**

*Die Walküre* Ein Schwert verhiess mir der Vater,  
Siegmund heiß ich  
**Richard Wagner (1813-1883)**

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### **ELLEN McNEIL, Soprano**

*Suor Angelica* Senza Mama  
**Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924)**

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## BREAK

### **DAMIEN NOYCE, Tenor**

*Die Walküre* Winterstürme wichen dem Wonnemond  
**Richard Wagner (1813-1883)**

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### **ANITA de LISEN, Soprano**

*Lohengrin* Elsa's Dream Einsam in trüben Tagen  
**Richard Wagner (1813-1883)**

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### **MICHAEL JAMES, Heldentenor**

*Siegfried* Nothung, neidliches Schwert  
**Richard Wagner (1813-1883)**

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## REFRESHMENTS



### **ASHLEE WOODGATE soprano**

Ashlee holds a Masters of Music Studies (Opera Performance) from Sydney Conservatorium of Music, Bachelor of Music with Distinction from Newcastle Conservatorium of Music, and Diploma in classical voice AMEB. In 2020-21 Ashlee trained at the Film and Television Studio International under the direction of McMahon Management. Ashlee will debut as Violetta in *La Traviata* with Opera Hunter in October 2022. Her operatic credits include: Nedda *Pagliacci*, and Lucia *Lucia di Lammermoor* both with Outlaw Opera, Musetta *La Bohème* with Central Coast Opera, Zerlina *Don Giovanni* and Susanna *Le Nozze di Figaro* with Opera Hunter. She sang First Lady in *Die Zauberflöte* for her Carnegie Hall debut with the Manhattan Opera Studio. Other roles include Despina *Così fan tutte*, Herald of Dawn *The Fairy Queen*, Dido *Dido and Aeneas*, Calisto *La Calisto* and Pamina *Die Zauberflöte*. She was also soloist in Rossini's *Stabat Mater* and has often sung Handel's *Messiah* at Sydney Town Hall.

## DONATIONS TO WSNSW

Your Society has a number of recurrent philanthropic projects for which we seek your help. One such project, which we would like to focus on in the first half of 2022, is the **Jane Mathews AO Scholarship**, named in honour of our former President Justice Jane Mathews AO.

The Society joined with **PACIFIC OPERA** to establish a \$5,000 annual scholarship to help young potential Wagnerians. It also forges stronger ties between our two organisations. The first Scholarship has been awarded to **Ellen McNeil**.

**If interested in contributing please contact the President.**

## WHAT'S COMING UP NEXT?

**Ralph Myers** talking about the Simon Stone directed *Tristan und Isolde*  
**March 27** preceded by DVD *Silent Wagner*

**Peter Bassett** "Hurry away then towards the East" **April 10**  
preceded by DVD *Die Feen*

**Fritz Lang's** masterpiece *Siegfried* on **1 May**

**Erica Miner** talks to us from Seattle via Zoom about  
**Berlioz and Wagner** on **4 May**

## PAUL McLEOD heldentenor

Wollongong tenor, Paul has sung in the chorus of OA productions of *Otello*, *Fidelio*, *Aida*, and *Billy Budd*. He has also soloed in many choral concerts, soirees and recitals including a 2MBS-FM radio recital. Originally a church cantor, Paul sang treble in Eisteddfods, then baritone at the Sydney Conservatorium. He participated in the Ronald Dowd Summer School for Singers. He studied in Berlin at the UdK (University of the Arts), transitioning to tenor. He sang recitals, concert performances and roles there, and at Kammeroper Schloß Rheinsberg. Paul loves Art Song. His Lieder recitals include Schubert's *Die Schöne Müllerin*, and works by Schönberg, Wolf, Duparc and Mussourgsky. He has also appeared in music theatre. Recently he's prepared the roles of Laca *Jenufa* in Czech for The Co-Opera-tive, and as Nika Magadoff in *The Consul*. He is now studying Wagner roles. Paul's honours include the Dame Joan Sutherland Society award for Vocal Quality, 2MBS Young Performer Finalist and a **Berlin Wagner eV Bayreuth Stipendium**.



## ELLEN McNEIL soprano

Ellen has a Master of Music Studies (Opera Performance) from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, having studied with Dr Rowena Cowley. She was awarded several scholarships to support her undergraduate and postgraduate studies. Ellen's roles have included the title role in *Cendrillon*, Serpetta in *La finta giardiniera*, Zweite Dame and Zweiter Knabe in *Die Zauberflöte*, and Le Rossignol in *L'enfant et les sortilèges*. She is also an experienced musical and theatre performer having appeared as Anna Leonowens in *The King and I*, Natalia in *I am a Camera*, Viola in *Twelfth Night*, and Tzeitel in *Fiddler on the Roof*. This year Ellen has been awarded the inaugural **Jane Mathews AO Scholarship** which has been generously provided by the **Wagner Society in NSW**, as part of the **2022 Young Artist Program with Pacific Opera**. She is thrilled to be further developing her skills with both of these organisations. Ellen starred as Cinderella in the filmed under lockdown *Cendrillon*, directed by Kate Gaul.



