

XrLts inc.

PROJECT:



JUMP-START

30.01.2020 - 16.02.2020

JUMP-START YOUR DEVELOPMENT



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JUMP-START YOUR 2020

with an intensive series of Masterclasses from some of Australia's finest.

With world-renowned operatic directors and coaches, as well as classical music experts and Artistic managers,

focus on your development with **XL Arts inc.** from:

30th January 2020 - 16th February 2020

THE PROJECT

Project: JUMP-START is an intensive series of vocal development. With over a semester's worth of **MASTERCLASSES** and **SESSIONS** with industry experts in under three weeks, and finishing with a **PERFORMANCE**, Project: JUMP-START is the opportunity to start your year in hi-gear and set yourself up to achieve your 2020 goals. With all sessions based in the evenings or on weekends, it can easily fit around work and other activities, so you don't miss a thing.

Each participant will have the opportunity to:

- Actively participate in at least 3 Masterclasses
- Observe all other masters, Masterclasses and Sessions.
- Receive professional and artist management feedback on their CV, BIO and audition VIDEO
- Perform in a Showcase concert on 16th February
- Expand their professional network
- Receive copies of all masterclass materials

The Project will take place between 30th January 2020 – 16th February 2020.

All Sessions will take place in the evenings and during weekends.

UNLOCKING THE DRAMA IN YOUR ARIA with *Andrew Sinclair*

Work with renowned director Andrew Sinclair to maximise your interpretation, nuance, drama and communication in your aria. With more than 30 years' experience across Europe, The USA and Australia including ROH Covent Garden, Lyric Opera of Chicago and Opera Australia and an incredible depth of repertoire, this is for those looking to take artistry to the next level.

PREPARING FOR AUDITIONS with *Patrick Burns*

First impressions count, so hear directly from international conductor and frequent audition panellist Patrick Burns on how to maximise your impact and get the gig. Get live feedback on every aspect of the audition process so you can present the best YOU that you can be.

VOCAL MASTERCLASSES with *Lee Abrahmsen, Simon Kenway or Liane Keegan*

Focus on your vocal development with internationally renowned contralto Liane Keegan, award-winning rising star Lee Abrahmsen or brilliant conductor and coach Simon Kenway. With any of these masters, the sky's the limit.

THE MUSIC OF BENJAMIN BRITTEN with *Paul Kildea*

Award-winning Britten expert, conductor and pianist Paul Kildea will lead a masterclass in the interpretation of renowned composer Benjamin Britten. Gain new insight into the vocal music from this composer so regularly featured in concert programs and opera house repertoire from the world's leading expert.

ITALIAN RECITATIVE with *Alan Cook*

Recitative is considered to be as important, if not more so, than the arias and ensembles in many operas. Focus on this often-neglected aspect of your singing, but one that informs your character, language, singing and career.

WORKING WITH CONDUCTORS with *Alan Cook*

Discover how to maximise your relationship with any Maestro and how you can help each other to develop a magnificent performance. Covering common pitfalls, communication, your preparation, and everything to look for, this is the class for those wanting to work with any orchestra or on stage.

WORKING WITH ACCOMPANISTS with *Stefan Cassomenos*

From audition rooms, coaching, performance duo's and ensembles and so much more, an excellent pianist is worth their weight in gold. Find out how to get the most out of working with your accompanist, associate artist, partner, repetiteur or coach with award-winning pianist, associate artist, coach, conductor and composer Stefan Cassomenos.

AUDITIONING FOR AGENTS with *Kathryn Morrison*

Hear directly from the agent on your audition package with this opportunity to audition and get direct feedback from Artist Manager Kathryn Morrison (Kathryn Morrison Management). Gain industry knowledge and input on the presentation skills and audition materials you have worked on in earlier sessions and some goals for your future.

MUSIC BUSINESS with *Kathryn Morrison*

Discover how to maximise the impact of your CV and Bio and get professional feedback from Artist Manager Kathryn Morrison (Kathryn Morrison Management) on working with agents.

SINGER FORUM

Hear from some of Australia's most renowned artists in this candid panel discussion on the industry, work, and artistry. This is your chance to hear directly from the stage. Chaired by Patrick Burns.

THE PERFORMANCE

SHOWCASE CONCERT

On 16th February, show off your hard work in this gala concert. Share what you have been working on during the Masterclass series. The concert will be held at thriving concert venue **Tempo Rubato**.

THE COST

PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT: JUMP-START costs \$375.00

This includes:

- Active participation in at least 3 Masterclasses
- Observation of all other masters, masterclasses and sessions.
- Performance in the Showcase concert on 16th February
- A front-row seat to the Singer Forum panel discussion.
- Copies of all masterclass materials
- Membership in XL Arts Inc.

