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## President's comments

Thank you to the Stentifords for hosting us last Saturday. A small but successful soiree, which saw us listening to a selection of performances [see the photos opposite], and all playing a lovely arrangement of a Rheinberger song, led by Glynn.

We are still confirming dates, but upcoming events will include a soiree at Judi and Mike Haederle's home, and a weekend with Avril in Denmark. The likely weekend for down south is in July. Last year a small group spent a very pleasant weekend making music in an informal way, with local participants included. Keen to do it again! Please get in touch with Avril or myself if interested, and more details will be sent once we have a definite date.

Also happening in Denmark in June is the Baroque Opera included on the Friday night as part of the Festival of Voice – see article and links later in this newsletter.

Wongan Hills in September – due to popular demand, we have a booking at the Wongan Hills caravan park, and have secured Hans-Dieter Michatz as our tutor for the long weekend, September 23rd – 25th 2017. Awaiting confirmation that we can use it, but St Peter's have now finished building the new hall right next door to the church, which will mean two playing spaces close together in addition to the room at the caravan park.

**Do let Irene Batini know if you would like one of the beds in the group accommodation at the caravan park. Save the date, more information soon!**

We are still in need of venues for soirees (or afternoon get-togethers) for later in the year, so please let me know if you can help out.

Hoping to see you at the next soirée! *Liz Whan*

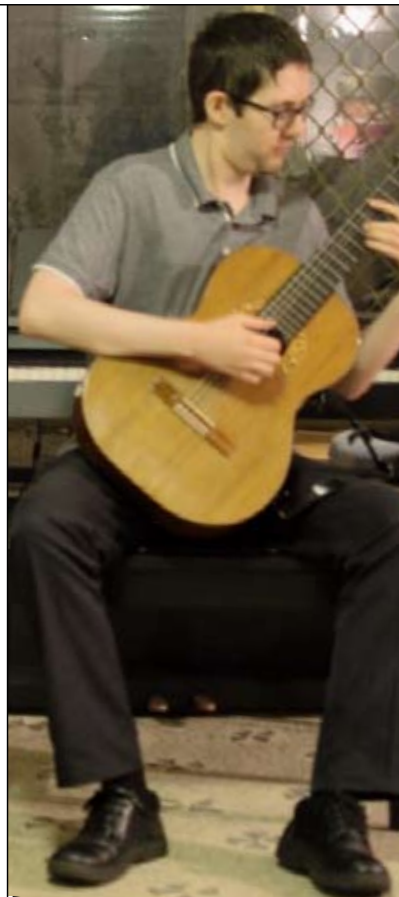
Bring your instruments and music stands and the usual supper to share. All members are encouraged to present one or more items - solo or in a group!

## Denmark Festival of Voice

2 - 5 June 2017 (WA Day long Weekend)

[Information from Avril Steyl]

**Tickets are now on sale (see below).**



Our annual celebration of the human voice is on again for 2017 and we are delighted to welcome old and new friends to come and make music and meaning with us. As always, the Denmark Festival of Voice will bring world class performers from near and far to connect with festival goers in a safe and inspiring creative space that encourages participation and interaction. We encourage you to bring your voice as well as your ears because it is what each and every one of you bring to this festival that makes it such a unique creative experience.

There is more to explore and discover than is described below - see this year's full program unfold at:

<http://www.denmarkfestivalofvoice.com.au>



## Small vocal ensembles

This year, amid the eclectic melange of art forms that have become a hallmark of the festival, we are featuring small vocal ensembles. Beginning with our two international acts:- *Ensemble Aznash Laaman (Georgia)* and *Pankisi Valley (Georgia)*

In their first ever Australian performance, exclusive to Denmark Festival of Voice, we are thrilled to welcome **Ensemble Aznash Laaman** direct from the Pankisi Valley in Georgia, who will offer three separate concerts: Chechen sacred songs of women of Sufi inspiration; traditional Chechen songs inherited from the Caucasian women bards (descendants of the Amazons) and Georgian songs from an inaccessible mountain region, the Tushétie, between Dagestan, Chechnya and Georgia. The workshops presented will be the oral transmission of Chechen and Tushétie songs and Chechen dances. Aznash Laaman will also offer traditional stories in the Festival yurt in their language, with translation. For the Aznash Laaman there is the root, the vibration common to all, carried by the songs. It is joy and wealth for all beings. Listen to an interview with Aznash Laaman here:

<http://america.aljazeera.com/features/2014/6/the-female-sufi-mysticsofgeorgiaspankisigorge.html>

Also making their Australian debut, The **Compagnia de Sacco**, first established in 1926, are a group of elder men from a tiny mountain village in the Italian Alps who have remained true to the vocal tradition from their region, both sacred and secular – reflecting ancient polyphonic chant and liturgy. The Compagnia Sacco have made 20 CDs, toured extensively and are subjects of 2 DVDs: ‘Aramandu’ – The Story of Sacco Society’ and ‘Polyphony of Ceriana’ by Hugo Zemp.

