

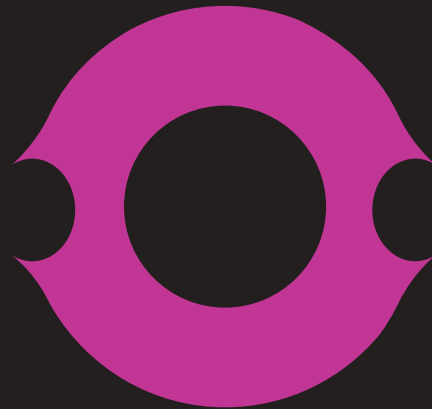
MUSIC & OPERA SINGERS TRUST LTD

**MOST**®

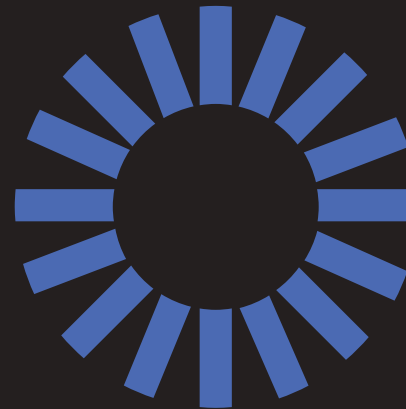
2019 ANNUAL REPORT



IFAC Handa Australian  
Singing Competition



ABC Young  
Performers Awards



Opera Awards



Rona Tranby  
Trust



# VISION & MISSION

# MOST<sup>®</sup>

## VISION

Music & Opera Singers Trust Limited (MOST) aims to support the career development of operatic and classical musicians by providing performance and educational opportunities. The organisation embraces cutting-edge technologies, as it continues to provide professional management and consultancy services for competitions, events, scholarships, prizes, awards and grants.

## MISSION

Music & Opera Singers Trust Limited (MOST) promotes excellence in music, the performing arts and related education sectors through the creation and management of programmes and activities which recognise creative talent. MOST tailors development opportunities to suit and benefit individuals as they move into the next stage of their profession.



2019 IFAC Handa Australian Singing Competition Finalist, Rebecca Hart



# CEO's REPORT

# MOST®

I am very pleased to introduce the 2019 Music & Opera Singers Trust Ltd (MOST®) year in review.

In 2019 we presented our

- 37th edition of the Australian Singing Competition
- 29th Opera Awards
- 11th MasterClass
- 8th Workshop

In addition, MOST

- organised the 2nd fundraising recital for the Australian Friends of Keshet Eilon
- supported a Rona Tranby Trust Australian Light Horse Project participant to attend the Commemoration Ceremonies for the 1918 Battle of Semakh (Tzemach)
- significantly contributed to 3 major documentaries
- strengthened our ties with the German community
- recruited a new MOST team member

Swiss soprano Noëmi Nadelmann was the National Adjudicator of the 37th consecutive Australian Singing Competition (ASC), bringing her extensive knowledge of repertoire, fach, global singing standards, singing competitions, and Australian opera companies to the Competition. The Heats staged in the United Kingdom were adjudicated by an independent panel, while the Heats held in NZ and capital cities around Australia were judged by Noëmi with the support of panels of esteemed adjudicators. Noëmi was also assisted by a panel of adjudicators at the Semi-Finals and Finals concerts. We thank Noëmi and all the adjudicators for encouraging the singers during the competition.

Congratulations to tenor Manase Latu on winning the 2019 Marianne Mathy Scholarship.

The 29th Opera Awards were presented in a new format this year. The entry process and first round of adjudication was completely digital. Through the online portal, Acceptd ([getacceptd.com](http://getacceptd.com)), entrants uploaded their audition videos, biographies, future plans, and all other required documents. The Adjudicators then were able to review all the entrants and assign their judgments. Following that first round of adjudication, 8 Finalists were nominated to attend a live audition at Horticultural Hall (Victoria Opera's headquarters) in Melbourne. The 8 Finalists were heard by the Adjudication panel: maestro Benjamin Northey (Chair), Dr. Di Bresciani OAM, John Bolton-Wood AM, and Roxane Hislop.



Music & Opera Singers Trust (MOST)  
Chief Executive Officer, Roland Gridiger OAM



# CEO's REPORT

# MOST<sup>®</sup>

Our heartiest congratulations to mezzo-soprano Anna Dowsley who was named the overall winner. Anna was awarded the Youth Music Foundation of Australia Award, the Armstrong-Martin Scholarship, and the Britten-Pears Young Artist Programme Award.

The Australian Friends of Keshet Eilon raised funds to support exceptionally gifted Australian string instrumentalists attend an elite 2-week Mastercourse in Israel. With the support of Nora Goodridge, 11-year-old violin prodigy Christian Li attended The Mastercourse. The Friends group also contributed towards Dr Robin Wilson joining the teaching faculty.

The Rona Tranby Trust assisted Australian Light Horse Project participant Angela Stanley with attending the 101-year anniversary of the Battle of Semakh (Tzemach) commemorating the 11th Light Horse Regiment charging the Ottoman/German stronghold and taking command of the town.

To date, three major documentaries have been produced featuring the Rona Tranby Trust Australian Light Horse Project participants that highlight the significance and importance of that project. 'Truth Be Told: Lest We Forget' was broadcast on SBS/NITV, 11 November, 2018. 'Ride Like an Anzac' was broadcast by the ABC on the 27 October, 2019. 'Travelling in Our Ancestors Footsteps' was produced by the Rona Tranby Trust in partnership with Emelda Davis (President of the Australian South Sea Islanders Ltd), and DVDs of the documentary have been created for distribution. I am delighted to report that MOST is involved in the production of a documentary which tells the story of singing teacher Marianne Mathy-Frisdane and the legacy she left with her endowment, which led to the creation of the Australian Singing Competition and other classical and contemporary music initiatives.

As our friendship further solidifies with internationally renowned conductor Dr. Nicholas Milton AM (General Music Director of Göttinger Symphonie Orchester, Principal Guest Conductor Norddeutsche Philharmonie Rostock, Artistic Director and Chief Conductor of Canberra Symphony Orchestra, Artistic Director and Chief Conductor of Willoughby Symphony Orchestra), we have started to build ties with the German community.

Maestro Milton has introduced us to the Directors of the Saarländisches Staatstheater in Saarbrücken, who this year have expanded their prize offered at the Australian Singing Competition. The Saarbrücken Opera House Prize offers language coaching and cultural experiences, as well as access to the company, orchestral, rehearsal, performances and auditions.



Conductor Dr. Nicholas Milton AM  
with Roland Gridiger OAM



# CEO's REPORT

# MOST<sup>®</sup>

We reconnected with the Goethe-Institut, who expanded their prizes to include a scholarship to a 10-week language course in Sydney or Melbourne for a Semi-Finalist and a new initiative in Germany for the recipient of the Saarbrücken Opera House Prize. With the support of Lufthansa, and the German-Australian Chamber of Industry and Commerce (AHK Australia), we are delighted that we created a more valuable opportunity.

