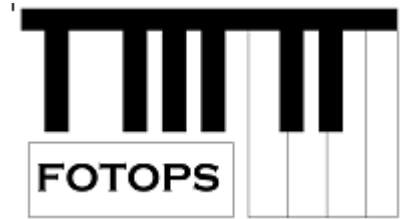


FRIENDS OF THE TEAM OF PIANISTS INC.



NEWSLETTER NUMBER 35

JUNE 2018

WARM UP IN WINTER WITH WONDERFUL MUSIC

TEAM OF PIANISTS PROGRAM
CONTINUES:
TWILIGHT CHAMBER MUSIC
AT RIPPON LEA

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RIPPON LEA 4 - Sunday 15 July 6.30pm
192 Hotham Street, Elsternwick (Melway 67 E2)

VIENNESE MAGIC

Kathryn Taylor - violin, **Christopher Cartlidge** -
viola,

Rohan de Korte – cello, **Ben Hanlon** – double-bass,
Darryl Coote - piano

Mozart – Quartet for piano & strings in E-flat major
KV493

Schubert – Quintet for piano & strings in A major
(The Trout) D667

RIPPON LEA 5 - Sunday 19 August 6.30pm
192 Hotham Street, Elsternwick (Melway 67 E2)

THE TWO ROBERTS – MUSIC FROM RUSSIA, FRANCE & SPAIN

Robert Ekselman – cello, **Robert Chamberlain** -
piano

François Couperin - Five Pieces en Concert (arr. Paul
Bazelaire)

Manuel de Falla - Suite Populaire Espagnole (arr. for
cello & piano)

Debussy - Sonata for cello & piano

Sergei Rachmaninoff - Sonata for cello & piano Op19

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In this Edition:

The Travel Page – Japan

Interview – Dr Margaret Brandman

AGM Notice

RIPPON LEA 6 - Sunday 16 September 6.30pm

192 Hotham Street, Elsternwick (Melway 67 E2)

MORE THAN OPERA HITS RIPPON LEA

Rebecca Rashleigh – soprano, Victoria Lambourn -
mezzo-soprano, Darryl Coote – piano

Mozart, Dvorak, Floyd, Puccini, Offenbach,
Tchaikovsky, Humperdink, Rossini and Bizet

CLASSIC MUSIC IN HISTORIC VENUES

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GLENFERN - Sunday 28 October 3.00pm

417 Inkerman Street, East St Kilda (Melway 58 F10)

BAROQUE, FOLK AND OZ

Shane Lestidau – baroque violin, Robert Chamberlain
– piano

Baroque solo violin works by Telemann & J.S. Bach

Traditional violin solos from Ireland and Scotland

Piano solos by J.S. Bach and Ross Edwards

Swedish and Australian duos for violin & piano

by Anders Wesström & Alice Chance

GLENFERN – Sunday 11 November 3.00pm

417 Inkerman Street, East St Kilda (Melway 58 F10)

19th CENTURY SPLENDOUR

David Thomas – clarinet, Darryl Coote – piano

Brahms – Sonata for clarinet & piano

in F minor Op120 no1

Brahms – Sonata for clarinet & piano

in E-flat major Op120 no2

Schubert – Piano solos

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Upcoming Concerts

Keynoting – Late Geoffrey Parsons

Spotteds

★ The Travel Page

THERE'S MUSIC EVERYWHERE IN JAPAN

There's music, music, everywhere in Japan where I have been travelling during the last month. From train stations each with its own jingle to the traffic crossings with melodies to walk for 'green' to many other streetscapes my uninitiated ears found a constant delight hearing the cheerful tunes. Even some loos had their own special accompanying melodies on their delightfully warm seats. It was a great 15 days spent with my Garden Club and other friends (all 63 of us) in which we visited at least 9 different and famous gardens including 'Pond' as well as 'Strolling' gardens as some are called, much influenced by the overlay of hundreds of years of Zen Buddhist and Shinto culture. This can be seen in their careful and strategic layering of tree and bush design, with much in Bonsai style.

Flowers were around at this late spring stage, in the form of neatly clipped pink azalea bushes as well as swathes of blue irises lining the streams. Temples were often not far away and the bright red Tori Gates announced their presence. We visited the famous Himeji Castle in Osaka, noted for its brilliant white and grey colours resembling those of a Heron as they arched upwards. We were lucky enough to see Mt Fuji on a brilliant clear day and there from the 5th station, she (or he) showed us streaks of white snow amid the regal blue landscape. At night Fuji San turned a brilliant red and purple colour, not unlike our own Uluru as the sunset. Tokyo was a great place to see – not too crowded on the days we were there. Amazingly people rode their pushbikes completely calmly without helmets – Japanese cities are noted for their safe and polite drivers! The underground was stunning (complete with melodies for each neatly laid out train line).



