

Gypsy Passion

Saturday 13 October 2007 at 8.15pm Yass Music Club

Featuring artists from

Stopera

the ACT's award-winning opera company

Artists in order of appearance

Katherine Owen ~ violin

Vivienne Winther ~ piano

Christina Wilson ~ mezzo soprano

Rebecca Collins ~ soprano

Program

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Hungarian Dance No 2 in D minor | Johannes Brahms |
| Gypsy Songs Op 103 | Johannes Brahms |
| ~ <i>Röslein dreie in der Reihe</i> | |
| ~ <i>Kommt dir manchmal in den Sinn</i> | |
| ~ <i>Brauner Bursche führt zum Tanze</i> | |
| Gypsy Songs Op 55 | Anton Dvorák |
| ~ <i>My song of love</i> | |
| ~ <i>Songs my mother taught me</i> | |
| ~ <i>Give a hawk a fine cage</i> | |
| Moravian Duet Op 32 No 1 | Anton Dvorák |
| ~ <i>From thee I now must go</i> | |
| Village Scenes | Béla Bartók |
| ~ <i>Haymaking</i> | |
| ~ <i>At the bride's house</i> | |
| ~ <i>Wedding</i> | |
| Roumanian Folk Dances | Béla Bartók |

Interval

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Giuditta | Franz Lehár |
| ~ <i>Meine Lippen sie küssen so heiss</i> | |
| Die Fledermaus | Johann Strauss Jnr |
| ~ <i>Chacun à son goût</i> | |
| ~ <i>Klänge der Heimat</i> | |
| Czardas | Vittorio Monti |
| Canciones populares Españolas | Manuel de Falla |
| ~ <i>El paño moruno</i> | |
| ~ <i>Seguidilla murciana</i> | |
| Carmen | Georges Bizet |
| ~ <i>Près des ramparts de Séville</i> | |
| ~ <i>L'amour est un oiseau rebelle</i> | |
| ~ <i>Chanson bohème</i> | |

THE ARTISTS

Soprano Rebecca Collins is a winner of the National Aria Competition and has appeared in principal roles for Opera Queensland, Opera Australia and OzOpera, including Gilda in *Rigoletto* and Marzelline in *Fidelio*. She pursued further vocal studies in Germany and Austria, funded by an Australia Council grant and a Goethe Institut scholarship. She has also performed at international festivals, such as the Colorado Music Festival and the AIMS Festival in Graz, Austria, in repertoire ranging from Monteverdi to John Adams' controversial opera *Nixon in China*. In 2005, her performance as the heroine, Jane, in Stopera's Australian premiere production of *Jane Eyre* was acclaimed as stunning in reviews nationally and internationally. Concerts in 2005 and 2006 for Rebecca included sold out events for the National Multicultural Festival and the Canberra International Chamber Music Festival, as well as gala concert appearances for Opera Queensland. In May 2006, she gave the Australian premiere performance of Hans Werner Henze's cantata *Being Beateous* at the Canberra International Chamber Music Festival. Also in 2006, Rebecca starred as Sophie in Stopera's Australian premiere of the jazz opera *Nigredo Hotel*. Rebecca was a soloist in Stopera's *Opera by the Lake* in February 2007.

Violinist Katherine Owen studied with renowned Canberra teacher Josette Esquedin Morgan before enrolling in the Bachelor of Music in Performance at the ANU School of Music, studying violin and viola with Barbara Jane Gilby. In 2003 she was awarded an Australian National University Honours Scholarship and completed her degree with honours in 2004. In 2005 Katherine commenced a Postgraduate Diploma at the Royal Academy of Music in London, where she studied with Professor Hu Kun, and graduated in 2006 with Distinction. She also attained the award of Licentiate of the Royal Academy of Music as a violin teacher, and was awarded the highest mark of any candidate in that year. Katherine plays violin and viola for the Canberra Symphony Orchestra and for Stopera.

Mezzo soprano Christina Wilson has appeared in performances throughout the UK, Europe, the USA and Australia at venues such as the Royal Albert Hall, the Wigmore Hall, Westminster Abbey, Canterbury Cathedral, the Paris Conservatoire, The Temple Square, and St. Johns Smith Square, St Andrew's Cathedral, Parliament House and the Sydney Conservatorium. Winner of the Australian Singing Competition's prestigious Marianne Mathy Award, she is a graduate of the Canberra School of Music, the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester, and the National Opera Studio in London. For companies such as the State Opera of South Australia, Wexford Festival Opera, Belfast

Opera and Glyndebourne Festival Opera, Christina has performed the roles of *Carmen*, *Cenerentola*, *Rosina*, *Cherubino*, *Dido*, *Dorabella* and *Clitemnestre*. Since her return to Australia in 2003, she has broadcast on ABC FM's "Sunday Live", presented recitals for Art Song Canberra, University of Newcastle Conservatorium, ANU School of Music, and appeared as a soloist with Canberra Choral Society, SCUNA, Oriana Chorale, Beethoven Society, and National Capital Orchestra.

Pianist Vivienne Winther is Artistic Director of Stopera and has played a leading role in the production and performance of more than twenty notable opera and concert events for the company since 1997. She is also Artistic Director of Music For Everyone, the ACT's community music organisation, and a part-time lecturer in piano at the ANU School of Music. She began her professional career as an opera repetiteur with Canberra Opera until moving to Hong Kong where she was Chief Repetiteur for the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts Graduate Opera School, assisting both Opera Australia conductor Carlo Felice Cillario and the Head of Vocal Studies Margreta Elkins. Vivienne has accompanied and coached singers from Opera Australia, Victorian State Opera, ChamberMade Opera, Beijing Central Opera, and Cologne Opera. In November 2005, Vivienne was named *The Canberra Times Artist of the Year*, for her uncompromising vision and achievement in gaining national and international recognition for opera in the ACT.

STOPERA

Described in The Australian Financial Review as 'one of the most adventurous and stylish independent opera companies in the country', **Stopera** has presented more than twenty opera seasons and concert series in the ACT and interstate since 1995. With a vibrant and exciting range of theatre productions, festival events and concerts, Stopera's impressive operatic repertoire features ten Australian premieres, and extends from the Baroque delights of Handel to the cabaret idiom of Kurt Weill. Stopera has created sold-out concert performances for the National Gallery of Australia, the National Multicultural Festival and the Canberra International Chamber Music Festival, and has won nine Canberra Critics Circle Awards. In 2007, Stopera presented the National Multicultural Festival Finale, *Opera By The Lake*, a gala concert which drew an audience of 2000 to an idyllic outdoor setting on the edge of Lake Burley Griffin. Following the success of the 2007 event, this wonderful outdoor spectacular will again be the finale of the National Multicultural festival on 17 February 2008, conducted by Opera Australia's Andrew Greene, with a wonderful lineup of operatic stars from around Australia and the Stopera Festival Orchestra.