I'd like to thank the new MOST Board Members, who have now settled into their roles and are not only working with the long-standing Board Members to guide MOST, but are also helping enhance MOST's reputation in providing career, education, and performance opportunities.

I am grateful to the MOST staff Amelia Gledhill and David Langley for their attention to all our initiatives, their meticulous servicing of our stakeholders and enthusiastic support of our volunteers and supporters. I'd also like to take this opportunity to warmly thank our former employee Meltem Akyol who has left us after four years and welcome our new employee Nell O'Grady!

And lastly, I'd like to thank the Council for the Order of Australia. To be awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) on the 2019 Queen's Birthday Honours List in recognition of my services to the performing arts through administrative roles, is one of the great capstones of my career. It is a true honour and privilege to be part of such a venerate assembly.

Our plans for next year will see us

- open entries for the 2021 ABC Young Performers Awards
- present our 38th Australian Singing Competition with first-time National Adjudicator, Managing Director of Arts Management, and countertenor, Graham Pushee
- screen the Mathy documentary in cinemas and film festivals
- present our 3rd Australian Friends of Keshet Eilon recital, featuring violinist Christian Li
- welcome back previous ABC Young Performers Awards Winner Emily Sun and Opera Awards Winner Anna Dowsley for a special performance
- adopt a strategic management plan that embraces our vision and mission

I hope you can join us on this journey to nurture and promote creative artists of the future!

Roland Gridiger OAM  
CEO Music & Opera Singers Trust Ltd.



Roland Gridiger OAM with 2019  
IFAC Handa Australian Singing Competition  
Winner, Manase Latu



# INITIATIVES ASC

# MOST<sup>®</sup>

In 2019, 81 entrants from Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom entered the Australian Singing Competition. Heats were held across Australia in New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia. Heats were also conducted internationally in London (United Kingdom) and Auckland (New Zealand). For more information, please refer to our website: [aussing.org](http://aussing.org)

**Semi-Finalists** — 20-year-old Bianca Bacchiella (QLD); 22-year-old Soprano, Josi-Ann Ellem (NSW); 23-year-old Baritone, Matthew Dixon (WA); 21-year-old Mezzo-Soprano, Stella Hannock (NSW); 23-year-old Mezzo-Soprano, Rebecca Hart (NSW); 25-year-old Soprano, Clare Hood (UK); 25-year-old Soprano, Chloe Lankshear (NSW); 23-year-old Tenor, Manase Latu (NZ); 25-year-old Bass, Henry Pinder (QLD), 26-year-old Bass-Baritone, Samson Setu (NZ).

The ASC **Semi-Finals** Concert was staged at The Independent Theatre on the 11th of August. Collaborative pianist David Harper accompanied all the Semi-Finalists.

**Finalists** — 20-year-old Soprano, Bianca Bacchiella (QLD); 22-year-old Soprano, Josi-Ann Ellem (NSW); 23-year-old Mezzo Soprano, Rebecca Hart (NSW); 23-year-old Tenor, Manase Latu (NZ); 26-year-old Bass-Baritone, Samson Setu (NZ).

The **Finals** Concert was staged at The Concourse Concert Hall on the 19th of September. The Opera Australia Orchestra, under the baton of conductor Dr. Nicholas Milton AM, accompanied each of the Finalists as they performed two arias each.

**Winner of the Marianne Mathy Scholarship** - 23-year-old Tenor, **Manase Latu** (NZ).

**History** - The IFAC Handa Australian Singing Competition (ASC) evolved from the Marianne Mathy Scholarship, established through a bequest made by Marianne Mathy-Frisdane, a coloratura soprano opera singer and distinguished teacher of opera and classical singing. The Competition is now well into its third decade discovering, rewarding and providing career opportunities to emerging opera and classical singers under the age of 26.



Lyndon Terracini AM with 2019  
IFAC Handa Australian Singing Competition  
Winner, Manase Latu



# INITIATIVES ASC

# MOST<sup>®</sup>

**Patron** - Dr. Haruhisa Handa

## 2019 IFAC Handa Australian Singing Competition Highlights

The ASC **Semi-Finals Concert**, staged at the Independent Theatre in North Sydney, was compered by Camille Mercep. The accompanist for the event was world-renowned pianist and vocal coach David Harper.

The adjudication panel was comprised of Noëmi Nadelmann, Warwick Fyfe, Joanne Goodman and Dr. Narelle Yeo.

The guest artist was celebrated pianist and 1998 ABC Young Performers Awards Winner, Simon Tedeschi.

The ASC **Finals Concert**, staged at The Concourse Concert Hall, was compered by Jan Black. The Finalists performed two arias under the baton of Dr Nicholas Milton AM who conducted the Opera Australia Orchestra.

The adjudication panel was comprised of Noëmi Nadelmann, Jeffrey Black, Joanne Goodman and Dr. Narelle Yeo.

The Guest Artist, soprano Isabella Moore (2014 ASC Winner), was a crowd favourite with her performance of Verdi's "*Morro Ma Prima In Grazia*". The Opera Australia Orchestra closed the concert with a peppy rendition of Colnot's arrangement of "*Tico Tico*".

Opera Australia Orchestra Artistic Director and Chairman of the IFAC Board, Comm. Lyndon Terracini AM attended this year's Final's concert and presented the Mathy statuette, to winner Manase Latu.

Our generous sponsor, the International Foundation for Arts and Culture, led by Dr Haruhisa Handa, enabled the singers to perform with the Opera Australia Orchestra.

**The MOST Achievement Award (MAA)** – The MAA was presented at the 2019 Finals Concert to Moffatt Oxenbould for his generous and ongoing contribution to the Australian Artistic landscape. The MAA was presented by the Chair of the ASC Advisory Committee, Jeffrey Black.



2019 IFAC Handa Australian Singing Competition Finalist, Samson Setu



# INITIATIVES ASC

# MOST<sup>®</sup>

**Workshop** - Each year a workshop is conducted by MOST for the Semi-Finalists of the Australian Singing Competition. This event prepares singers for life in the industry and is presented each year in different ways. Previous workshops have been conducted on anything from finances in the opera world, to audition preparation. This year, National Adjudicator, Noëmi Nadelmann conducted a Masterclass-style workshop for the Semi-Finalists that trained them in preparation and presentation for auditions and performances. The workshop focussed on language, annunciation and stage presence.

**MasterClass** - The MasterClass is available for all ASC Finalists and is an opportunity to receive one-on-one expert tutelage from a seasoned opera professional. This year the Finalists performed and workshopped two arias with National Adjudicator, Noëmi Nadelmann in a public master class at the Opera Centre in Surry Hills. Noëmi focussed on the translation and interpretation of language and annunciation as well as encouraging Finalists to recognise differences in tone and development amongst other Finalists as they watched and listened to each singer's performance. The Finalists were accompanied by David Harper during the Masterclass.