Photo: Mt. Fuji (above)

My highlight however, was my day spent with our dear friend Hiroko. As it turned out, that one of the free days in my tour was at Kyoto where she now resides. We had a 'ball' catching up on recent life events as well as 'chasing' a famous Hollyhock Festival held on that very day. Then a trip to the very natural looking Botanic Gardens was followed by the most delicious fish dinner I have had in recent times, and all at a very reasonable price. Hiroko looked very well and sends her regards to all her friends in Melbourne and the FOTOPS Committee.

Of course there was more, in the shape of 12 days to follow in China – not so obviously 'musical' – though lots of Yamaha pianos in hotels. When I visited Yichang our guide told us the astonishing fact that it was a 'Piano City' though what this exactly meant was not completely explained. Further investigation has revealed that a world-class piano industry base had been or is being established there, as well as several successful piano festivals. I was told that Yamaha now had its base in China for manufacturing, though I must admit that contradicted my information that Kawagawa Japan was still the primary residence. Never mind, it was a fascinating and startling revelation; Oh that Melbourne was declared a 'Piano City'!

There was much more to see in China including wonderful limestone mountains along the Yangtze River Cruise, playful pandas in a fascinating Chongqing Zoo – it even had a statue of a kangaroo plus joey, hundreds of entrancing TerraCotta Warriors in the same city, a Bullet train (306kms per hour) to Beijing where the Great Wall awaited, and was duly climbed.

All in all it was a mind-changing 27 days, and one that I would highly recommend. I must admit those 'jingles' definitely 'got me in' in cheerful Japan.

Barbara Pritchard, Member



Barbara and Hiroko

FRIENDS PLAY DAY SPECIALS

The "Friends Play for Friends" provide a pleasant and non-threatening environment for all pianists wanting to learn how to perform in front of an audience or improve their skills. We convene every six weeks in the home of one of our members, who will play host for the afternoon. We usually play for each other from 2-4pm, combined with afternoon tea, where we catch up and exchange ideas and information. You will find that there is a range in ability and a variety in repertoire. From time to time we have a guest performer or an interesting story to provide that extra cachet to the afternoon.

To play, we ask for a level of Grade 4 as a minimum, not to repeat a piece more than once in a calendar year, and not to play for longer than ten minutes.

The following events and hosts have been scheduled for the second half of 2018:

29 July	Gerry Roberts
2 September	Patricia Sablyak
14 October	Michael Smith
25 November	Ray Jacobs

If you are interested in attending to hear what it is all about, or if you would like to give it a go, please book in with Ray Jacobs on ray@ymp.com.au or mobile 0402 992 116. Please do not just 'rock up' on the day, as our host homes have capacity limits, and Ray will confirm with you whether full house has been reached.

Ray Jacobs, Member

2018 SPRING PIANO SCHOOL (IN SPRING)

Spring Piano School returns in 2018 with a variety of interesting themes to be explored through each two-day program of workshops, classes and one-to-one lessons. This year we are delighted to welcome a distinguished guest teacher : **Elizabeth Mitchell**, Honorary Senior Fellow of the University of Melbourne, Federal Examiner for the AMEB, as well as Chair of the Victorian Examinations Advisory Committee and of the Victorian Panel for Teaching.

It is designed to help piano students from ages 6 to 18 achieve their potential, irrespective of their level or background. The young pianists work intensively over two days to consolidate their musical and pianistic skills, to polish their repertoire pieces, to prepare for competitions, as well as for AMEB, ANZCA, VCE and other examinations. Spring Piano School provides also an enjoyable social opportunity for school-age piano students. Daily observer places for music teachers (including lunch and pd certificate of attendance) and for parents are also available.

Team Partners teaching in 2018 are **Robert Chamberlain; Professor Max Cooke; Darryl Coote.**

Junior Programme - Tuesday 25 Sept and Wednesday 26 Sept. 9.30am-5.00pm

Approximately 20 places for primary school students of all music exam levels, including Year 7 students up to and including AMEB/ANZCA Grade 4 level

Senior Programme - Thursday 27 Sept and Friday 28 Sept. 9.30am-5.00pm

Approximately 15 places for secondary school students of all music exam levels.

