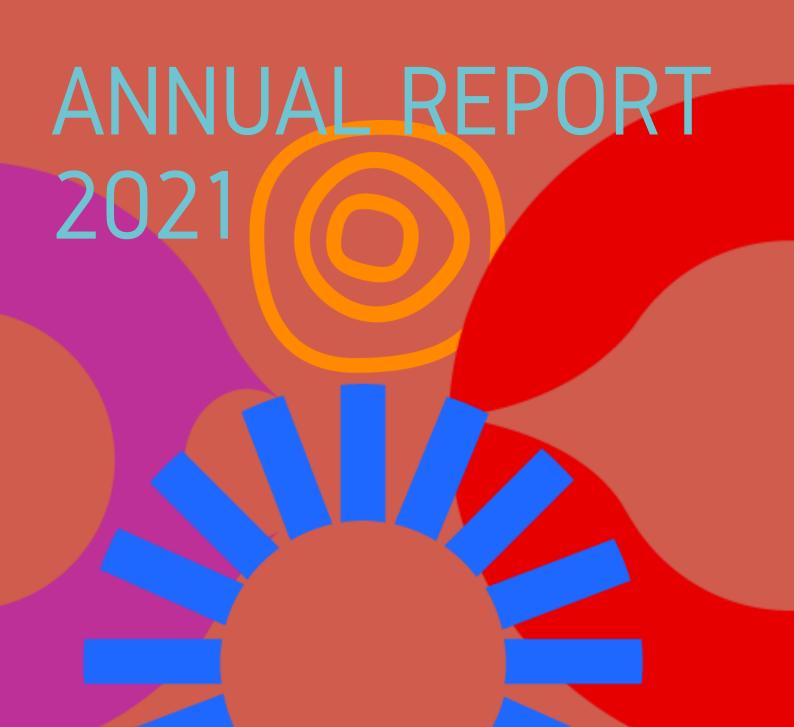
MUSIC & OPERA SINGERS TRUST LTD. MOST*



MOST

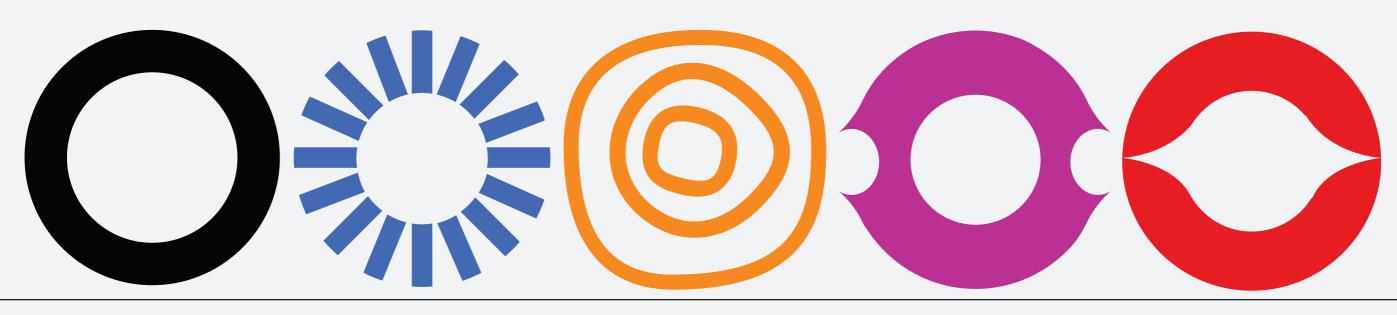
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OUR VISION & MISSION

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.