2019 ASC Finalist, Josi-Ann Ellem  
at the MasterClass







# INITIATIVES OA

# MOST<sup>®</sup>

**Opera Awards** - The Opera Awards (Australia) feature some of the most respected and longest-running awards and opportunities available to professional Australian opera singers. The Award is open to singers wishing to further their studies or careers overseas. There is no age limit. For more information, please refer to our website: [operawards.org](http://operawards.org)

The Opera Awards is presented every 2 years. The 2019 Opera Awards was presented in Melbourne. This year's adjudicators were Maestro Benjamin Northey (Chair), Dr. Di Bresciani OAM, John Bolton-Wood AM, and Roxane Hislop.

The first round of adjudication was conducted online for the first time and entrants were required to send through four video recordings by way of audition. From those entrants, eight Finalists were selected to perform at Horti Hall. Mezzo Soprano Anna Dowsley was the winner of the 2019 Opera Awards and received the YMF Australia prize of \$30,000 and the Armstrong-Martin Scholarship of \$4,500. She was also presented with the Britten-Pears Young Artist Programme Award, an opportunity to participate in a vocal course in the UK, focusing on Mahler and the Late Romantics.

Anna plans to use her Opera Awards funds during her move to Frankfurt, Germany, as she works to fulfil her dream of being a Europe-based international opera singer. The Opera Awards winnings will help Anna with coaching, training, auditions and travel.

**History** - The inaugural Armstrong-Martin Scholarship was awarded in 1977. Originally administered by the New South Wales Friends of Australia Opera (now Opera Australia) and the Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust, it was established to award major cash prizes to professional opera singers to study grand opera overseas.

In 1986 Music & Opera Singers Trust (MOST) was appointed to manage the Armstrong-Martin Scholarship; the Armstrong-Martin became a major prize awarded at the ASC. In 1987 the Opera Awards was separated from the ASC. In this new structure, the Armstrong-Martin Scholarship was presented as a major prize for a professional opera singer while the Mathy Scholarship was awarded to a young opera or classical singer under the age of 26.

Since 2007 the Youth Music Foundation of Australia (YMFA) Award has been the major prize of the Opera Awards. The YMFA Award is made possible by the generosity of Dr. Di Bresciani OAM and the Board of the YMFA.



2019 Opera Awards Winner, Anna Dowsley



# INITIATIVES A.F.O.K.E.

# MOST®

## Australian Friends of Keshet Eilon

Under the administration of MOST, on 7 July 2019 a private fundraising event was held on behalf of the Australian Friends of Keshet Eilon. Acclaimed international violinist and Keshet Eilon alumnus, Vadim Gluzman, and 1990 Young Performers Awards Winner, Clemens Leske, performed in an intimate fundraising recital at a beautiful harbourside residence in Watson's Bay. The audience were in awe of Vadim and his famed violin, known as the 'ex-Leopold Auer', a Stradivarius made in 1690.

The event was compered by Music & Opera Singers Trust (MOST) Manager, Amelia Gledhill. A video screening was presented at the recital that showcased how the Keshet Eilon kibbutz has developed into the world-class music centre that it is today. The recital concluded with Jack Ritch calling to raise funds for scholarships to send exceptionally gifted Australian stringed-instrumentalists to the Keshet Eilon Mastercourse.

For the Vadim Gluzman recital, the Australian Friends of Keshet Eilon joined forces with the Jewish National Fund (JNF), to boost fund-raising. For over a century the JNF has operated in Australia as one of the most prominent and trusted communal organisations endeavoured to raising funds for life-changing, environmental, and social welfare projects. We were delighted to have such a respected organisation supporting our cause!

With the assistance of the Nora Goodridge Scholarship, the Australian Friends of Keshet Eilon sent eleven-year-old violinist Christian Li (and his mother) to the Keshet Eilon Mastercourse in June.

The Keshet Eilon Strings Masterclass is not only a wonderful training ground for students, this world-class facility also welcomes distinguished teachers from around the world and offers gifted string players the chance to work with them in an intimate and collegial setting. This year for the first time, an Australian teacher was invited to join the faculty at the 2019 Mastercourse. With support from the Australian Friends of Keshet Eilon, internationally regarded pedagogue, Dr. Robin Wilson, joined Keshet Eilon's elite teaching staff.



Violinist Christian Li performing  
at the 2019 Keshet Eilon Mastercourse



# INITIATIVES RTT

# MOST<sup>®</sup>

## Rona Tranby Trust (RTT)

The Rona Tranby Trust supports the recording and preservation of Indigenous Australian oral history. The Trust has established The Rona Tranby Award and Collection.

To date, the Trust has given 25 Rona Tranby Awards to support a range of projects across Australia. Each award plants a seed that continues to grow over the years and helps to preserve stories important to all Australians, strengthening identity & community.

The Rona Tranby Collection is an ongoing project that consists of all the works that have been funded by the Trust. It is a repository of stories and experiences, managed with the approval and in collaboration with the Indigenous award recipient and their communities. The collection will be a resource for Australians and also those from other parts of the world who would seek to understand our ancient land and broad cultural traditions. For more information, visit the website: [ronatranby.org.au](http://ronatranby.org.au)

## History

The Rona Tranby Trust arose out of a bequest in the Will of Thomas Paul Rona who died tragically with his wife Eva in a car accident in September 1987. The Ronas, who were Holocaust survivors, took a keen interest in promoting inter-ethnic harmony. In keeping with these values, the Trustees of the Estate engaged with Tranby National Indigenous Adult Education and Training to develop the Rona Tranby Award and Collection. On 2 September 1991 the Rona Tranby Trust was launched. The Trustees are Belinda Russon (Chair), Roland Gridiger OAM, and Jenny Symonds.

## Current Project: Rona Tranby Light Horse Project

RTT located 13 descendants of Indigenous Australian Light Horse soldiers who served in World War I at the Sinai-Palestine conflicts, and issued grants to support them with travel to Israel to participate in the Centenary Commemoration Ceremonies of the Charge on Beersheba, and the Battle of Semakh (Tzemach). Following the Centenary Commemorations, the recipients of the grants have been working on their oral history projects.



Rona Tranby Trust Australian Light Horse Project participant, Sergeant Ricky Morris



# INITIATIVES RTT

# MOST<sup>®</sup>

## Rona Tranby Trust (RTT) 2019 Highlights

### **The RTT supported One Grant Recipient to Attend a Commemoration Ceremony in Israel**

In October 2019, RTT Australian Light Horse Project participant Angela Stanley, granddaughter of WWI Light Horse trooper Alexander Stanley of the 11th Light Horse Regiment, used her grant funds to attend the 101-year anniversary of the Battle of Semakh (Tzemach). Fellow grant recipient Ray Minniecon was also in attendance, as were Ambassador of Australia to Israel, Chris Cannan, and Director of the Australian Light Horse Association, Barry Rodgers OAM. During the battle of Semakh (Tzemach), the 11th Light Horse Regiment charged the Ottoman/German stronghold and took over command of the town. The 11th Light Horse is the Regiment that had the largest number of Indigenous soldiers in its ranks, and at the Commemoration Ceremonies a statue depicting an Indigenous Light Horse soldier was unveiled. Angela and Ray both laid wreaths to honour their ancestors.