What does Membership in XL Arts Inc. mean:

All our performers are Members of XL Arts Inc. Membership typically costs \$10 per year but is included for free in Project: JUMP-START. It not only covers your insurance for every performance, but Members of XL Arts Inc. have full organisation voting rights, giving you a say in what you would like from XL Arts and the direction we head. You are also the first to hear about all our upcoming activities including our summer opera projects and concerts which gives you more chances to perform with organisations throughout Melbourne and Victoria.

XL Arts Inc will be in touch shortly after you submit your application with payment details and options.

Note: Full payment must be received before masterclasses commence on January 30th, 2020.

Please contact XL Arts Inc. on admin@xlarts.org with any concerns.

APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN FROM 17TH NOVEMBER TO 8TH DECEMBER 2019.

Applications Close: 6:00pm AEDT, 8th December 2019.

Submit your:

- Contact details
- Short biography (200-word MAX)
- Recording of TWO pieces - Video/Audio (*via link or 5MB MAX*)
- Masterclass preferences (up to 5)

via www.xlarts.org or scan the QR code:

Scan me to apply



NOTE:

- *Your submission video/audio is used to assist in your masterclass placement and audition feedback. Please submit TWO pieces which you feel best display your vocal ability. They can be Opera or Art song.*
- *The pieces presented for the application do not necessarily need to be what you will present during the masterclasses.*
- *Your masterclass preferences will be used to assist in assigning your masterclasses. Places are strictly limited.*

We will be in touch shortly after submissions close on 8th December 2019 to confirm your application, masterclasses and provide payment information.

Please contact XL Arts Inc. at admin@xlarts.org with any further queries.



ANDREW SINCLAIR

Andrew Sinclair was born in Melbourne and was a Staff Director for the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden from 1994-2019, where he has most recently directed revivals of *La Traviata*, *Turandot*, *Tosca* and *Werther*. He directed the Royal Opera's semi-staging of *Der Ring des Nibelungen* (1998) at The Royal Albert Hall. From 1983-1985 he was Principal Resident Director of The Australian Opera, where his production of *La Bohème* won a TV Emmy Award. He has directed for all the Australian Companies.

His International credits include *Le nozze di Figaro* (Seattle), *Lohengrin* (Buenos Aires, San Diego), *Norma* (San Francisco), *Salome* (Pittsburgh and Singapore), *La bohème*, *Tosca*, *La traviata*, *Maria Stuarda* and *Aïda* (San Diego and Singapore). His highly successful production of *Les Pêcheurs des Perles* has been seen in 15 major U.S cities (including San Diego, New York, Washington, Chicago). Other engagements have taken him to Savonlinna, Wexford and Bayreuth. Most recently he directed a new production of *Die Zauberflöte* for the Royal Academy of Music and *La Traviata* for the Royal Opera.

For more information see: <https://andrewsinclair.info/>



SIMON KENWAY

Simon Kenway is an established and highly respected orchestral and operatic conductor. He has held posts as Principal Chorus Master of Opera Australia, Musical Director for Opera in the Vineyards, Opera by George and Opera Under The Stars in Broome, and Conductor and Chief Vocal Coach for the Sydney Conservatorium Opera School. He now works as a freelance conductor, both internationally and in Australia, and has been Artistic Director of Pacific Opera since 2015.

Simon has collaborated with many orchestras and opera companies including the Sydney, Tasmanian, Adelaide, West Australian, Canberra and Queensland Symphony Orchestras, Opera Australia, West Australian Opera, State Opera of South Australia, Opera Queensland, as well as The Australian Ballet, Hong Kong Philharmonic, Sydney Philharmonic Choirs, Aldeburgh Productions in UK, the Australian Youth Orchestra, Beijing Symphony Orchestra, Willoughby Symphony Orchestra and many festivals.

Simon obtained a Bachelor of Music Degree (Piano) and a Post-Graduate Diploma (Opera) from the Queensland Conservatorium of Music. He then continued his post-graduate studies in Europe at the Royal College of Music in London and with Norman Del Mar, Gennady Rozhdestvensky, Pierre Boulez, Sir Simon Rattle and James Lockhardt. He also trained as a vocal coach with the leading répétiteurs from Covent Garden, English National Opera and Paris Opera.

For more information see: <https://www.artsmanagement.com.au>



PAUL KILDEA

Paul Kildea holds an honours degree in piano performance and a masters degree in musicology from The University of Melbourne – where he is now an Honorary Principal Fellow and where, in 2016, he was Miegunyah Distinguished Visiting Fellow – and a doctorate from Oxford University.

