

2025 | WRITTEN APPLICATION FORM

Name

Address

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Email..... Date of Birth

Phone..... Mobile.....

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND ENQUIRIES: Please call Monika Laczofy on 0411 271 215 or visit our website: www.accompanist.org.au

PLEASE FORWARD APPLICATIONS TO:

Email: The Convenor,
mlaczofy1@bigpond.com

Postal: The Convenor,
Geoffrey Parsons Award,
1 Rawlings Road, Modbury North SA 5092

ENTRY FEE: \$80 **AND** proof of current (2025) AGSA membership.

Payable by DIRECT DEBIT or DIRECT DEPOSIT to:

The Accompanists' Guild of SA Inc.
BSB 105 148
Account number 554 159 740

CLOSING DATE: WRITTEN APPLICATIONS MUST REACH THE CONVENOR BY 12 MIDNIGHT CST MONDAY JUNE 23 MUST INCLUDE FINAL PROGRAM AND PERFORMER DETAILS

REGULATIONS

- **Proof of age:** Applications are welcomed from pianists residing in **South Australia** who are 36 years or under on the date of the final. Proof of age must be provided in the form of a statutory declaration, copy of birth certificate, passport or drivers' licence.
- **Proof of Australian residency:** A statutory declaration or photocopy of driver's licence indicating a minimum of one year of Australian residency is required.
- **Associates:** The applicants are responsible for providing their own singer(s) and/or instrumentalist(s).
- **Set work:** The Guild will provide the soloist for the set work.
- **Copyright:** Original music must be sighted by the convenor and appropriate copyright rules must be followed.

- **Finalist selection:** AGSA judges shall select the finalists from Round 1 applicants who will be notified by **Monday July 28**.
- **Finalist's order:** AGSA judges shall decide the order of performers in the final.
- **Judges' decision:** The judges' decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into with any applicant or with any other person.
- **No Award:** The judges reserve the right not to award any prize. Such a decision will be final. Should there be insufficient applicants of a high enough standard to warrant granting the Award, the Award will be cancelled and applicants notified.
- **Recording:** AGSA shall reserve the right to record, televise, photograph or film any performances in the Final.

- **Once only:** Previous winners (*see list overleaf*) of the Geoffrey Parsons Award or its precursors may not enter the Award again.
- **Conflict:** Pianists who have studied with any of the judges during the two years previous to the date of Final will not be eligible to apply.

AGSA reserves the right to alter dates, venues or personnel as necessary.

PianoMax



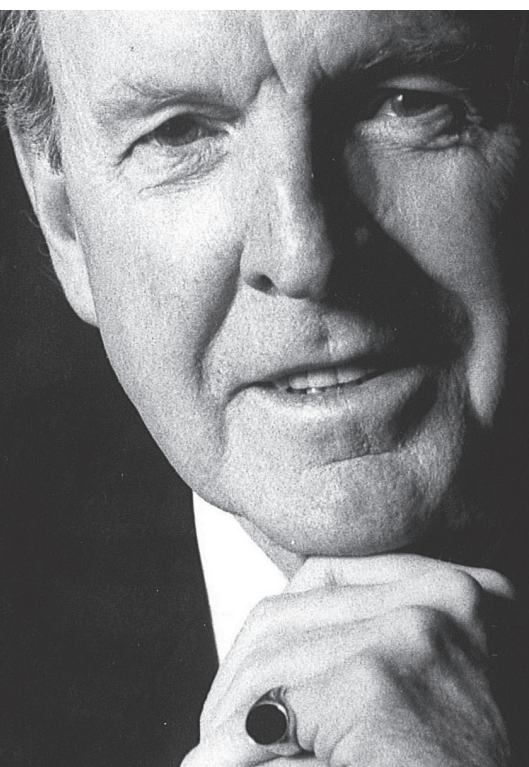
THE UNIVERSITY
of ADELAIDE



Diana Harris
OAM



Australian
Piano
WAREHOUSE



2025

FIRST PRIZE **\$3000**

TWO FINALISTS
\$1000 EACH

Geoffrey Parsons Award

SOUTH
AUSTRALIAN
PIANISTS
ONLY


Accompanists'
Guild of S.A. Inc.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 21