### **The Rona Tranby Trust (RTT) Australian Light Horse Project is Featured in 3 Major Documentaries**

To highlight the significance and importance of the Rona Tranby Trust Australian Light Horse Project, to date, three major documentaries have been produced featuring Rona Tranby Trust Australian Light Horse Project participants. *'Truth Be Told: Lest We Forget'* was broadcasted on SBS/NITV, 11 November, 2018. *'Ride Like an Anzac'* was broadcasted by the ABC on the 27 October, 2019. *'Travelling in Our Ancestors Footsteps'* was produced by the Rona Tranby Trust in partnership with ASSI (Australian South Sea Islanders) Media, and DVDs of the documentary have been created for distribution.

### **The Rona Tranby Trust is Featured in the Book, 'Hand in Hand: Jewish and Indigenous people working together'**

The book posits that, though the Australian Jewish community and The First Australians are seemingly different, each derives from an ancient and rich culture, each with a significant spiritual dimension. And the long history of each has ensured a genuine understanding of experiences of marginalisation, of dispossession, of persecution and suffering, but also of resilience, survival and achievement.

### **Accepting Applications for New Projects**

The Rona Tranby Trust has solely focused on the RTT Australian Light Horse Project since 2016. The project was a great success in locating and supporting 13 descendants of Indigenous Light Horse troopers who served in the Sinai-Palestine campaign during WWI. Now that that project is coming to a finish, the RTT is beginning to receive grant proposals for other projects. In November and December 2019, the RTT has received two strong applications that are currently under review.



Rona Tranby Trust Australian Light Horse Project participants, Pastor Ray Minniecon, Angela Stanley. Also pictured is Ray Finn, founder of The Aranda Tribe Ride for Pride



# INITIATIVES YPA

# MOST<sup>®</sup>

**The ABC Young Performers Awards (YPA)** have long been regarded as Australia's premier national development programme for young musicians, instrumentalists and performing artists. Successful YPA entrants are instrumentalists who are poised to have an exceptional career in music at the highest level and who, through this competition, will gain significant performing experience as well as exposure and financial help to advance their careers. For more information, please refer to our website: [www.youngperformersawards.org](http://www.youngperformersawards.org)

In 2018 violinist Emily Sun was named as the Young Performer of the Year. The suite of prizes she won include:

- The Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust (AETT) Scholarship of \$50,000
- The Sheila Walker Scholarship of \$30,000
- The Youth Music Foundation (YMF) Award for Best Recital of \$25,000
- The ABC Classic Artist in Residence Prize
- The Sydney Symphony Orchestra Prize
- The Melbourne Symphony Orchestra Prize
- The Adelaide Symphony Orchestra Prize
- The Melbourne Recital Prize
- The City Recital Hall Prize
- The UKARIA Recital Prize
- A limited-edition Drago Marin Cherina bronze sculpture

Emily Sun returned to Australia October-November 2019 to perform a series of recitals, all performance opportunities she won at the 2018 YPA. Emily, accompanied by the 1990 Young Performer of the Year, pianist Clemens Leske, performed to a full house at the City Recital Hall, the Melbourne Recital Centre, and the UKARIA Cultural Centre.



Emily Sun during her 2019 Young Performer of the Year recital tour



# TESTIMONIALS

# MOST<sup>®</sup>

We take great pride in ensuring that our colleagues, peers, associates and contestants have a positive and beneficial experience. Here are a few of their statements.

*“I’m so honoured to have received such incredible prizes at the IFAC Handa ASC Finals. A huge thank you to the IFAC Handa Australian Singing Competition for providing such phenomenal opportunities for all finalists”* – Rebecca Hart (2019 ASC Finalist)

*“It’s an incredible award and its really made such a difference to my last year, living in London, being able to see a myriad of different performances and travelling overseas for auditions and coaching. It’s really just an incredible organisation to be a part of and to represent”* – Zoe Drummond (2018 Mathy Winner)

*“I’m off to start a new adventure in London. I’m so excited to be starting postgraduate studies at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama next week, all thanks to MOST and the IFAC Handa Australian Singing Competition”* – Cleo Lee McGowan, (2018 ASC Finalist)

*“It was very special to perform for such a large crowd and be able to sing diverse pieces. The orchestra members were lovely and very relaxed and made me feel very comfortable. Guy Noble was a fantastic conductor who made the whole event lots of fun.”* - Morgan Balfour on her performance with the Canberra Symphony Orchestra, a prize awarded at the 2016 IFAC Handa Australian Singing Competition Finals.

*“This remarkable award allowed me to travel to Italy and undergo intensive language study. The Merenda Legacy Prize has assisted me in such a remarkable way. The skills that this wonderfully generous award have equipped me with will be used every time I open my mouth to sing”* - Nicholas Tolputt (2016 Mathy Winner) on his Merenda Legacy Prize, awarded to him at the IFAC Handa Australian Singing Competition



Morgan Balfour performing with the Canberra Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of Guy Noble



# TESTIMONIALS

# MOST<sup>®</sup>

*“I would like to thank the IFAC Australian Singing Competition for this award and opportunity to spend time in London. Participating in the 2017 Competition made a huge impact on my singing career giving me the confidence to pursue opportunities on the international stage.” - Paull-Anthony Keightley (2017 ASC Finalist) on his Royal Over-Seas League Scholarship, awarded to him at the IFAC Handa Australian Singing Competition.*

*“The scale of the competition really is extraordinary, with such an impact on young singers and an important place in Australia's musical life. We are always pleased to follow proceedings from the other side of the world, and delighted about our continued association as the London conservatoire with which you collaborate.” - Armin Zanner, Head of Vocal Studies & Interim Deputy Director of Music, Guildhall School of Music & Drama*

*“When I received the phone call on Monday night, I was incredibly excited and delighted to have been chosen for this award. Now mixed in is this wonderful feeling of recognition that my pursuits, dreams and aspirations are endorsed and encouraged. I'm conscious of the absolute honour associated with this award and I take on this opportunity and responsibility with great sincerity.” - Anna Dowsley (2019 Opera Awards Winner)*

*"It's an exciting opportunity to share our family history with all Australians and preserve it for future generations, but to do so while “galloping” in my Great Grandfather, Frank Fisher's footsteps in Israel where he served 100 years ago is remarkable. I am ecstatic by the prospect of more descendants joining us to raise the awareness of Indigenous military service. This experience also allows us to acknowledge Community members before us, standing with those beside us, and creating a future for the next generation.”*  
- Elsie Amamoo (Rona Tranby Trust Australian Light Horse Project Grant Recipient)



ROSL Scholarship recipient,  
Paull-Anthony Keightley rehearsing with  
the Opera Australia Orchestra