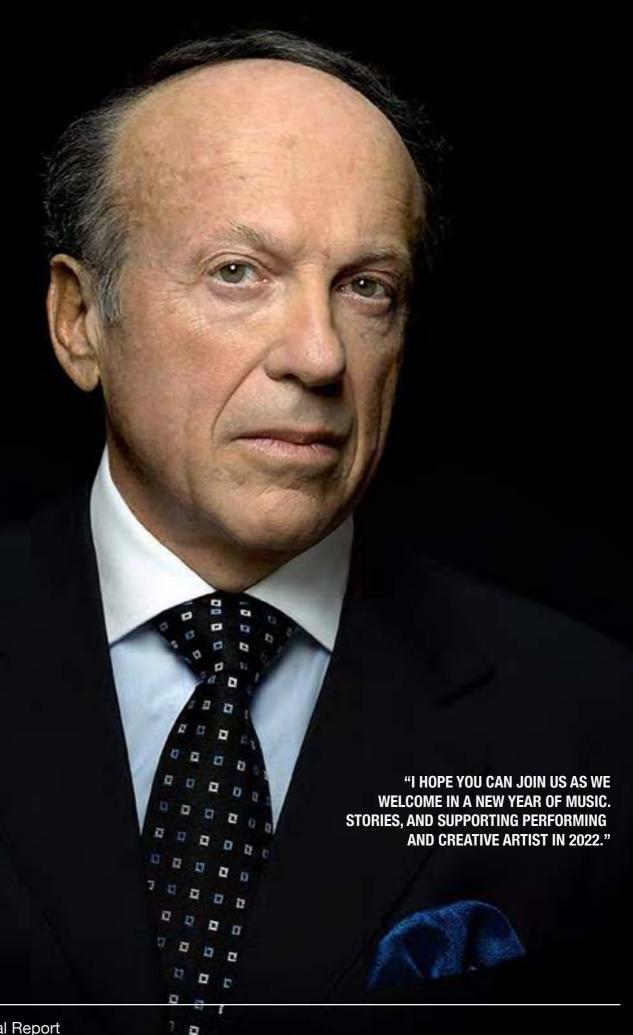
A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

ROLAND E. GRIDIGER OAM

2021 began with such promise: after the lockdowns of the previous year, music was returning to the stage. I was proud that MOST had organised a wonderful array of projects for the year all focused on giving Australia's finest young artists a chance to perform for audiences that were excited to welcome them back. We looked forward to:

- Our first all-digital ABC Young Performers Awards (YPA);
- A rousing return of the IFAC Handa Australian Singing Competition (ASC) culminating in a gala Finals Concert with the Opera Australia Orchestra; the Governor General, His Excellency David Hurley; former Prime Minister, Tony Abbott AC; and other dignitaries in attendance;
- The premiere of the new documentary, "The Legacy of Marianne Mathy" at the Jewish International Film Festival;
- Continuing our work with Freelance Artist Relief Australia; and,
- An exclusive recital for the Australian Friends of Keshet Eilon by rising star, violinist Christian Li

Unfortunately, by July, Covid-19 had once again sent most of Australia back into lockdown and one by one our projects were cancelled or postponed. Despite these disappointments, the MOST Team responded by planning for 2022 with renewed vigour and enthusiasm. We managed to reschedule recording sessions at the ABC for our six incredible Semi Finalists in the YPA despite their demanding performance schedules next year - make sure you have November marked in your diaries to hear their performances when the YPA is broadcast as a featured event in AusMusic Month on ABC Classic. The ASC returns next year with Graham Pushee as National Adjudicator. To make sure those singers who missed out in the past two years are able to compete, we've added 2 years to the eligibility age so the competition is going to be fiercer than ever. Christian Li kindly rescheduled his sold-out recital to March, it will be well worth the wait. The "Legacy of Marianne Mathy" will now premiere in 2022, still at the Jewish International Film Festival. We also conducted a full-scale review and update of our web assets and started planning some secret new projects. Make sure you are subscribed to our newsletter to be the first to hear about them



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The Freelance Artists Relief Fund (FARA) facilitated by Internationally acclaimed Operatic Soprano Nicole Car has shifted focus this year. After distributing hundreds of thousands of dollars to performers left without work by the Covid-19 crisis, the organising committee is busy working on ways that the remaining funds donated can be used to generate performance opportunities for artists. Thanks to the generosity of their donors, and in particular the contribution from the Robert Salzer Foundation, it is hoped that 2022 will see many such performances in the calendar. I am delighted to say that Nicole, who is also one of our laureates having won the Opera Awards in 2012, had the great honour this year of receiving the Chevalier de l'ordre des Arts et des Lettres de la République de Français. A well-deserved acknowledgement of her wonderful career to date.