3.30PM | HARTLEY CONCERT ROOM | ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY

AUDITION PANEL: Monika Laczofy OAM, Gina Macri

JUDGES: Dr. Graham Strahle, Michael Ierace, Jamie Cock



GEOFFREY PARSONS (1929–1995) PIANIST, ACCOMPANIST

Born in Sydney, he studied with Winifred Burston at the NSW State Conservatorium from 1941 to 1948, and Friedrich Wührer in Munich in 1956. Geoffrey won the ABC Concerto Competition in 1947 with the Brahms B-flat Piano Concerto. In 1950 he performed with bass baritone Peter Dawson in Britain. Remaining in London, Geoffrey earned a living mainly as a cocktail lounge pianist until a successful performance of Schubert's Winterreise with Gerhard Hüsch led to Geoffrey being invited to Munich where he became Hüsch's permanent accompanist. Soon after he performed with Elisabeth Schwarzkopf at the Royal Festival Hall and later became her principal accompanist. Other great singers with whom he worked include Victoria de los Angeles, Nicolai Gedda, Rita Streich, Birgit Nilsson, Hans Hotter, Janet Baker and Jessye Norman. Although best known as a vocal accompanist, Parsons also joined many of the greatest instrumentalists of the day such as violinists Nathan Milstein,

Wanda Wilkomirska and Ida Haendel and cellist Paul Tortelier. These and other artists quickly appreciated his exemplary standards of musicianship and pianistic command which was totally new to the accompanist's role at the time. He was recognised as the ideal accompanist. During his career he performed in over 40 countries in six continents, including all the major international music festivals. He also recorded widely throughout his career, leaving a vast output.

The encouragement of younger artists became a feature of the latter part of his career. He partnered younger singers Olaf Baer, Barbara Bonney, Felicity Lott, Australian Yvonne Kenny and many more. Musically supportive and pianistically polished, Parsons was the consummate accompanist. As the leading exponent of the accompanist's art, he became Prince Consort Professor of Piano at the Royal College of Music. He was made an honorary member of the Royal Academy of Music in 1975, also the Guildhall School of Music in 1983, received the FRCM in 1987, was named the Royal Philharmonic Society's Instrumentalist of the Year in 1992 and was further honoured with an OBE in 1977 and an AO in 1990.

Geoffrey toured Australia 31 times between 1957 and 1993. In 1973 he gave the first recital at the Sydney Opera House with Birgit Nilsson, and his last performance in Australia was with Olaf Baer in Winterreise in the University of Melbourne's Melba Hall in 1993. Regrettably Geoffrey never performed in Adelaide but he nevertheless had strong connections with South Australian musicians in particular violinist, Beryl Kimber as well as the many pianists and singers who travelled to the UK to have lessons with him.

Geoffrey was a strong supporter of the Accompanists' Guild of SA and lent his name to our endeavours as our international Patron from 1985 to his untimely death in 1995. The Guild immediately arranged a Memorial Concert in Geoffrey's Honour, held on Thursday May 4, 1995 at the Flinders Street School of Music. The program included performance and spoken contributions from Beryl Kimber, Elizabeth

Silbury, Sarah and Bernard Depasquale, Len Amadio, Guila Tiver and Diana Harris, Greg Roberts and Leonie and Keith Hempton.

After offering Accompanists/Associate Artist Awards since 1984 (won by Bernard Depasquale – now CEO of the AMEB) in 1995 the Guild presented the Geoffrey Parsons Memorial Associate Artist Award on October 14, 1995, in Tanunda's Langmeil Church during the Barossa Festival. It was won by Esther Mae Wong. From 1996 on it has been called simply "The Geoffrey Parsons Award" when it was won by Adelaide pianist, Nerissa Pearce, who has since been one of Adelaide's busiest professional accompanists.