# OUR LAUREATES

# MOST®

*MOST laureates taking their careers to new heights*

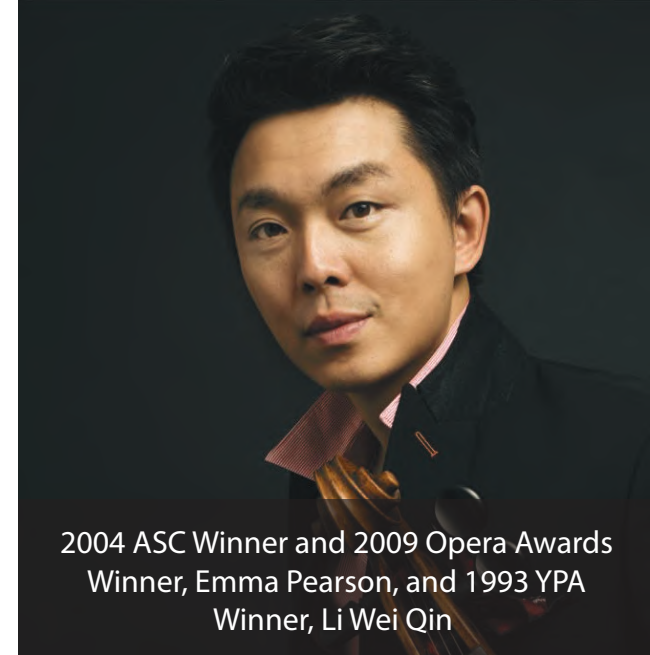
## Emma Pearson

Talented soprano Emma Pearson was the 2004 Marianne Mathy Scholarship Winner. That same year, at the age of only 25, Emma was offered a life-changing opportunity to become a principal artist with the Hessisches Staatstheater, Wiesbaden in Germany from 2005. She remained in the company for nine years and during her time there, Emma performed over 30 roles. On her departure, the State of Hessen awarded her the honorary title of “Kammersangerin,” an honourific title for distinguished opera singers. She is the youngest opera singer to ever receive this title. In 2009, Emma returned to Australia and won the Opera Awards. Since these competitions with MOST, Emma has performed for thousands around the world. In Europe she performed at Saarlandsiches Staatstheater, Saarbrucken, Nationaltheater Mannheim and for the City of London Festival. Emma’s recent engagements in Australia and New Zealand were with Opera Australia, Opera Queensland, West Australian Opera and New Zealand Opera. Emma now moves between Germany and Switzerland continuing to perform prestigious roles.



## Li-Wei Qin

1993 Young performer of the year, Li-Wei Qin, has become one of the most highly respected cellists in Australia and China. As an exclusive Universal Music China Artist, Li-Wei has performed globally and received several international competition awards for his excellence. In 2008 and 2012, Li-Wei performed at the opening of the Beijing and London Olympics. In the 2017/2018 season Li-Wei performed with the London Symphony, Russia Philharmonic and Brussels Chamber Orchestra. He also performed with the Finnish Radio Orchestra and China Philharmonic orchestra and returned to Australia for performances with the Western Australia Symphony and the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. In 2002 Li-Wei became the Arts Young Australian of the Year. He has been considered, “one of the leading cellists in the world today.” (-Marshall McGuire, Melbourne Recital Centre Director of Programming) In June 2020, Li-Wei will perform as part of the Great Performers series alongside Albert Tiu.



2004 ASC Winner and 2009 Opera Awards Winner, Emma Pearson, and 1993 YPA Winner, Li Wei Qin





# CONTRIBUTOR STORIES

# MOST®

Few experiences are more gratifying than assisting talented artists achieve their goals. In 2019, MOST contributed many awards, scholarships, grants and prizes and staged 14 events. These were only made possible through the loyal and valued support of our sponsors and supporters. These are some of their stories.

## **Dr. Di Bresciani OAM**

Dr. Bresciani OAM, on behalf of the of the Youth Music Foundation of Australia (YMFA) Board, teamed up with MOST to become the major prize-giver for the Opera Awards. The Opera Awards, staged every 2 years, is now the proud presenter of the **YMF Australia Prize**, valued at \$30,000. Dr. Bresciani OAM was pleased with the impact we have on young singers, and was inspired to contribute a prize to our sister competition as well, the ABC Young Performers Awards (YPA), a competition for classical instrumentalists. With the new prize offered at the YPA, the YMFA is exposed to a whole new audience. We are overjoyed by the opportunity to assist YMFA and Dr. Bresciani OAM with the important support and contribution they give to the Australian cultural landscape.

## **Lili Ussher**

Lili Ussher is a painter and make-up artist based in Sydney. Since 2012 she has provided the **Lili Ussher Prize**, a portrait of the winner of the Marianne Mathy Scholarship in concert dress. Ms. Ussher also provides make-up services to all the Semi-Finalists and Finalists of the IFAC Handa Australian Singing Competition for their appearances on stage in the Competition concerts. Ms. Ussher has been a friend of MOST for a long time, and her ongoing support for the organisation ensures singers are offered a unique and creative prize that they will take with them as they continue to grow their operatic careers. Ms. Ussher's contribution is a great example that support for MOST can come in various forms.

## **Lucienne Radzynski**

Mme. Radzynski is a French teacher based in Sydney. From 2007 she offered private lessons to the winner of her prize in the ASC Semi Finals. The opportunity was known as the Lucienne Radzynski Prize. Since 2013 Mme. Radzynski, along with her family, have provided the **Radzynski Family Prize**, funding for a Semi-Finalist to undertake a course in French at the Alliance Francaise in the singer's city (Australia). The Radzynski Family Prize is a great example of how a prize offered by an individual, can then be embraced by a whole family to ensure its impact continues for many years.



Dr. Di Bresciani OAM, founder of the Youth Music Foundation of Australia, prize-giver at the Opera Awards





## NEWS & EVENTS

# MOST<sup>®</sup>

### **Mathy: The Legacy of Madame Marianne Mathy**

The Australian Singing Competition has now been running under the administration of MOST for thirty-eight years. Our videographer, Adrian Ussher from Ussher Direction, has been working with MOST for many years too, filming the journeys and successes of the talented artists who have moved through our competition.

With the wealth of content captured over the years, and boasting unique origins, Adrian has created a documentary on the Australian Singing Competition and the legendary singing teacher Marianne Mathy-Frisdane, whose legacy formed the impressive Mathy Scholarship which grew into a multitude of other classical and contemporary music initiatives.

### **Establishing The Merenda Foundation**

Throughout 2019, MOST has been working on the establishment of a new enterprise: the Merenda Foundation. For many years, as a long-time supporter of the Australian Singing Competition, Dame Francesca Merenda provided private coaching in Italian as a prize for a Finalist. Later, in honour of her parents, she provided the Merenda Legacy Prize to fund the study of Italian in Italy (a prize that continues to this day). Now, through Dame Merenda's generosity, MOST is working to establish the Merenda Foundation which will focus on providing opportunities for musicians to travel to Italy to study Italian and for Italian musicians to travel to Australia to study English and to share their skills with local artists. This international programme will launch in 2021.