Both programs are held at historic 'Glenfern' 417 Inkerman Street, St Kilda East.

Sponsorships funded by the *Friends of the Team of Pianists Inc* may be offered before the start of the School on the recommendation of the selectors, whilst others will be awarded at the conclusion of the School, on the recommendation of the teachers with whom the students have worked. The number of sponsorships is limited. Those selected for these will receive a refund of part of their tuition fee. Sponsorships may be awarded on the basis of helping with travel expenses, need, ability, encouragement, possibly also on recommendation from the student's teacher.

See <http://www.teamofpianists.com.au/events/spring-piano-school> for details or to download a 2018 brochure with full details of tuition or observer fees, schedule, topics and details of the final concert for each program.

Bookings open on July 2 at <https://www.trybooking.com/WMNE> (<https://www.trybooking.com/WMNE>)

Robert Chamberlain

TOP Partner

A MUSIC EDUCATOR IS EXAMINED!

Dr Margaret Brandman delighted an audience of our keen members at the 'play day' in May for the Friends Play For Friends. As a guest, she was also invited to talk about some of the books she has published on learning piano, and to describe the techniques she has pioneered for teaching piano. Her presentation generated much interest. She is a pianist, composer, arranger, teacher and author, and an advocate for music on the world stage.

Dr Brandman, thank you for agreeing to be interviewed for the FOTOPS Newsletter:

MrEd: *How and when did you become a pianist?*

Margaret: *My musical journey started at the age of four and a half when I began learning the accordion with my mother Else Brandman who established the Accordion Society of Australia and was for many years accordion examiner for the AMEB . From age seven I expressed an interest in widening my musical understanding and skills and so began studying piano as well, initially learning with some of the teachers from our family's 'Brandman Music Studios', and then studying with teachers at the Conservatorium of Music in Sydney. My teacher in my senior years at the Conservatorium High School was celebrated concert pianist and teacher, Isador Goodman. Owing to my experience with both instruments, I felt I gained a greater knowledge of chords and the cycle of fifths and developed better aural skills, than if I had only played piano. After high school I attended Sydney University where I majored in composition, studying with Peter Sculthorpe. During that time I began playing piano professionally for both classical concerts and in modern music venues and expanded my own teaching studio. For more information, check out my radio interview on 'Past Conversations' (23-05-18) <https://www.finemusicfm.com/inconversation.html>*

Mr.Ed: *How do you know the Friends of the Team of Pianists?*

Margaret: *My Melbourne colleague Ksenija Vojisavljevic informed me that there would be a FPF play day coinciding with my trip to Melbourne for the launch of the AMEB 'A centenary celebration' book. (I'm pleased to say my photo was included as one of the composers whose works have been included in various syllabuses). I was delighted to be invited by convenor Ray Jacobs give a small presentation on my output and to perform my work 'Jucaro Rumba' which is now included in the Series 4 'Piano for Leisure' publication (Grade 6) and 'Autumn Rhapsody' from my Sensations album, recently aired on ABC Classic FM. It was a pleasure to meet the members on the day.*

Mr.Ed: *Do you also play another instrument?*

Margaret: *Apart from the piano accordion also learned to play guitar and drum kit, around the age of 11. From the age of 13 while attending the Conservatorium of Music High School in Sydney, my second formal instrument was Clarinet, which I studied under the tutelage of respected teacher and professional musician, Neville Thomas*

Mr.Ed: *You have travelled the world, so do you have a favourite venue that you love to perform in?*

Margaret: *A recent international highlight was the concert of my compositions which was presented in the concert hall of the Czech Music Museum in Prague in September 2017. The Prague Mixed Chamber Choir and soloists performed my 'Cosmic Wheel of the Zodiac' a song cycle for the 12 astrological signs composed to the lyrics of astropoet Benita Rainer, accompanied by their regular pianist Petr Ozana. I was however delighted to be in attendance as their special guest to the concert and in the studio to supervise their recording for my album. Check out the performance page on my website for other local and international performances that I have performed in. <http://www.margaretbrandman.com/perf.html>*

MrEd: *Name some of the highlights of your compositional output.*

Margaret: *Over the past few years several albums of my music have been recorded in the Czech Republic and in Cuba. I travelled internationally to supervise each recording. The albums have been released by Parma Recordings USA and the tracks have been aired regularly on ABC Classic FM as well as many international radio programs. Information and audio for these works can be found in the catalog links for each album.*