## CHRISTINA HENSON HAYES

Christina Henson Hayes is a voice teacher, operatic coach, répétiteur, medic, and chef. She specialises in biomechanical function in singers and treats both patients and career opera singers in her practice, specialising in care of the voice in those who have extraordinary singing needs, for example surviving all of a *Die Walküre* Wotan, which Warwick Fyfe has just completed in Melbourne and Bendigo, singing in a world class fashion according to all reviews. Her background contains elite musical training beginning from an early age, a Juilliard education, a Medical School education, and being Artistic Director of two opera companies. The list of greats she has had the pleasure to be mentored by is long and illustrious. Christina has clients who sing at all the top opera houses in the world. She resides in one of the most beautiful parts of Australia because she married an Australian.



## BRADLEY GILCHRIST piano

Completed undergraduate piano studies at the WA Conservatorium of Music (WAAPA), and post-graduate studies in accompaniment and piano performance in Sydney and Madrid. Bradley has numerous concerto performances to his name winning The Concerto Award in 1996 to perform with the WASO. Other concerto appearances were with the Slovakia Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Odessa Philharmonic Orchestra. Bradley has given solo and chamber music recitals across Australia and NZ and in South Korea, Spain, Italy and the UK. Bradley broadcast solo programmes for the ABC Young Australia program. Bradley enjoys chamber music and has performed in a variety of ensembles. As répétiteur, Bradley's early experience in ballet repertoire has extended to opera and has been répétiteur for OA and many of Sydney's chamber opera companies as well as being in demand as an accompanist and vocal coach. Bradley works extensively as a mentor for young vocal and instrumental artists. He is **Music Director of the Young Artist Program at Pacific Opera** and Music Director at Australia's oldest Music Club, Music at Manly, and has played the piano at numerous **Wagner Society in NSW** concerts.





## **NATHAN BRYON** tenor

**WSNSW** supported tenor, Nathan Bryon, on a fact-finding trip to the USA where he was looking at young artist programs for young dramatic male voices. His roles include Il podestà di Lagonero in *La finta giardiniera* for Operantics and *Acis Acis and Galatea* for Ensemble Polyphème, a Sydney opera company he cofounded, focusing on the development of baroque performance practice skills for young artists. Chorus performances include *Ernani*, *Attila* and *Otello* with Opera Australia. In 2019, Nathan participated in masterclasses with Dr Graham Johnson at the Melbourne International Festival of Lieder and Art Song, toured Tasmania with Simon Kenway, Peter Coleman-Wright AO and Cheryl Barker AO and, through his scholarship with **Pacific Opera**, participated in an intensive networking and performance program in Germany facilitated by the German Embassy in Australia. Nathan holds the Ruskin Opera and Ryman Healthcare Opera Scholarships with Melba Opera Trust, and holds a 2021 Bel Canto Award from the Joan Sutherland and Richard Bonyne Foundation.



## **ANITA de LISEN** soprano

A talented, local soprano singer, Anita de Lisen's repertoire, gifted voice and stage personality are unforgettable. Anita has attained her Associate of Music and Licentiate Diplomas in Singing through the Australian Music Examinations Board and studied voice under internationally acclaimed opera singer Rita Hunter CBE. She has sung at Opera in the Arboretum in Pearl Beach with Opera Australia soloists, St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney for *The Lights of Christmas* presented by Payce. Anita's lead roles include Madame Euterpova in Menotti's *Help, Help the Globolinks*, The Queen of the Night in *The Magic Flute*, Anna Glavari in *The Merry Widow*, and Johanna in *Sweeney Todd*.



## **MICHAEL JAMES** heldentenor

Consulting Ecologist, Michael started vocal training aged 40. In a momentary lapse of reason, Michael booked himself in with Jazz Vocalist Dorian Mode. Four years later he joined The Gosford Musical Society and in his first audition was selected as lead in *Jekyll and Hyde*. Michael was invited to sing lead operatic roles at Central Coast Opera. Described in ClassikOn, Michael's voice is 'something else' - a strong, beautiful and extraordinary voice that surrounds and envelopes you with baritone warmth. Then he lifts you high with a powerful tenor that leaves goose bumps. Michael has had operatic performance and classical voice training at Central Coast Conservatorium, Jazz Vocalist training (ABC Australian Jazz Artist) and vocal performance coaching at Sydney Sings with Amelia Farrugia. Michael is currently being coached by Christina Henson. Michael's Australian credits include *One Woman & Two Divas*, *Steam Diva* and *Dr Lucifer*, Monastatos *The Magic Flute*, lead tenor in the musical *Jekyll and Hyde*, and Dr Stone in Menotti's *Help! Help! The Globolinks!*



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## **DAMIEN NOYCE** tenor

Damien studied acting at NIDA(Australia), opera at the ANU School of Music and opera, musical theatre & acting at Penn State University (USA). He has completed Young Artist Programs with **Pacific Opera** & the Opera Studio Melbourne. Damien has been supported by Roadshow Entertainment, ARS Musica Australis, the Gertrude Johnson Memorial Foundation, the **NSW & Victorian Wagner Societies**, English National Opera Benevolent Fund and The Royal Theatrical Fund. Damien represented Australia in the World Championships of Performing winning Overall World Champion & Gold Medals in all of his categories. Damien was runner up in the 2019 Pride's Got Talent Cabaret Final and a finalist in Phoenix Arts Club Cabaret Awards. He was nominated for Best Newcomer for the QX Magazine Cabaret Awards. Normally based in London.