Mme Marianne Mathy-Frisdane



# KEY METRICS

# MOST<sup>®</sup>

## YouTube

We love connecting with our audiences and showcasing the very talented individuals with whom we work. In that spirit, we have engaged professional video and audio recording teams for all our initiatives and share that documentation on our YouTube pages, where our videos have been viewed over 1.5 million times.

Views as of 10/12/2019

**Australian Singing Competition - 1,311,371**

<https://www.youtube.com/user/MOSTgivesmore>

**MasterClass in Opera & Classical Music - 171,701**

<https://www.youtube.com/user/MOSTgivesmore2>

**Australian Cello Awards - 94,458**

<https://www.youtube.com/user/MOSTgivesmore6>

**Music & Opera Singers Trust Ltd - 74,084**

<https://www.youtube.com/user/MOSTgivesmore0>

**Contemporary Section of the Australian Singing Competition - 22,920**

<https://www.youtube.com/user/MOSTgivesmore3>

**Opera Awards - 24,623**

<https://www.youtube.com/user/MOSTgivesmore1>

**Young Performers Awards - 16,575**

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmnUI7W33PDtKiV\\_\\_5mu-\\_g](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmnUI7W33PDtKiV__5mu-_g)

**Rona Tranby Trust - 1,521**

<https://www.youtube.com/user/MOSTgivesmore5>

**Total = 1,717,253 views (up 211,361 from last year)**



Bianca Bacchiella performing at the 2019 IFAC  
Handa Australian Singing Competition  
Finals Concert



# THANK YOU

# MOST<sup>®</sup>

We would like to acknowledge and thank many people and organisations who have joined us in supporting the various levels of activity that has enabled us to have an impacting role on Australia's cultural landscape. The altruism of our patrons, prize sponsors, event sponsors, partners, musicians, musical institutions, volunteers, adjudicators, board members, collaborators, and benefactors who give their time, skills, knowledge and philanthropy keep MOST going.

MOST is a not-for-profit organisation and we are proud to continue our work, ensuring that we maximise opportunities for artists and contestants in our competition. We rely on our community who know that our organisation is a worthwhile cause to participate in and support to ensure its continuity.

## 2019 IFAC Handa Australian Singing Competition

### Patron

Dr. Haruhisa Handa  
International Foundation for Arts and Culture (IFAC)



### Prizes and Prize Sponsors

Adler Buchmann International Program Scholarship; sponsored by Buchmann-Mehta School of Music Tel Aviv University

Audition Prize from Lyric Opera of Chicago's Ryan Opera Centre; sponsored by Lyric Opera of Chicago

Canberra Symphony Orchestra Prize; sponsored by the Canberra Symphony Orchestra

Goethe-Institut Prize; sponsored by the Goethe-Institut Australien

Guildhall School of Music & Drama Award; sponsored by the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, London

Haas Award; sponsored by the Haas Family Trust

International Vocal Arts Institute (AVIA) New York Scholarship; sponsored by AVAI

Istituto Di Cultura Award; sponsored by the Istituto Di Cultura, Sydney



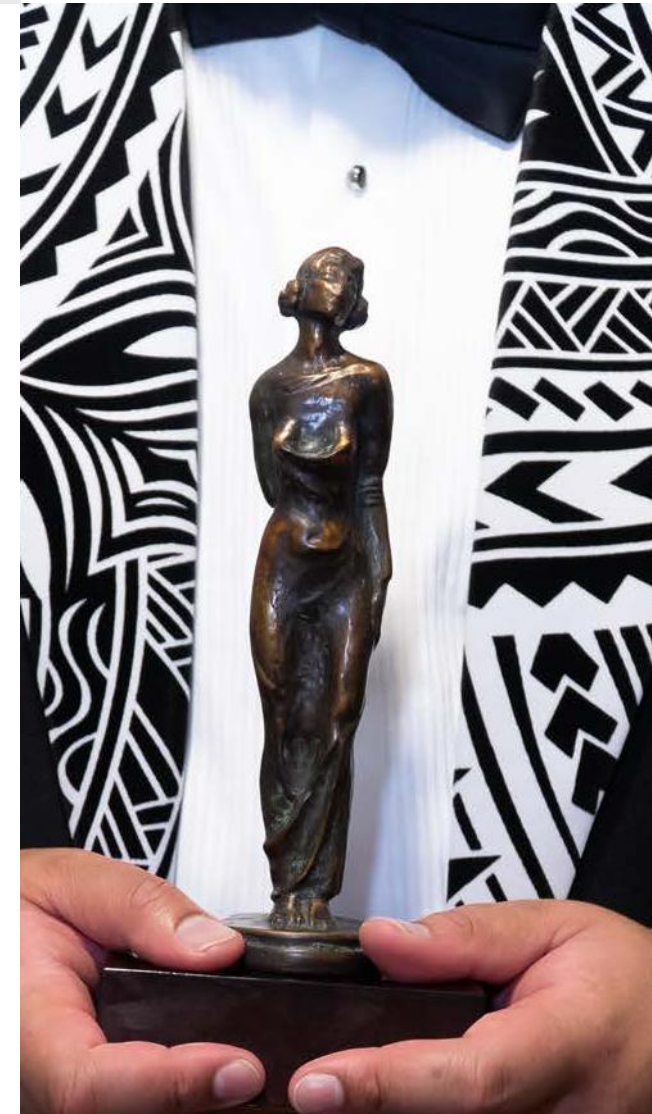
ASC Award Certificates



# THANK YOU

# MOST<sup>®</sup>

Language Course Prize; Provided by Goethe-Institut  
Lili Ussher Prize; sponsored by Lili Ussher  
Marinanne Mathy Scholarship; sponsored by Marianne Mathy Estate  
Marianne Mathy Statuette ('the Mathy'); sponsored by MOST  
Merenda Legacy prize; sponsored by Equity Trustees  
MOST Audience Prize; sponsored by MOST  
Nell Pascall Award; sponsored by the Nell Pascall Estate  
Nelly Apt Scholarship; sponsored by the Israeli Opera and the Nelly Apt Estate  
Noëmi Nadelmann Prize; Provided by Noëmi Nadelmann  
Opera Australia Prize; sponsored by Opera Australia  
Oral History Award; sponsored by Di Ritch  
Pasqualina Lipari Prize; sponsored by V&A Accountants and Business Advisors, Adelaide  
Radzyninski Family Prize; sponsored by the Radzyninski Family  
Royal Northern College of Music Award; sponsored by the Royal Northern College of Music, UK  
Running Bare Prize; sponsored by Running Bare  
Saarbrücken Opera House Prize; sponsored by Saarländisches Staatstheater, supported by Lufthansa  
Sydney Philharmonia Choirs Prize; sponsored by the Sydney Philharmonia Choirs  
Sydney Symphony Orchestra Prize; sponsored by the Sydney Symphony Orchestra  
The Mathy Limited Edition Drago Marin Cherina Statuette; presented by MOST  
Tinkler Encouragement Award; sponsored by the Tinkler Trust