I hope many of you were able to see 2017 Opera Awards Winner, Adrian Tamburini, when he joined the cast of Platée for Pinchgut Opera this December. 2018 Mathy Winner, Zoe Drummond, has had principal roles with three major companies: Opera Australia, the English National Opera, and Scottish Opera. I was also thrilled to see 2014 Mathy Winner, Isabella Moore, appear on BBC 2 recently when she sang the New Zealand National Anthem at the World Cup qualifying rugby match between the Black Ferns and England. It is always a special pleasure to see our laureates getting the recognition they deserve. You can read more about the achievements of our laureates on page X of this report.

In October, I was pleased to join my fellow Trustees when the Rona Tranby Trust welcomed several Australian Light Horse Project grant recipients to an online reunion on the anniversary of their trip to Israel. It was wonderful to have a yarn and hear all about what our participants have been doing since that memorable trip. The plans to disseminate the Indigenous knowledge and histories that were gathered in that project through a travelling exhibition have gained momentum. The Rona Tranby Trust travelling exhibition will provide Australian primary schools and interested corporations with exhibition set up assistance, as well as digital and physical resources to help engagement with the important ideas about Australia's history and our First Nations people that lie at the heart of the project.

I would like to thank the MOST Board for their ongoing support throughout a difficult year. MOST staff have spent much of the year working from home and I am proud of their adaptability and ability to keep our programs running without interruption. 2021 saw the departure of one of our Events & Communications Officers, Nell O'Grady, who left to start an exciting new career in documentary film making; I wish her well. I was also happy to welcome back David Langley who returned from parental leave.

I hope you can join us as we welcome in a new year of music, stories, and supporting performing and creative artists in 2022.

Adlellyning-



MEET THE BOARD



Chairman

Frank Varapodio is a qualified CA + CPA and Registered Tax Agent. Frank works closely with business owners to ensure their general accounting and taxation affairs are aligned with the strategic goals and vision of the business.



Board Member

Jefrey Black, international operatic baritone for over 30 years, was winner of the Marianne Mathy Singing Competition in 1983. Jeffrey has sat on the Advisory Committee for the Australian Singing Competition since 1984, and has been the National Adjudicator in 2012 and 2014.



Board Member

Ilana Gridiger is a registered Psychologist. Ilana has training and experience in event management. Ilana has also taught languages at both public and private high schools across NSW.



Board Member

A supporter and philanthropist of the arts, Roland Gridiger is also principle of Gridiger Lawyers, where he practicies in estate planning, conveyancing, and asset protection. He is a Full Member of STEP, a worldwide professional association.







In 2021, 64 entrants from Australia entered the IFAC Handa Australian Singing Competition. Numbers were a little lower this year as there were no entries accepted from New Zealand or from eligible singers in the UK due to Covid-19 restrictions on international travel. Graham Pushee returned as National Adjudicator and an impressive line-up of Adjudicators agreed to join him on panels around the country for the Heats. The Finals Concert was due to be staged at The Concourse Concert Hall in Chatswood on the 23rd of October. The Opera Australia Orchestra, under the baton of conductor Maestro Vladimir Fanshil was to accompany Finalists. Governor General, His Excellency David Hurley and Her Excellency Linda Hurley; and former Prime Minister, Tony Abbott AC, were confirmed as special guests for the gala concert. Like so many events this year, just as arrangements were finalised, Covid-19 lockdowns came into effect and it quickly became impossible for the Competition to continue in its traditional format. After discussions with industry professionals to explore the idea of having a digital ASC, it was felt that there was not enough time for the singers to prepare the necessary recordings at a standard befitting a competition of this calibre; therefore, the ASC was cancelled for only the second time in its history. We wish to extend our thanks to all the entrants, adjudicators, event staff and supporters who faced these disappointments with us and offered messages of affirmation and encouragement. We look forward to welcoming you all back in 2022 when the ASC makes a triumphant return. To accommodate those singers who were unable to enter for the past two years, the age limit for 2022 will be raised to 28.

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 entering its fourth decade discovering, rewarding and providing career opportunities to emerging opera and classical singers under the age of 26.









