



12 March 2014

Dear fellow accompanists and Guild members

Welcome to the first President's Newsletter for 2014. I hope that everyone is ready to be in party mood as the Accompanists' Guild of Queensland celebrates 20 years of existence! Yes, it was in 1994 that the Guild was formed, and we are still raising the flag for recognition and support in the art of Accompaniment! The Guild has come a long way since its courageous beginnings and eight presidents later, we will endeavour to blow our 20 candles in a significant way.

We have already planned 2 major events for this year, and I urge every accompanist to support them in recognition of all the efforts the Committee is putting on to create something special.

(1) There will be a **20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Dinner** to be held on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May, in the presence of our illustrious Patron, Piers Lane. "Capturing" Piers is not easy these days, and he has kindly agreed to join us at this event, following on from his Brisbane performances of "Admission: one shilling", the show that he is touring nationally with actress Patricia Routledge. The Brisbane performances are on 9 and 10 May at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre (see the [QPAC website](#) for details). Invitations to the Dinner will be sent to members very soon. We will need a minimum number of guests for this Dinner to go ahead. I therefore *implore* members not to disappoint us and consider strongly your attendance to make this a great success!

(2) Following its very successful initial presentation last year, The Guild will hold its second **Master Class for Young Accompanists** on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August. This year's Guest Teacher is flautist Jeanine Grantham, from the Queensland Symphony Orchestra, who will focus on "Accompanying for Flute". Janine has a great interest in solo flute work, and we look forward to her contribution. If any of our members know of potential candidates able to take part in this Master Class, please encourage them to apply. This is a unique opportunity to perform with a *professional* soloist who will coach them and comment on their performance. Applications forms will be available shortly and sent to all members.

There are other ongoing issues that your Committee is still attending to, including a revision of the Constitution and updating of the Guild's logo. This is the year the Guild also offers its special biennial encouragement prizes to Queensland Eisteddfods, who award them to deserving young accompanists. We will also place an advertisement in the programme of this year's Queensland Vocal Competition as we did last year, hoping to generate some work for our members.

In concluding, we welcome the new pianists who have joined the Guild since the AGM and trust that their time with us will be rewarding.

See you all at the Celebration Dinner!

Regis Danillon - President

Accompanists Guild of Queensland Inc.