

MARCH

2013

NEWSLETTER

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News in Brief

2013 Membership

Directory : This is published in May each year. Please send in your completed form as soon as possible. Take care with info, especially E-mail addresses and Competition dates.

Adjudicator Lists : Please send in your Societies Adjudicator names and contacts either by post or E-mail. This is a highly sought after resource and your input is appreciated.

NYPA Rules: The PACANZ Board regularly review the NYPA rules as well as the Policies & Procedures and the Strategic Plan. The NYPA rules and PACANZ Strategic Plan are available on the Website.

ILT National Young Performer Awards 2013 Adjudicators

Debbie Linnert-Modern



Ivana Tomaskova-Instrumental



Adele Swanson-Highland



Bryan Aitken –Speech & Drama



Full Adjudicator Biographies are on Page 2

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IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES FOR SOCIETIES TO NOTE

13th March 2013 :- Draft Annual Accounts to be distributed to Member Societies

15th March 2013 :- Registrations for AGM close.

29th March 2013 :- Proxy votes to be received at PACANZ Office
:-AGM Agenda Items to be received at PACANZ office.

3rd April 2013 :- AGM Meeting papers circulated to Attendees.

13th April 2013 :- Annual General Meeting in Palmerston North.

10th June 2013 :- Notification of Nomination forms to be at PACANZ Office for those Competitions held prior to 31st May.

Debbie Linnert - Modern Adjudicator

Debbie is a renowned dance teacher and choreographer and is well known for her dynamic and inspirational work.

Over the past 15 years Debbie has gained a wealth of experience both as an international and residential teacher/choreographer. During this time Debbie has developed not only as a Choreographer but has been committed to enhancing the technical skill of students at an elite level.

Debbie holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree and completed the Performing Arts course at Brent Street Studios, Sydney, Australia. Debbie is currently Head of Contemporary and Jazz at the National College of Dance, Newcastle, Australia. Her passion for teaching students along with her choreography has been recognized greatly amongst the dance community.

Debbie was invited to choreograph for the 1st series of ***So You Think You Can Dance, Australia*** and was a regular choreographer for both the 2nd and 3rd series. Other choreographic highlights include the ***Australian Dance Awards 2 years running***, ***High School Musical*** directed by Jonathon Geraghty [director of ***High 5***] and ***Dance Academy, ABC***.

Debbie also holds her own regular workshops over Australia. She is a well respected judge and adjudicator in the dancing world.

Ivana Tomaskova –Instrumental Adjudicator

Violinist Ivana Tomášková was born in Czechoslovakia into the family with musical tradition.

She graduated from the Conservatorium in Brno and from the Tchaikovsky Conservatorium in Moscow. In 1992 she completed Master of Music at the Prague Music Academy.

Ivana is a winner of the Czech National competition and she participated and received prizes at numerous international competitions in Czechoslovakia, Italy, Great Britain, USA and South Africa.

As a soloist and as member of a number of chamber music ensembles, she has given concerts in Czechoslovakia, Germany, Austria, Holland, Benelux, Luxembourg, Spain, Great Britain and Australia and has made a number of radio recordings for the Czech Radio and the Australian ABC and commercial CDs on Panton, Multisonic and Arcodiva.

Ivana's wide repertoire comprises pieces of all styles. The critiques emphasize beauty and expression of her tone, technical brilliance, sense for style and remarkable poetic and singing features of her individual performance.

Since her arrival to Australia in 2000 Ivana has given Master classes in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne, and performed with Melbourne Youth Orchestra, Zelman Symphony and Melbourne Musicians.

Ivana started her teaching career at The Brno Conservatorium. In Melbourne, she taught violin and chamber music at the Melba Conservatorium (2002-2008) and at the School of Music at Monash University.

Ivana was a member of Trio Belle Époque (Czech Republic – 10 years) and Trio Vivace (Australia – 6 years) – flute, violin and piano. For 6 years she was a member of Czech Chamber Soloist – Chamber Orchestra.

She has an ongoing co-operation (for 17 years) with pianist R. Ardasevova in Czech Republic, and for 14 years with pianist Tamara Smolyar in Australia.

After 10 years of a close cooperation with Tamara, they established Duo Chamber Melange in 2010. They have regular concerts in the Melbourne Recital Centre. The Duo has released two CDs on Move and Schimmel Artist Collection labels.

Her extended experience with chamber music includes repertoire for:

Piano Trio; String Quartet; Trio for violin; French horn and piano; Duets for two violins; Violin and cello; Violin, voice and piano; Violin and guitar; Violin, flute and organ or harpsichord.

Ivana has extensive experience with examining all instruments at Melba Conservatorium and Monash University in Melbourne, since 2008 as an AMEB examiner (Australian Music Examinations Board).

Adele Swanson - Highland & National Dance Adjudicator

Adele began dancing in Gisborne at the age of 6 learning Ballet, Highland and Tap all to an accomplished level but chose to pursue the Art of Highland and National Dancing and in doing so achieved her Advanced Diploma with Honours in all grades.

Adele was a pupil of the late Mrs Colleen Parker who gained her knowledge and expertise from the very well known Scottish Dance Master McLennan. Under the guidance of Mrs Parker Adele gained the best training and education on the history and technique of Highland Dancing as promoted by the NZ Academy of Highland and National Dancing and learnt the importance of preserving the history and fundamentals of our technique as we move forward in the modern world. While living in Wellington in her mid twenties Adele took lessons from another respected teacher the late Mrs Adeline Hobbs and continued to compete till the age of 29.

Adele's teaching career spans 35 years with a number of her pupils gaining NZ Championship titles from her Caladh Brae Studio in Napier. She is also an experienced Examiner and Adjudicator and has officiated at a host of prestigious competitions and Highland Games all over NZ.