As the 2021 iteration of the ABC Young Performers Awards (YPA) was organised at the peak of the 2020 Covid crisis, MOST decided to pioneer the first-ever fully digital YPA for the safety of all participants. This would also allow us to take the resulting world-class performances to a global audience. The ABC decided to make this innovative new format the featured event of AusMusic Month in November 2021. Following an impressive audition round, the Adjudicators under Chair, Dene Olding AM, chose the following gifted Semi Finalists:

Jason Henery, double bass, NSW Tony Lee, piano, NSW Robbin Reza, piano, NSW Eliza Shephard, flute, VIC Benett Tsai, cello, NSW Edward Walton, violin, VIC

Just as the scheduled Semi Finals and Finals rounds approached, Covid lockdowns returned to Australia and it became necessary to delay the YPA until 2022. All Semi Finalists will now be recording their Semi Final and Finals repertoire next May at ABC recording studios in Sydney and Melbourne. The Adjudication Panel will view their performances in late June to determine the Finalists and, ultimately, the Young Performer of the Year.

The result of their decisions and all other prizes and opportunities will be embargoed until November when the YPA will be broadcast on radio on ABC Classic as a featured event of AusMusic Month. We would like to acknowledge the incredible resilience and adaptability of these young musicians who have remained enthusiastic and committed through many changes.

The next, live, YPA is scheduled to be held in 2024.

History –

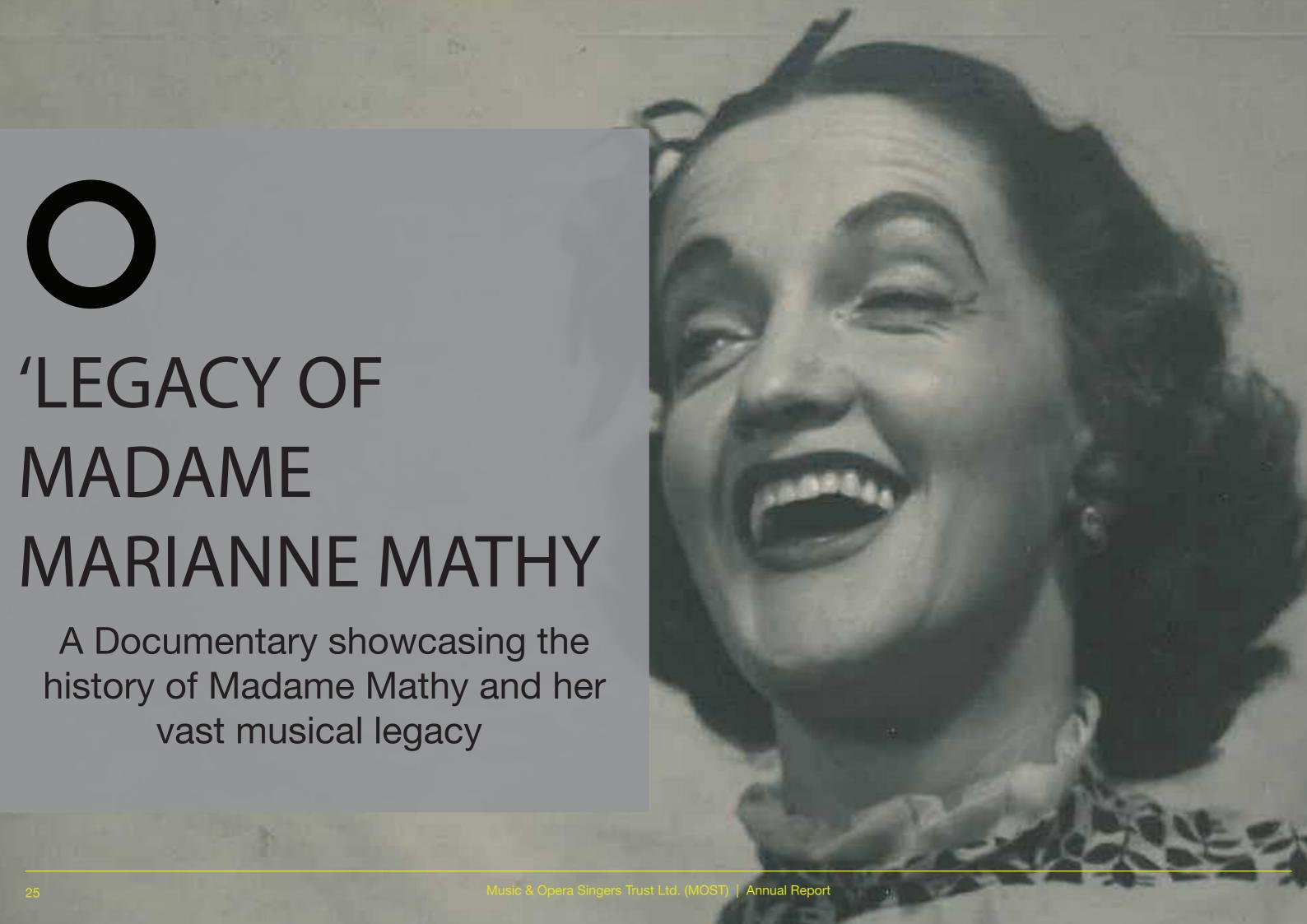
Since 1944, the Young Performers Awards (YPA) have been regarded as Australia's premier national artist development programme for young musicians, instrumentalists and performing artists.