The Mathy Limited Edition Drago Marin  
Cherina Statuette



# THANK YOU

# MOST<sup>®</sup>

## Event Sponsor

Huntington Estate Wines

## Broadcast Partner

ABC Classic FM

## Compère

Camille Merčep (Semi-Finals, MasterClass), Jan Black (Finals)

## Event Support

Hon Boey, Jason Blackwell, John Brock, Nathan Bryon, Michael Burden, Jolen Camilleri, Matthew Dewey, Andrew Edgson, Brooke Green, Cass Lobb, Isabella Moore, André Shrimski, Paul Smith, Simon Tedeschi, Tom Truong, Adrian Ussher, Crestone Wealth Management, Dashing Print, Gridiger Lawyers

## Adjudication Panels

National Adjudicator: Noëmi Nadelmann

NZ Heats: Jessica Duirs, Robert Wiremu

UK Heats: David Harper, Linnhe Robertson

NSW Heats: Judd Arthur, Anke Höppner-Ryan

VIC Heats: Stephen Grant, Richard Mills

QLD Heats: Jan Black, Gregory Massingham, Angus Wood

WA Heats: Chris van Tuinen, Emma Matthews

Semi-Finals: Warwick Fyfe, Joanne Goodman, Dr. Narelle Yeo

Finals: Jeffrey Black, Joanne Goodman, Dr. Narelle Yeo



ASC Semi-Finals and Finals Adjudicators,  
Dr. Narelle Yeo, Joanne Goodman,  
and Noëmi Nadlemann



# THANK YOU

# MOST®

## Australian Friends of Keshet Eilon

### Friends Group Founders

Roland Gridiger, Ilana Gridiger, Jack Ritch, Greg Zeltzer, Vivian Zeltzer, Louise Morris

### Performers

Vadim Gluzman (violin), Clemens Leske (piano)

### Event Support

Gabbie Budai, Yossi Eshed, Amelia Gledhill, Nora Goodridge OAM, Chad Jankz, Jack Ritch, Clemens Leske, Ruth Nathanson, Lilia Makhlina, Nadine Saaks, Gilad Sheba, Dr. Robin Wilson, Keshet Eilon Music Center, Dashing Print, Jewish National Fund (JNF), Sydney Music Promotions

### Donors

Neville Allen

Morris Eskin

Eva Gertler

Nora Goodridge OAM and The Goodridge Foundation

Roland Gridiger OAM and Ilana Gridiger

Dr. Harry Haber

Ian Kern

Robyn Lenn

Barry Pryer

Jack Ritch

Reno Roussos

Norman Sarajinsky

Peter Spiegel

Greg and Vivian Zeltzer



Friends Group Co-Founder Jack Ritch,  
and lauded violinist Vadim Gluzman





# THANK YOU

# MOST<sup>®</sup>

## Rona Tranby Trust

### Rona Tranby Trust Australian Light Horse Project Participants

Judith Ahmat, Elsie Amamoo, Mischa Fisher, Peta Flynn, Adrian Hepi, Terry Hutchinson  
Pastor Ray Minniecon, Ricky Morris, Dr. Doris Paton, John Patten, Emily Roberts, Lance Waters,  
Angela Stanley

### Rona Tranby Trust Australian Light Horse Project Supporters and Sponsors

His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd) Governor of New South Wales,  
Mrs. Hurley, The Honourable Linda Burney MP, The Honourable Dan Tehan MP, Julian Leaser MP,  
Malcolm Turnbull (former Prime Minister of Australia), Kristy Masella, Aunty Ann Weldon, Gideon Pozniak,  
Natalie Abraham, Professor Mick Dodson, Professor John Maynard, Roy Mundine OAM MID,  
Charleene Mundine, Dr. Brendan Nelson, John Pearson, Dr. Chris Clark, Michael Bell, Peter & Gloria Allen,  
Barry Rodgers OAM, Australian Broadcast Corporation (ABC), Australian Department of Veterans' Affairs,  
Australian Light Horse Association, Australian South Sea Islanders (ASSI) Media, Australian War Memorial,  
Centenary of Anzac Jewish Program, Executive Council of Australian Jewry, Jewish National Fund Australia,  
New South Wales Ambulance Band, New South Wales Jewish Board of Deputies,  
New South Wales Jewish War Memorial, Pratt Foundation, Schoulal Family, Serving Our Country Project,  
National Indigenous Television (NITV), Special Broadcasting Service (SBS), Since 1788 Productions,  
Mary-Ellen Mullane, Tanith Glynn-Malone, Tranby National Indigenous Adult Education & Training,  
Deidre Bear, Judith Kaye, John Roth, Roland Gridiger, Sylvia Leaser, Jillian Segal AM



RTT Australian Light Horse Project  
participants Angela Stanley  
and Ray Minniecon



# CORPORATE GOVERNANCE & ADVISORY COMMITTEES

# MOST®

2019 saw some changes to the MOST Board: we were sad to lose an integral member of the Board, David Full, and thank him warmly for his passion and impressive, ongoing support of this organisation. In the interim, MOST® is recruiting new Board Directors, and plans to invite suitable candidates in early 2020.

## Board of Directors

Frank Varapodio - Interim Chairman; Director of V&A Accountants and Business Advisors

Jeffrey Black - Board Member; International operatic baritone

Ilana Gridiger BA, DipEd MA - Board Member; Registered psychologist

Roland Gridiger OAM, LLB, MDR, TEP - Board Member; MOST CEO; Principle of Gridiger Lawyers;  
Trustee of Rona Tranby Trust

## Executive Team

Roland Gridiger OAM - CEO

Amelia Gledhill Ph.D (English) BA Hons. Eng/His - Manager

Meltem Akyol BA (Economics) Dip HR - Events & Communications Coordinator\*

David Langley MA (Cross-Disciplinary Art & Design) BA Eng/Art - Events & Communications Coordinator

Nell O'Grady completing BA (Media and Communications) - Events & Communications Assistant

Kym Yeomans BAcc - Bookkeeper

\*until August 2019



Former Mathy Winner, ASC Guest Artist,  
ASC National Adjudicator, and now MOST  
Board Director, Jeffrey Black



# CORPORATE GOVERNANCE & ADVISORY COMMITTEES

# MOST<sup>®</sup>

*Auditor:* Perks Accountants

*Accountants:* V&A Accountants and Business Advisors

*Financial Advisors:* Crestone Wealth Management

*Legal Representative:* Gridiger Lawyers

## **Advisory Committees**

IFAC Handa Australian Singing Competition:

Jeffrey Black (Chair), Janice Black, Lisa Gasteen AO, Emma Matthews, Patricia Price, Linnhe Robertson

ABC Young Performers Awards:

Nick Bailey, Tim Calnin, Colin Cornish, Matthew Dewey, Catherine Hewgill, Kate Lidbetter, Dene Olding AM, Rodney Phillips (Chair), Mary Vallentine AO, Raff Wilson

## **Trustees of the Rona Tranby Trust**

Roland Gridiger OAM - Representative of the Estate of Thomas Rona

Dr. Belinda Russon (Chair) - CEO of Tranby National Indigenous Adult Education & Training