HIGHLIGHTS

- 1) *'Firestorm Symphony'* from SENSATIONS album
http://navonarecords.com/catalog/nv6041/
- 2) *'Warm Winds in Havana'* from ABRAZO album
http://www.ansonicarecords.com/catalog/ar0001/
- 3) *'Cosmic Wheel of the Zodiac'* song cycle
http://www.navonarecords.com/catalog/nv6160/

The official Australian launch concert for the 'Cosmic Wheel of the Zodiac' album will be held at the Eugene Goossens Hall at the ABC centre in Sydney at 2.30 pm Sunday the 19th of August. Soloists Désirée Regina and John Antoniou plus Coro Austral directed by Margo McLaughlin will join with me as pianist, to present the song cycle with both solo and choral arrangements of the songs.

MrEd: *Please mention the techniques in your books in relation to how this is assisting music education*
Margaret: *Over the years I have pioneered many concepts that were not present in other methods at the time including:*

- a) An interval reading and training system for my 'Contemporary Piano Method'*
- b) The graphic scale and chord patterns in my book: 'Pictorial Patterns for Keyboard Scales and Chords' and the accompanying teaching DVD 'The Geometry of the Piano and the Symmetry of the Hands'*
- c) A complete set of ear-training materials for beginners through to tertiary level (audio and workbook series)*
- d) Information on chord construction and composition techniques as applied to pieces in many different styles in my Contemporary Piano Method and associated theory and ear-training materials. These tools are useful for students, performers, improvisers and budding composers.*
- e) A comprehensive theory, chord and harmony course in my both my Contemporary Theory and Chord Workbook series and Harmony Comes Together.*

MrEd: *What is your favourite icecream?*
Margaret: *Definitely - Hazelnut Gelato*

Thank you Margaret.

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SOCIAL NETWORKS

- www.facebook.com/margaretbrandmanmusic
- https://www.facebook.com/holisticmusicteaching/
- <https://au.linkedin.com/in/margaret-brandman-2a435a1>
- https://twitter.com/margbrandmusic5
- www.youtube.com/channel/UCmm6-njmCtsj5t8Ygi1tExQ
- www.instagram.com/margaretbrandmanmusic

www.margaretbrandman.com



Photo: Margaret at the keyboard

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NOTICE OF COMING MUSIC EVENTS:

LIDDIARD GALLERY PIANO FESTIVAL

This year the Liddiard Gallery Piano Concerts has expanded to become a Festival. It is running from Friday June 29th to Sunday July 8th. It is a series of concerts happening over ten days. Many well-known and excellent musicians will perform.

Tickets are available online at <https://www.trybooking.com/UTUQ> or by phoning (03)9569 9178.

Ticket prices per concert: \$35 Adult, \$25 Concession, \$15 Child/student

Details of each event and repertoire are listed on the booking site.

29 June 8pm AUSTRALIANA - Deborah Jackson & the Liddiard Gallery musicians

30 June 8pm AUSTRALIANA - Deborah Jackson & the Liddiard Gallery musicians

1 July 2pm CHOPIN MEETS GERSHWIN-David de Zilwa

1 July 8pm TAMARA VASILEVITSKY & FRIENDS

4 July 8pm BROADWAY TO BOP - Fem Belling & Joe Ruberto

5 July 8pm STEFAN CASSOMENOS Liebestraum

6 July 8pm SWEET 'n SWINGING - Andy Firth and Joe Ruberto

7 July 2pm AUSTRALIANA - Deborah Jackson & the Liddiard Gallery musicians

7 July 8pm STEFAN CASSOMENOS The Four Seasons

8 July 2pm ANATOLY DOKUMENTOV plays Schumann

8 July 8pm CINEMA - ALAN KOGOSOWSKI plays CHOPIN at the GUILDHALL

ACORD GROUP CONCERTS

Acord, the early music ensemble, has been producing medieval performance entertainments in Melbourne for more than 30 years. Margaret Arnold, Jerzy Kozlowski, Sue Tweg, Richard Excell and Carol Williams perform with beautiful voices, diatonic harps, rebecs, vielles and organetto.

Performances start at 1.00 pm Cost is \$20 adults or \$15 concession.