Since 1988 has been a member of the Technical Committee of the NZ Academy of Highland and National Dancing which extends Adele's passion for dance and music and involves standardising and fostering the technique through examinations and performance. Assisting teachers through seminars and dance development courses and tutoring dancers of all ages at summer schools and regional workshops has been a privilege and rewarding.

During her time on the Technical Committee, Adele has been involved in a number of new projects – "Getting started in Dance " and "Lets Dance " Syllabuses have been a highlight and putting the early Highland grades and Irish and Sailors Hornpipe step dancing syllabuses on video another. In 2006 Adele was fortunate to represent the NZ Academy at an International Highland Dance Conference in Las Vegas.

Adele has now returned home to Gisborne after 28 years and currently with her husband Gary own and manage the Beachcomber Motel and enjoy meeting guests from all over the world. She still teaches but on a smaller scale and is the President of the Poverty Bay and East Coast Piping and Dancing Centre..

Bryan Aitken –Speech & Drama Adjudicator

A former Associate Artistic Director and original company member of The Court Theatre, Christchurch, Bryan has worked as an actor or director for most of New Zealand's major Theatre Companies.

He has been awarded a QEII Arts Council Major Travel Grant, a Trustbank Arts Excellence Award, and the 1990 Commemorative Medal for his work with youth.

While a director/dramaturg for the NZBC, he adapted many stage plays for radio and also wrote for children's programmes. He has held positions as Artistic Director of The Arts Employment Scheme, Artistic Director of the RoadShow Trust, and Course Director for the Diploma in Performing Arts, Nelson Polytechnic.

He has been a guest Lecturer & Tutor at Western Australia Academy of Performing Arts, in Perth (WAAPA), and the National Academy of Singing and Dramatic Art, in Christchurch (NASDA).

Bryan is also recognized as one of the country's top Drama Adjudicators, and has a national youth award named after him.

Bryan continues to freelance as Director, Dramaturg and Tutor. His work is as diverse as the magnificent *Les Miserables* to the one woman show *The Mourning After*. He is an Associate of The Court, an honorary position recognizing his length of service. He was for several years their Core Tutor for a young adults theatre-skills programme, TheatreWorks.

He has had several Musical Anthologies staged. His first full-length play *Ted's Bottle*, the story of South Canterbury farmer and soldier Ted d'Avergne, premiered last August.

New years honours : Barbara Thompson

We were delighted to be forwarded this article on Northland Performing Arts Competitions Society stalwart, Barbara Thomson. The following article is from The Northern Advocate :

Local lifelong pianist Barbara Thomson's ivory-tinkling fingers will soon be wrapping around a Queen's Service Medal. The Kensington resident's been involved in music and the performing arts in Whangarei since the early 1950s, for which she is being recognised in the Queen's New Year Honours list.

"My reaction was - 'oh no, I don't deserve this'," she said.

"But then I realised someone has gone to the trouble of nominating me - it would be churlish of me to turn it down."



Barbara Thomson, QSM, has been involved in music for six decades.

Since 1953, she has had several roles for the Northland Performing Arts Competition Society, first as committee member and secretary, then festival co-ordinator and treasurer. The annual festival runs over four consecutive weekends in September, with competing sections in music, dance and speech.

She has also worked with Whangarei Theatre Company as a rehearsal and orchestral pianist since 1957, and has assisted the company's junior theatre group as a tutor, singing repetiteur and pianist. She has been pianist and musical organiser for the Whangarei Repertory Society Music Hall productions since 1974, and has assisted with several drama productions and general organisation for the Octagon Theatre.

Of her widespread involvement she simply said: "I just do things for people - when they ask, I say yes."

She was awarded life membership of Whangarei Theatre Company in 2003, life membership of Whangarei Repertory Society in 1992, and life membership of the Northland Performing Arts Competition Society in 1974. She also received a Whangarei District Council Civic Award in 1989. She is also a life member of Whangarei Senior Citizens. For many years, she's has also been a pianist for senior vocal groups, entertaining at retirement homes, and the Whangarei Senior Citizens organisation. She also worked with Whangarei Youth Music, having tutored recorder students since 1983, and is an established adult recorder consort.

"Music means quite a lot to me and I am thankful my mother insisted I learn piano as a child. In hindsight I realised she would have made a few sacrifices to allow me to play."

AGM Reminder: Please send in your AGM registration forms as soon as possible as the closing date for these is March 15th. If you are intending to be at the AGM but cannot meet this deadline for whatever reason, please contact the Office as soon as possible.

NYPA Criteria 2014: The 2014 Criteria (Ballet, Tap, Vocal & Pianoforte) will be reviewed following the AGM on 13th April. Thanks to those Member Societies who have already sent in their discussion points for the various Art Forms. These will be given to each of the Criteria groups as part of the review process. If you are unable to attend the AGM but wish to have input into the 2014 Criteria, please forward your feedback to the Office by 29th March 2013. The 2014 draft criteria, which form the basis for the review, were circulated in November 2012 and are included with the Newsletter E-mail.

2013 Member Society Info & Competition Dates: This information was due on 21st February 2013. It would be really useful to receive at least the Competition dates for 2013 as these can be put onto the Website for all competitors to view. Even if your Competitions have been held or are soon, do send in the dates as it gives people an idea of timing for 2014, even if they have missed for 2013.

2013 Subscriptions: Subscription Invoices were posted to all Member Societies in January. If these could be paid as soon as possible it would be appreciated.

Finally, I would like to wish societies, teachers, parents and competitors all the best for their competition year. A big thanks for all the support and the hard work going on behind the scenes.

Nikki Cunningham, Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nikki Cunningham'.