The list of its major prize winners is testament to its success in promoting and nurturing many of the finest musicians in this country who have made an incalculable contribution to our cultural life for over seven decades. We aim to preserve this tradition of excellence, adapting to the demands of the 21st century music industry, and rewarding young performers who represent the pinnacle of Australian music.

As this is a national competition, the typical recipients of the YPA will be those 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 necessary exposure and financial help to advance their careers.









LAUREATES

MOST IOO

Laureates taking their careers to new heights.



1991 Australian Singing Competition Winner, tenor Stuart Skelton, has just had another big year to add his stock of accolades. Stuart was the 2021 featured soloist at the BBC Proms: Last Night of the Proms; the world's largest (and most spirited) classical music festival. Stuart, accompanied by the BBC Symphony Orchestra and BBC Singers, performed live to a packed audience at the Royal Albert Hall, which was broadcast all around the world via TV and radio. Stuart was reported as delivering "thrilling vocal heroics" and having a "magnetic stage presence." One review declared: "Stuart Skelton is one of the great tenors of his generation, a regular in all the major international opera houses."

It has also just been announced that Stuart has just been selected to lead the University of Cincinnati Conservatory of Music's internationally renowned opera department. Stuart's appointment is as the conservatorium's new J. Ralph Corbett Distinguished Chair in Opera.



In 2017 Uncle Ray Minniecon was awarded a Rona Tranby Award & Collection grant to not only attend the Charge of Beersheba Centenary Commemorative Ceremonies in Israel, but also to return to Israel a year later to attend the 101-year Commemoration Ceremonies for the Charge of Semakh (Tzemach) and the unveiling of a statue depicting an Indigenous Light Horse soldier who fought in the Sinai-Palestine conflict during WW1.

In 2021 Uncle Ray was as busy as ever in his fight for Reconciliation across Australia. Uncle Ray was featured on ABC's Radio National calling for more support as he works to combat vaccine misinformation in First Nations communities. He continues to organise and lead the Coloured Diggers March on Anzac Day, highlighting the historical and current military service of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women. Uncle Ray also attended COP26 representing the Indigenous People's Organisation (IPO) to shed light on not only the issue of environmental degradation of the planet, but also the related human rights abuses against Indigenous people globally that accompany environmental destruction.



2003 Australian Singing Competition Winner, soprano Jessica Pratt, has had a busy year on the world's most important opera stages. Jessica made the most of the beginning of 2021 by participating in Donizetti's Linda di Chamounix presented at Teatro del Maggio. Reviewers noted that her performance as Linda showcased "flawless high notes and a beautiful legato." Jessica then starred as Elvira in I Puritani at Teatro Dell'Opera Roma, as Donna Anna in Don Giovanni at Teatro Petruzzelli, and then returned to the role of Linda in Linda Di Chamounix when it was presented at Opera Di Firenze. Jessica then played Olympia, Antonia, Giulietta, and Stella in Offenbach's Les Contes d'Hoffmann presented in Bilbao, Spain, and is closing out the year by playing the Fairy Godmother in Massenet's Cendrillon staged at the Metropolitan Opera in New York. Starting 1 January 2022, Jessica and the amazing Metropolitan Opera production of Cendrillon can be caught in selected cinemas around the world. It looks like 2022 will be another strong year for our powerhouse soprano!



