



8 November 2013

Dear fellow accompanists and Guild members

It seems like ages since I compiled the previous President's Newsletter, yet only 4 months have passed since it was written in July! The AGM of the Guild was held in August this year (earlier than usual owing to your President being away overseas in September). I would like to take this late opportunity to thank sincerely all members who took the time to attend it. It was a relief to have achieved a quorum with a reasonable number of people in attendance. I was elected to the same position for another year (without much competition!) but regretfully we farewelled three members of the Committee who resigned from their position, including our able Treasurer, Laurel Muirhead. Instead we welcomed Tertia Hogan who has kindly taken over the "job" of Treasurer, and are pleased to have Kylie Los and Catherine Stirling as new Committee members. A new "family" who will continue to guide the Guild to further progress and success!

One of the most problematic issues encountered by accompanists, has to do with playing for Eisteddfods. Many of us have often been asked to accompany candidates privately, but faced with the prospect of waiting almost indefinitely before they appear at their session - and then not knowing how much to charge for 3 minutes' work and a lot of wasted time! One step in the right direction has been taken by the Vocal Section of the Brisbane Eisteddfod, which is in consultation with the Guild with a view to appoint an official accompanist - paid by the Eisteddfod - for the whole duration of their sessions (rehearsals would be a private financial arrangement with the soloist). This would be a blessing for those involved with this type of accompanying, so let's hope that the idea will be implemented, and resolve at last the delicate matter of fees. The instrumental sections also need to get their act together and follow suit. It will then be a much improved situation.

Next year 2014 will see the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Accompanists Guild ... How time flies! ... It was in April 1994 that a group of Brisbane pianists/accompanists proposed to establish an association which would "promote the practice and study of the art of accompaniment" - and so gave birth to the "Accompanists Guild of Queensland". The original executive consisted of Kevin Power (President), Sue Witham (Secretary), Rita Miles (Treasurer) with Lynne Jordan and Regis Danillon as Committee members. The present Committee will endeavour to celebrate this milestone next year and we hope that a suitable function can take place to commemorate this important event. We welcome warmly ideas and suggestions from members as to what form our 20<sup>th</sup> birthday should take!

Before then, of course, summer holidays are coming and will give us a chance to rest our over-worked fingers. With this in mind, we wish everyone a relaxing time before waking up again in a couple of months ... All the best!

Regis Danillon - President  
Accompanists Guild of Queensland Inc.