Liddiard Gallery, corner of Dandenong and Warrigal Roads, Malvern East

For enquiries, contact Carol Williams, email carol.williams@monash.edu

or mobile 0425 702 700 or www.facebook.com/acordensemble

Sunday 29 July 'Winter versus Summer'

Sunday 2 September 'Medieval Orpheus'

Sunday 18 November 'Frauenlob'

Sunday 30 December 'End of Year – End of Days'



KEYNOTING A MUSICIAN

GEOFFREY PARSONS OBE AO 1929-1995

Geoffrey Parsons was born in Ashfield, Sydney. He studied piano at the NSW Conservatorium of Music from 1941-47, winning the ABC Instrumental and Vocal Competition in 1947. Leaving to tour in Britain, he gained work as a cocktail lounge pianist, and teamed with popular duettists Anne Ziegler and Webster Booth. By 1961, he had become principal accompanist for Elisabeth Schwarzkopf at Royal Festival Hall. His career took him around the world and he made many recordings. He also partnered other pianists, including Leslie Howard in works by Liszt for two pianos.

Australia benefited by his frequent returns with leading singers and instrumentalists. In 1973 he accompanied Birgit Nilsson in the first lieder recital at the Sydney Opera House. He was awarded the OBE in 1977 and the Order of Australia AO in 1990. A portrait of him is in the National Portrait Gallery. The Accompanists' Guild of South Australia now manages an award named in his honour.

Mr Ed

Source: Wikipedia

A NOTE ON DDZ

Member David de Zilwa (DDZ) recently auditioned and was accepted as volunteer pianist at an aged care facility in Caulfield. The plan is to play suitable background and singalong items on the first Sunday of the month, commencing August 2018. Please contact DDZ if you think you may be interested to do similar - if you can commit to a regular schedule.

SPOTTEDS * * * * * ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ * * * * * ♣ ♦ ☆ * * * * * 📎 📎 📎 📎

Stephen B was spotted playing Liszt's *Mephisto Waltz* dressed as Mephistopheles – or was it the other way around? *“The devil’s in the detail”*

Barbara P was spotted in Japan missing her tour bus, but her Japanese umbrella enjoyed the tour. *“Turning Japanese” (The Vapors)*

DDZ was spotted in Canberra meeting a long lost second cousin. *“We are family”*

Rhonda B was spotted in Central Australia, but unfortunately experiencing poor wifi. *“Tell me Why”*

Former member Hiroko H was spotted in Kyoto with Barbara P having a meal together and enjoying the Japanese gardens. Hello Hiroko! *“Sakura (Cherry Blossom)”*

Spot-on messages will be gladly received from members, at any spot!

COMMITTEE CONTACTS: FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND GENERAL ENQUIRIES, OR FOR PASSING ON ANY SUGGESTIONS:

- Patricia Sablyak (President) Phone: 9803 1335
- Rhonda Boyle (Secretary) Phone: 9598 5889
- Gerry Roberts (Treasurer) Phone: 8307 0454 (ah)
- Louise Gomes (Vice President) Phone: 9598 5311(ah)
- Clive Jackson (Newsletter Editor) Phone: 9569 9178 (ah)
- Deborah Jackson (Membership Secretary) Phone 9569 9178

Email address: friendsoftop@yahoo.com.au
Postal Address:
Friends of the Team of Pianists Inc.,
PO Box 333
Balaclava, Victoria 3183

As Editor, I wish to thank all those who have contributed to this edition.
Mr. Ed

*Photo: Mephistopheles poised at the piano
Image captured by Ray Jacobs*





NOTIFICATION OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF THE TEAM OF PIANISTS INC

The **FIFTEENTH** annual general meeting of the Friends of the Team of Pianists Inc. will be held before the August TOP evening concert.

Date and time: Sunday 19 August 2018 at 5.00 pm
Venue: 'Rippon Lea' Hotham Street Elsternwick. (Concert to follow)

Nominations for any of the following committee positions should be forwarded to:

<i>The Secretary</i> <i>Friends of the Team of Pianists Inc</i> <i>P O Box 333 Balaclava Vic. 3183</i>	using the tear-off slip below
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The **closing date** for nominations is **Friday 17 August 2018**

Committee positions:

President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and several general committee members.

Nominees must be proposed by a member of the Friends of the Team of Pianists, and nominees must also sign the **nomination form** below. Any member interested in joining the committee, but who needs assistance in finding a member to support their nomination should contact the Secretary (Rhonda Boyle) on 9598 5889 or send an email to: friendsoftop@yahoo.com.au



FRIENDS OF THE TEAM OF PIANISTS INC –NOMINATION FOR COMMITTEE POSITION 2017-2018

Name _____

Address _____ Postcode _____

Committee position _____

Signature of member proposing the nominee _____

Signature of nominee _____