(Compiled by Diana Harris, with thanks to The Oxford Companion to Australian Music, pp 446–447)

ACCOMPANIST GUILD AWARDS PREVIOUS WINNERS

1984	– Bernard Depasquale
1985	– Jillianne Bartsch (Stoll)
1986	– Jennifer Campbell
1987	– Kaye Fitton
1989	– Julie Sargeant
1990	– R. Robinson
1991	– Michael Seifried
1992	– Jamie Cock
1993	– Inna Fursa
1994	– Josephine Gillespie & Nerissa Pearce
1995	– Esther Mae Wong
1996	– Nerissa Pearce (inaugural <i>AGAW</i> winner)
1997	– Cheryl West
1998	– Leigh Harrold
1999	– Alexander Hanyasz
2000	– Leigh Harrold
2001	– Irina Lioubimova
2003	– Ashley Hribar
2004	– Michael Ierace
2005	– Yuh T'sun Wu
2006	– Anthony Hunt
2007	– Amir Farid
2008	– Amanda Hodder
2009	– Mark Sandon
2010	– Karl Geiger
2011	– Szu Yu Chen
2012	– Yuh T'sun Wu
2013	– Tully Brookes
2014	– Andrew Georg
2015	– Robin Parkin
2017	– Jonathan Wilson
2019	– Mekhla Kumar
2021	– Yasmin Rowe
2023	– Paul Cheung

ROUND 1: Video Applications

Applicants must submit a verified and dated video, clearly marked with the names of the applicant, the associate artist(s), titles of the works and date(s) of recording as:

- I. a link to a private YouTube video, or
- II. a DVD sent by post or
- III. a USB stick sent by post

The Round 1 recorded program must include:

- I. a minimum of two contrasting ensemble works by different composers, for piano with instrument/s and/or voice, recorded **with associate/s**. May include single movements of a larger work. Only one may be an orchestral reduction. *Time limit: 10–15 mins.*
- II. a quick-study work (accompaniment only) designed to assess the entrant's capacity to prepare a work within a limited period of time. This will be emailed to entrants by **Monday July 14**.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The recorded material should be accompanied by:

- I. full details of the round 1 program

- II. full details of the applicant's proposed program for the Final including:

- a. the collaborative works from Round 1
- b. additional works
- c. the Set Work: PROKOFIEV movements 1 & 2 from Five Melodies op.35a (c.6 mins)
- d. individual timings for each work in the program, totalling between 20–25 mins.
- III. biographies and high resolution headshots suitable for publicity of all the performers
- IV. a verified/signed statement by the performers **and recordist** that the performance of each item was filmed in a single take
- V. verification of age and residency (see Regulations)
- VI. entry fee **and** AGSA membership details
- VII. a letter of support for the applicant by a recognised teacher or performer in the area of collaborative piano performance indicating the suitability of the applicant for the Award.

**CLOSING DATE FOR
WRITTEN APPLICATIONS:**
MIDNIGHT CST MONDAY JUNE 23

**CLOSING DATE FOR
ROUND 1 (AUDITION):**
MIDNIGHT CST THURSDAY JULY 24

FINALISTS: Applicants will be notified of Round 1 results via email by **Monday July 28**. **Three** will be selected as finalists. The Convenor will arrange the following for each finalist:

- a short rehearsal with the applicant's associates in the Hartley Concert Room on Sunday September 21 morning (*times TBA*)
- a 15minute rehearsal with **Guest Violinist MINAS BERBERYAN** in the same venue.

FINAL: Sunday September 21, at 3.30pm
Hartley Concert Room, Adelaide University

FINAL PROGRAM: See details outlined in Round 1.