Jennifer Symonds - Representative of the New South Wales Jewish Board of Deputies



Dr. Belinda Russon, Chair of the Rona Tranby Trust, and RTT Australian Light Horse Project grant recipient, Elsie Amamoo



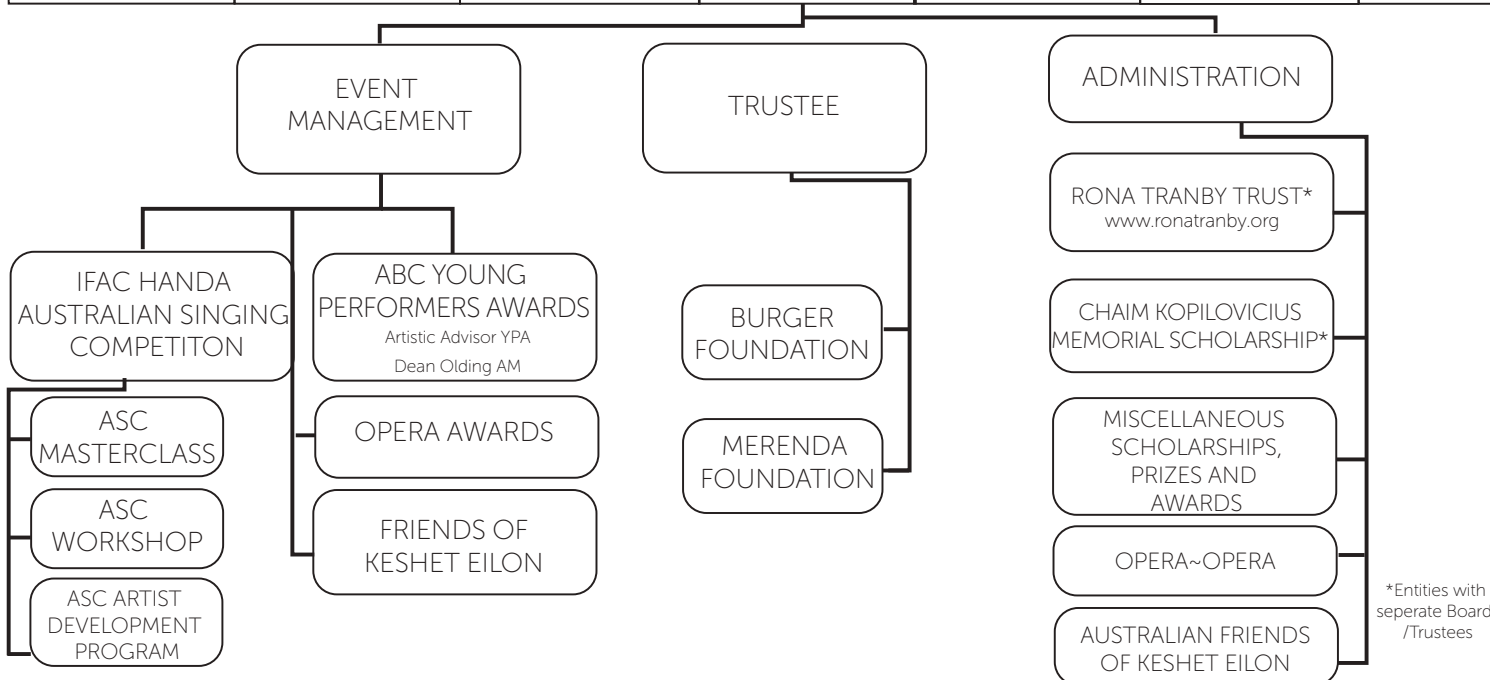
# ORGANISATIONAL FLOW CHART

# MOST<sup>®</sup>

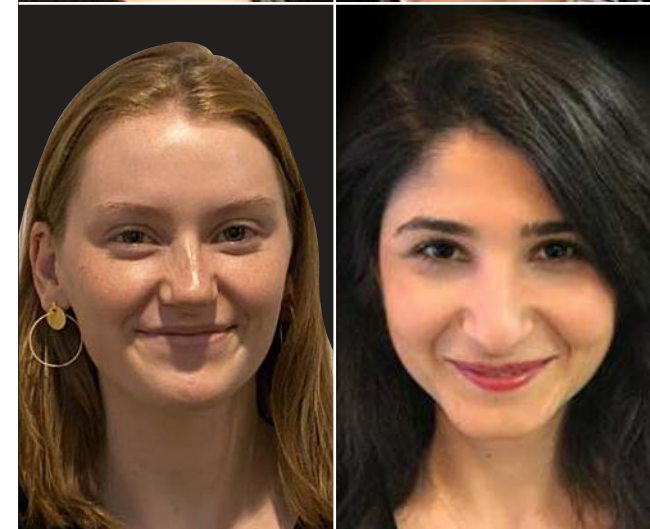
December 2019

**MOST<sup>®</sup>** Music & Opera Singers Trust (MOST)

<b>DIRECTORS</b> Frank Varapodio Jeffery Black Ilana Gridiger Roland Gridiger OAM	<b>CEO</b> Roland Gridiger OAM	<b>STAFF</b> Amelia Gledhill David Langley Nell O'Grady Kym Yeomans	<b>BANK</b> ANZ & Macquarie Bank	<b>FINANCIAL ADVISORS</b> Crestone Wealth Management	<b>ACCOUNTANTS/AUDITOR</b> V&A Accountants / Perks Accountants	<b>IT</b> Peter Nagy My Technology
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\*Entities with separate Boards /Trustees



MOST employees Amelia Gledhill, David Langley, Nell O'Grady, and Meltem Akyol who left the organisation in August 2019



# HOW TO GET INVOLVED

# MOST®

Music & Opera Singers Trust Ltd (MOST®) has the vision, practical knowledge and skills to make a lasting and invaluable cultural legacy for all Australians. To achieve this requires significant resources. In short, we need you! Whether you are an individual, business or company, we would be happy to discuss sponsorship. As a sponsor you can invest in an existing project, or we can help create an activity tailored to a specific area of interest.

What better way to honour your own or the wishes of a loved one than to establish a fund during your lifetime or an ongoing legacy through your Will that targets a specific area of creative or musical interest? MOST is experienced in managing the personal and legal issues involved in the establishment of such programs and bequests and has a strong proven record in the successful implementation of such initiatives.

If you wish to discuss the establishment of a Bequest or Legacy Programme, contact Roland Gridiger at: +61 2 9231 4293 [roland@mostlyopera.org](mailto:roland@mostlyopera.org) or arrange an appointment to meet at Level 4, Culwulla Chambers 67 Castlereagh Street Sydney NSW 2000.

## **Tax deductibility & charitable status -**

Music & Opera Singers Trust Limited (MOST®) is endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient by the Australian Tax Office (Subdivision 20-BA of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997, Item 1 Section 30-15; in Subdivision 30-B; Item 12.1.1 public fund on the register of cultural organisations). Endorsement date: 1 July 2000.



2019 ASC Finalist, Josi-Ann Ellem