

# Melbourne Welsh Male Choir

Newsletter No 61a October 2022

MWMC's *Singer of the Year Competition and Concert*

2:00 p.m. Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Ringwood North Uniting Church, 14 Dickson Crescent, Ringwood North, 3134



The elimination auditions for this competition were held at the choir's rehearsal premises at Federation Estate on Friday last in front of a small but appreciative audience. The competitors were all in fine voice and performed impeccably. The finalists chosen to compete as part of the choir's concert on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November, are Shania Eliassen, Naomi Flatman and Alessia Pintabona.

As you will see from their profiles below, this is a truly national (and international) set of competitors.

## Shania Eliassen, Perth

Shania Eliassen is an Australian/Norwegian Coloratura Soprano who completed her Master of Music (Opera Performance) at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music in 2021, and her Bachelor of Music (Classical Voice) at the West Australian Academy of Performing Arts in 2018.



In university productions she has performed the roles of La Fée in Massenet's *Cendrillon*, *Suor Genovieffa* in Puccini's *Suor Angelica*, *Königin der Nacht* in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, *Fortuna/Pallade/Damigella* in Monteverdi's *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, and *Amy* in Adamo's *Little Women*.

She has also performed the role of *Lucia* in Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia* and sung the soprano solo in Mozart's *Requiem* in D minor with Harmonia Australis in Perth.

In 2018, she was awarded Most Outstanding Senior Vocalist at the North of Perth Music Festival and in 2019, and at a masterclass hosted by the West Australian Opera, Richard Bonyng AC, CBE awarded her the highest prize of the evening.

Shania has recently returned from Germany where she reprised the role of *Queen of the Night* with the Lyric Opera Studio Weimar, and she is now currently covering the role of *Dorothy* in Victorian Opera's *Il Mago di Oz*. She is also a scholarship recipient of Opera Scholars Australia, as well as a Richard Divall Developing Artist with Melbourne Opera.

## Naomi Flatman, Brisbane

Swiss born Mezzo-Soprano Naomi Flatman completed her Postgraduate studies in Opera (2018), as well as her Bachelor of Music in Advanced Performance (2016), both at the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University under Mr Gregory Massingham.



Her stage credits include *Cherubino* in the *Marriage of Figaro* Mozart, with the Lyric Opera Studio in Weimar, Germany (2018), *Bastien* in *Bastien und Bastienne* Mozart (Brisbane City Opera, 2017), *Lia* in Debussy's *L'enfant Prodigue* (2017), and *Nancy Waters* in *Albert Herring*, Britten, 2016.

Naomi has performed the Mezzo-soprano solo's in JS Bach's *Easter Oratorio*, Australian premier of JCF Bach's *Die Auferweckung des Lazarus*, Handel's *Messiah*, Haydn's *Paukenmesse*, "Nelson" *Mass*, as well as Mozart's *Vesperae Solennes de Confessore*, *Requiem* and *Coronation Mass*.

She has been awarded the Elizabeth Muir Operatic Award (2018), Linda Edith Allen (undergraduate) award (2016) for the best recital, as well as the Donald Penman prize for voices joint for her work in 2015.

### Alessia Pintabona, Perth

Soprano Alessia Pintabona, is currently completing a Master of Music (Opera Performance) at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music (MCM) under the tutelage of Patricia Price.



She holds a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from the Western Australian Academy of the Performing Arts (WAAPA).

Recent performance highlights include Ottavia in 'L'incoronazione di Poppea,' and Papagena/Second Spirit in 'Die Zauberflöte.'

Alessia has participated in masterclasses with Lynne Dawson and Mary King, as well as with Graham Johnson and Stephen Varcoe as part of the *Melbourne International Festival of Lieder and Art Song*.

### Reserve Finalist – Soprano Kate Pengelly, Melbourne



In recognition of the transport and health problems facing our finalists the adjudicator nominated a reserve finalist who will compete if there are problems with the chosen three.

Eighteen-year-old Kate Pengelly was chosen for this role. While still very early in her musical career Kate has already starred in the December 2019 *Victorian State Schools Spectacular* singing *Lacrimosa* from *Mozart's requiem* and has recently performed with the Victorian opera in *Il Mago di Oz*.

The three finalists will perform as part the Choir's concert on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022, at the lovely Ringwood North Uniting Church.

In addition to hearing some of Australia's emerging stars of opera and music theatre, the choir will feature some new and exciting songs to showcase its expanding repertoire.

For a wonderful afternoon's entertainment, at a bargain price, please ring 0408 280 953 or book your tickets via the choir's website [www.melbournwelshchoir.com.au](http://www.melbournwelshchoir.com.au).

### The Choir's upcoming events and concerts

#### **Bernadette Robinson in concert with the Melbourne Welsh Choir**

**2:00 p.m. Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October - Ulumbarra Theatre, 10 Gaol Road, Bendigo**

Our major concert for the year with our brilliant international guest artist is scheduled for Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October at the **Ulumbarra Theatre** (in the former jail complex) in **Bendigo**.

Bernadette's performances in *Songs for Nobodies* at London's Ambassadors Theatre earned the show an



Olivier Awards nomination and announced her as a new star on the West End. Alone on stage, Bernadette introduced London Audiences to the 5 “nobodies:” of the title and 5 iconic singers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century that had already enchanted and thrilled Australia audiences: Judy Garland, Patsy Cline, Edith Piaf, Billie Holiday and Maria Callas.

In addition to performing some favourites and new songs from our repertoire, the choir will act as a “backing group” for some of Bernadette’s songs, and we are looking forward to rehearsing with her.

We will not be performing with Bernadette in Melbourne this time so, for our Melbourne based supporters, make the trip to Bendigo, we guarantee the show will be worth it!

Tickets are available via the Ulumbarra theatre box office 03 5434 6210 or via the choir’s website [www.melbournewelshchoir.com.au](http://www.melbournewelshchoir.com.au).

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## **CHOIR DIRECTORY**

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