## Philip Griffin (guest Choir Director):

### The Big Sing

The Big Sing is at the heart of the Denmark Festival of Voice! it's the wonderful tradition of the coming together in a hundred or so voices for the sheer joy of communal song. Come to the workshops with our guest choir director Philip Griffin and learn some new songs along with your fellow Festival friends.

## Baroque Opera in Denmark

In conjunction with the Denmark Arts Council, Sarabande Early Music Group will stage John Eccles's **The Judgment of Paris** on 2 June for the opening night of the **2017 Festival of Voice**. This Baroque Opera, premiered in 1701, will be prepared during several workshops under the guidance of members of the Perth Baroque Ensemble. It is in English and has a plot that is easy to follow and indeed still relevant today. It, therefore, promises to delight the audience.

At the beginning of the 18th century, British nobles, jealous of opera's success in France and Italy, initiated a competition rewarding a prize as a way to increase interest in the development of English-language home-grown opera. Similar to current shows such as the day X-Factor, the libretto was given to four composers to search for the best realisation – John Weldon, Daniel Purcell, Gottfried Finger and John Eccles. The winner, John Weldon, was decided by popular vote, but it is actually Eccles's composition that is now recognised as dramatic musically, harmonically and melodically the most successful work.

The libretto, based on Greek mythology, is a narrative of a shepherd and three goddesses in a beauty contest. The gods send their messenger (Mercury) to earth to offer the shepherd (Paris) their protection while he chooses the most beautiful of the three goddesses Juno (Queen of the gods), Pallas (also known as Athene, the warrior-goddess), and Venus (goddess of love). Paris is to offer the golden apple to the goddess of his choice.

Each goddess sings of their individual beauty and skills, but Paris, unable to decide the winner from these declarations alone, requests that they all disrobe “for 'tis not a face (alone) that must carry the prize”. Not at all happy about his appeal, Juno offers him political power, Pallas offers him political distinction, and Venus offers him Helen (originally of Troy) – the symbol of the greatest mortal feminine beauty. Paris cannot resist Helen, and, therefore, awards Venus the prize of the Golden Apple.

This pastoral scene distinguishes each goddess by their individual lyrical texts and by their costuming. Mercury's seniority and Paris's youth, respectively, can be identified by their props – Mercury carrying the winged staff, and Paris, wearing a shepherds garment and carrying the Golden Apple.

The production will be led by Musical Director Dr Georg Corall, and Vocal Coach/Stage Director Patricia Alessi. The five Perth-based soloists are WAAPA graduates, UWA students, and semi-professionals. The Baroque Orchestra (comprising local players who aim to further their skills on period instruments), and the Community Chorus will be tutored during several workshops, as well as in the final production week, by national and international specialists in the performance of Early Music.

Tickets at \$40.00 will be available from Denmark Arts Council, 08 9848 3623.

Please contact Avril Steyl, [avrilsteyl@hotmail.com](mailto:avrilsteyl@hotmail.com), or 0427482580, for any further information.

This project has been assisted by Denmark Arts and funded by the Western Australian Government through the Department of Culture and the Arts, the Denmark Community Foundation and the Shire of Denmark.

## Newsletters & notices received

- **Saraband's Gigue Feb '17:** see [www.saraband.com.au](http://www.saraband.com.au) for a listing of all of Patrice Connelly's music available. Also listed are 9 new Saraband editions, mainly for viols and other strings, also for recorders, flutes; also string instruments for sale, bows, scarves, guitar strings, music bags, rosins and mutes for strings, music for school string orchestras.
- **North Queensland Recorder Society:** List of monthly workshops and a Residential Workshop in June on Magnetic Is. - see [www.nqrs.org.au](http://www.nqrs.org.au).
- **Society of Recorder Players SA Inc:** Program for 2017 included, and a local concerts diary to April.

**Note:** These Newsletters and notices are held by James Carpenter. They contain much information on people to contact in other States and places and times of meetings of early music organisations in other States. Phone me (on 9385 2514) for details or a copy of Newsletters received online..