At age 16 in 2014 violinist Grace Clifford won the ABC Young Performers Awards. Since then, she has gone from strength to strength performing concertos with Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Melbourne Chamber Orchestra, Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, Western Australia Symphony Orchestra, Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, Canberra Symphony Orchestra, and the Malaysian Philharmonic. Her 2021 season highlights included returns to Sydney, Adelaide, Melbourne and Western Australian Symphony Orchestras and her debut with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra.

Grace's dedication to chamber music is also appreciated by national audiences as she tours yearly with Selby and Friends and performing at the Australian Festival of Chamber Music. 2022 will see Grace make her debut with Musica Viva.

KEY METRICS



We love connecting with our audiences and showcasing the very talented individuals with whom we work. In that spirit, we have engageed professional video and audio recording teams for all our initiatives and share that documentation on all our YouTube pages, where our videos have been viewed over 2 million times. We also love connecting with and informing our audiences through our social media channels.

Metrics as of 20 December 2021:

YouTube



Australian Singing Competition - 1,556,604 views Subscribers - 1,930

MOST - 94,842 views Subscribers - 100

Opera Awards - 30,572 views Subscribers - 77

MasterClass in Opera & Classical Music - 202,183 views Subscribers - 1,370

Australian Singing Competition (Contemporary) - 25,344 views Subscribers - 40

Rona Tranby Award & Collection - 1,901 views Suscribers - 13

Australian Cello Awards - 103,444 views Suscribers - 261

ABC Young Performers Awards - 27,486 views Subscribers - 101

Total number of views = 2,042,376 (246,019 views in 2021) Total number of subscribers = 3,892

Facebook



Australian Singing Competition

@AusSingComp

2,933 Followers

Music & Opera Singers Trust @MostGivesMore 217 Followers

Australian Cello Awards @CelloAwardsAustralia 508 Followers

Rona Tranby Award & Collection @RonaTranby 121 Followers

YoungPerformers Awards
@YoungPerformers Awards
541 Followers

Total number of Followers = 4,320

Twitter



Australian Singing Competition @AusSingComp 402 Followers 414 Following

Music & Opera Singers Trust @mostly_opera 34 Followers 71 Following

Rona Tranby Award & Collection @RonaTranby 7 Followers 31 Following

Young Performers Awards
@YPAwards
71 Followers
68 Following

Total number of Followers = 514

Instagram



Australian Sing Competition
@aussingcomp
532 Followers
483 Following

Music &Opera Singers Trust @mostlyopera 240 Followers 97 Following

ABC Young Performers Awards
@youngperformersawrds
455 Followers
208 Following

Total number of Followers = 1,227

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES



Board of Directors

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

Jeffrey Black - Board Member; International operatic baritone, vocal consultant and voice teacher

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 PhD. (English BA Hons. Eng/His - Manager David Langley M.A Art & Design, B.A English & Art - Events & Communications Kym Yeomans BAcc - Bookkeeper

Auditor: Perks Accountants

Accountants: V&A Accountants and Business Advisors Financial Advisors: Principal Edge Financial Services

Legal Representative: Gridiger Lawyers









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

Dr. Belinda Russon (Chair) - ČEO of Tranby National Indigenous Adult Education & Training Roland Gridiger OAM - Representative of the Estate of Thomas Rona Dr. Lisa Sarzin - Representative of the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies

THANK YOU FROM MOST

We would like to acknowledge and thank many people and organisations who have joined us in supporting the various levels of activities 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 competitions. We rely on our community who know that our organisation is a worthwhile cause to participate in and support to ensure its continuity.