His books include *Selling Britten* and *Britten on Music*. In January 2013 Penguin published *Benjamin Britten: A Life in the Twentieth Century* to enormous critical acclaim; it is now widely recognised as the best book on its subject, the *Financial Times* calling it ‘unquestionably the music book of the year.’ In June 2018 Penguin published *Chopin’s Piano: A Journey Through Romanticism*, which is currently being developed as a feature film.

In October 2019 he succeeded Carl Vine as Artistic Director of Musica Viva, Australia.

For more information see: <https://artsmanagement.com.au>



STEFAN CASSOMENOS

Melbourne pianist and composer Stefan Cassomenos is one of Australia’s most vibrant and versatile musicians. He has been performing internationally since the age of 10 and is now established as one of Australia’s leading pianists.

As the recipient of multiple prizes including the Second Grand Prize in the prestigious International Telekom Beethoven Competition Bonn 2013, Cassomenos has performed throughout Europe and Asia and now performs regularly in Australia, Germany and the UK. He has performed concertos with several major Australian symphony orchestras, as well as orchestras overseas.

Cassomenos is a founding member of chamber ensemble PLEXUS, which since launching in 2014 has commissioned and premiered over 100 new works. Cassomenos’ own compositions are regularly commissioned and performed throughout Australia. Cassomenos and violinist Monica Curro have recently been appointed as Artistic Directors of the Port Fairy Spring Music Festival from 2019. Cassomenos is generously supported by Kawai Australia.

For more information see: <http://stefan-cassomenos.squarespace.com/>



KATHRYN MORRISON

Kathryn represents the best operatic and artistic talent that the Australasian region has to offer the world. Their collective wealth of performance experience spans many genres, including opera. Artists perform in an extraordinary range of settings, from intimate concerts to the grandeur of world-class opera houses.

Kathryn has a Bachelor of Arts in Music (Performance) from the Victorian College of the Arts and a Graduate Diploma of Education from Melbourne University. Prior to joining Opera Australia as a full-time performer in 2000, she taught music at Nunawading Christian College and Kilvington Girls' Grammar School.

As a performer, Kathryn appeared in over 800 shows at the Sydney Opera House. She showed her versatility in understudying many roles and performing supporting roles in addition to demanding ensemble performance. This background provided her with extensive knowledge of the operatic repertoire and invaluable insights into the artistic, emotional and professional stresses resulting from life as a busy performer.

Following 10 years with Opera Australia, Kathryn joined Jenifer Eddy Artists' Management, Australia's first operatic management agency. On Jenifer's retirement in 2012, Kathryn was approached by a number of the agency's Artists who requested that she continue the operation of the business. Encouraged by this demand, she set up Kathryn Morrison Management and the rest is history! Kathryn maintains a small, niche agency which still includes several of the original Artists as well as the most promising young Artists emerging on the Australian opera scene. Her Artist list offers a balance of voice types and experience and makes no compromise on talent.

By keeping her number of Artists limited, Kathryn's agency differentiates from others in that she provides individual attention to all her Artists, attending performances where possible and creating a warm and supportive business environment.

For more information see: <https://www.kathrynmorrisonmanagement.com/>



LEE ABRAHMSSEN

Recently described by critics as "Melbourne's favourite soprano" and hailed as "a rising star" by Limelight Magazine (July 2016), Australian soprano Lee Abrahmsen is a multi-award-winning soprano both on the operatic stage and concert platform.

Lee was a recipient of the prestigious Herald Sun Aria, Opera Awards Royal Overseas League Award and the Acclaim Awards first prize. She has performed as soloist in Australia with Opera Australia, Opera Queensland, Melbourne Symphony, Sydney Symphony, Queensland Symphony, Omega Ensemble, Melbourne Opera, Victorian Opera, and internationally at the Edinburgh Festival in Scotland, St Martin in the Fields in London, in China and Japan.

LEE ABRAHMSSEN cont...

Lee has sung over 30 principal roles including Countess in *Le nozze di Figaro* (Opera Australia), Isolde in *Tristan und Isolde*, Senta in *The Flying Dutchman*, Die Marschallin in *Der Rosenkavalier*, Elisabeth in *Tannhäuser*, CioCioSan in *Madama Butterfly*, Konstanze in *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, Mimi in *La bohème* (for Melbourne Opera), and title role in *Tosca* (Australian Discovery Orchestra).

Recent concert performances include: Recital with Omega Ensemble at Sydney Opera House, Richard Strauss *Four Last Songs* with Omega Ensemble, Fifth Maid in Strauss *Elektra* with Sydney Symphony at Sydney Opera House, and the soprano solo in Brahms' *Requiem* with Melbourne Symphony Orchestra Chorus.

Lee received the Opera Chaser's Outstanding Female in a Lead Role for Isolde in 2018 and received Greenroom Awards Nominations for Die Marschallin and Valencienne. Lee appeared on Qantas In-Flight Entertainment singing Richard Strauss *Four Last Songs* with Omega Ensemble and sang the National Anthem at the Ashes Cricket Tests in Sydney and Melbourne.

For more information see: <http://leeabrahmsen.com/>



ALAN COOK

Alan Cook is a conductor, opera coach, and musicologist with many years of experience across a wide range of operatic, choral, and symphonic repertoire who has been described by critics as “producing a lush, richly coloured soundscape” at the podium. A graduate of the VCA, he also studied conducting in Italy with Bruno Aprea of the Conservatorio di Santa Cecilia, Rome, and has performed in many countries including Austria, Italy, Spain, and Russia many masterpieces of Italian and Russian repertoire. He also worked extensively as an opera coach to many international singers including at the Liceu Opera of Barcelona and was Principal Guest Conductor of orchestras in Ukraine and Russia for an extended period during which time he developed an expertise in Russian repertoire and language.

Alan is currently in Australia studying a PhD in the operas of Rimsky-Korsakov, and recent performances include *Kashchey the Immortal* by Rimsky-Korsakov at the Melbourne Recital Centre, *La bohème*, *Die Fledermaus*, Bach's *St John's Passion* as well as a concert of Borodin and Rimsky-Korsakov with the National Capital Orchestra in Canberra, and in March, he presented a research paper at the 175th Anniversary conference of Rimsky-Korsakov in St Petersburg.

For more information see: <https://www.morethanopera.com>



LIANE KEEGAN

Dramatic Contralto Liane Keegan's performances in Australasia include Erda, Erste Norn and Waltraute in Wagner's *Ring Cycle* in Adelaide and Melbourne seasons, Ulrica in *Un ballo in Maschera* for Opera Australia, Azucena in *Il Trovatore* for SOSA. On the concert platform she is renowned for her interpretations of Mahler, and recent performances include: *Symphony No. 2* with WASO, *Songs of the Wayfarer* with SSO, *Rückert-Lieder* with MSO, *Das Lied von der Erde* with Auckland Philharmonic Orchestra and The Port Fairy Festival and *Das Klagende Lied* with QSO. Further concert performances with MSO include Elgar *Sea Pictures*, Beethoven *9th Symphony*, and Bernstein *Lamentations of Jeremiah*.

Based in Germany for over 12 years, Liane sang with Opera Hagen, Stadtstheater Stuttgart and Deutsche Opera Berlin. Her roles included: Klytemnestra in *Elektra*, Begbick in *Rise and Fall of Mahagonny*, Brigitta in *Die Tote Stadt*, Mistress Quickly in *Falstaff*, 3rd Lady in *Die Zauberflöte*, Marcellina in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Erste Norn in Wagner's *Ring Cycle*, and Filipjevna in *Eugene Onegin*.

Since returning to Australia, Liane has also appeared as Judy Garland in *Judy Garland 1964*, a fully staged drama about her tour to Australia in 1964, and *The Judy Garland Songbook*. Both projects, developed by Skunkworks productions, celebrate the music of the great American Songbook and the phenomenon that was Judy Garland.

For more information see: <https://www.lianekeegan.com.au/>



PATRICK BURNS

Patrick Burns was born in Sydney, Australia and studied French Horn and Conducting at the Melbourne and Queensland Conservatorium. In Australia, he is the chief conductor and music director of the Ipswich City Orchestra and XL Arts Inc. Alongside being the Robert and Elizabeth Albert Conducting Fellow for The Australian Ballet, he is also the current Hephzibah Tintner Conducting Fellow. As part of his Fellowships, Patrick has conducted performances for the Australian Ballet with Orchestra Victoria, The Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, and The Opera Australia Orchestra. He has conducted Orchestra Victoria in a regional performance, acted as Assistant Conductor to Simone Young with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, and served as Assistant Conductor in William Kentridge's production of *Wozzeck* presented by Opera Australia.

Internationally he has made guest appearances with the National Theater of Serbia (*Otello*), State Opera of Bulgaria Ruse (*Rigoletto*, *Nabucco*, *Turandot*), and the Pazardzhik Symphony Orchestra in Bulgaria. In 2017, he was the assistant conductor with British Youth Opera and conducted the covers performance with the Southbank Sinfonia. He won the Jury's Prize at the 2015 Blue Danube International Opera Conducting Competition in Bulgaria and the Orchestra's Prize in 2016 Black Sea Opera Conducting Competition in Romania.

For more information see: <https://www.patrickburnsconductor.com/>



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