IFAC Handa Australian Singing Competition

Patron:

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

National Adjudicator: Graham Pushee

Rona Tranby Trust

Trustees:
Dr. Belinda Russon
Roland Gridiger OAM
Dr. Lisa Sarzin

Australian Friends of Keshet Eilon

Committee:
Dr. Ian Kern
Roland Gridiger OAM
Ilana Gridiger
Jack Ritch
Dr. Ruth Safier
Greg Zeltzer
Vivian Zeltzer

ABC Young Performers Awards

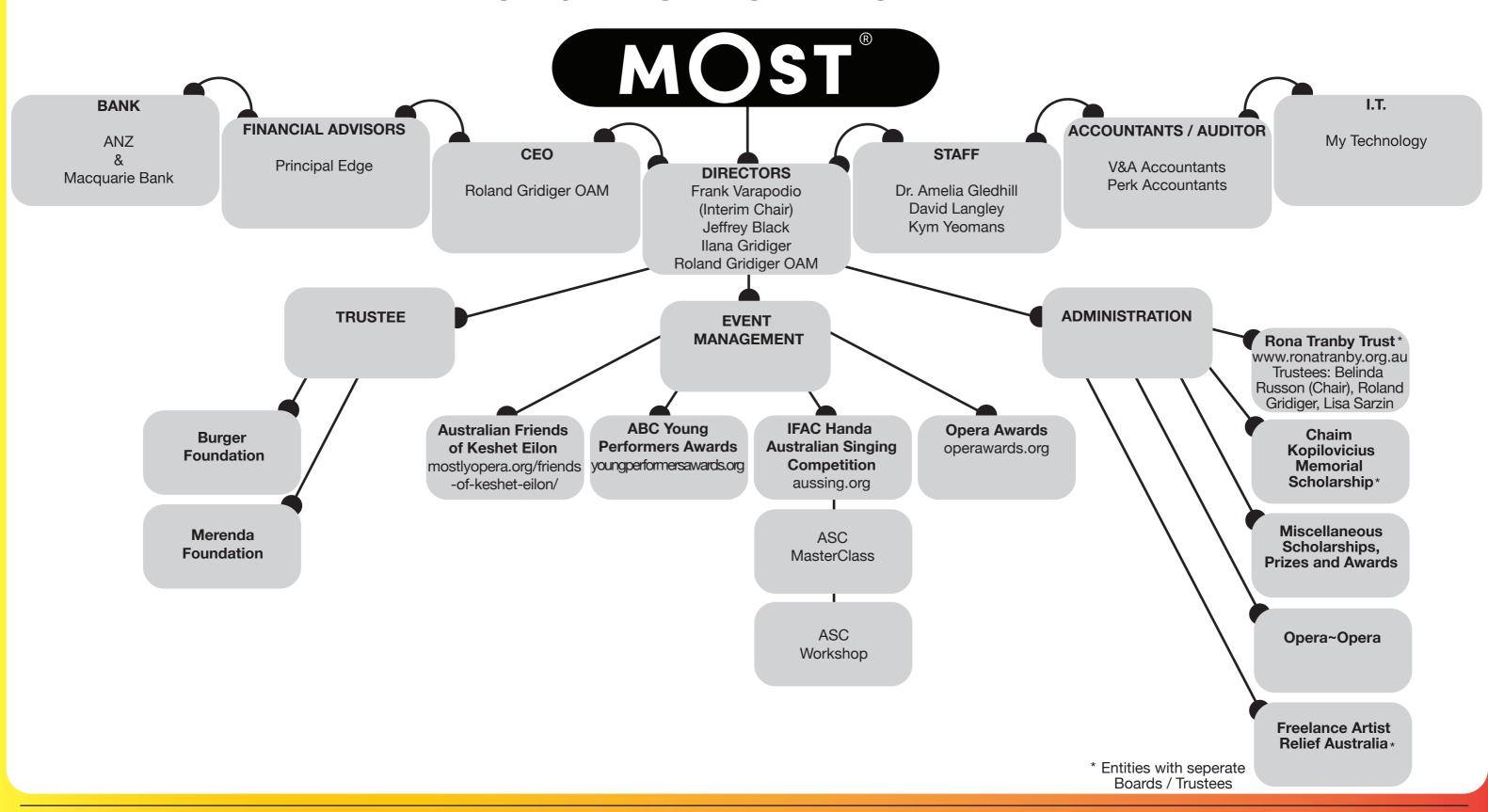
Broadcast Partner: ABC Classic

Artistic Advisor: Dene Olding AM

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



MUSIC & OPERA SINGERS TRUST LTD. ORGANISATIONAL CHART





HOW TO GET INVOVLED

Supporting MOST Ensures The Advancement Of Australian Artists And Cultural Eminence



