

Musica! 2015 Artists

DEBORAH CHEETHAM OA

Yorta Yorta Soprano, composer and educator, Deborah has established her place as an artist in great demand. Since her international debut in 1997 she has performed in theatres and concert halls of Europe, the United States, the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Australia.

In 2007, Deborah was awarded a prestigious Fellowship from the ATSC Board of the Australia Council for the Arts. This allowed her to create Australia's first Indigenous opera, Pecan Summer followed by the establishment of the Short Black Opera Company, devoted to the development of Indigenous opera singers.

In the 2014 Queen's Birthday Honours List, Deborah was appointed as an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO), for distinguished service to performing arts as an opera singer, composer and artistic director, for the development of Indigenous artists, and for innovation in performance.



MONICA TRAPAGA

One of Australia's most successful and versatile celebrities Monica's vast array of talents have ensured she remains a favourite among the pre-school set, while continuing to delight adult audiences across the nation as an elite jazz singer, host, MC, television personality, and entertainer.

Monica enjoyed monumental success in the early 90's with her band 'Monica and the Moochers' and her critically acclaimed album releases 'Too Darn Hot' and 'Cotton On The Breeze'. In 2003, she independently released 'Girl Talk', recorded by her 5 piece band, 'Monica Trapaga and the Bachelor Pad'.

'Sugar' is her latest cd release featuring her favourite collection of 1920's and 30's tunes, performed with Australia's leading Jazz musicians, Bob Barnard, David Seidel, Peter Locke, Andrew Dickeson, Paul Furniss and David Blenkhorn.



CLAIRE MUNTING

Dutch mezzo soprano Claire Munting, is currently residing in Australia. She studied voice at the Royal Conservatory of The Hague. After her graduation, she was a soloist with the opera ensemble, 'Della Casa' which travelled throughout the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, England and France performing at venues including the Royal Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Jahrhundert Halle in Frankfurt and at St. James' Palace in London for the Royal Family.

Claire has worked with several well known orchestras and ensembles such as the Britten Pears Baroque Orchestra, the Con Brio Orchestra, the Colla Voce ensemble, and the NoordHollands Symphony Orchestra. Having a great love for Lieder, she has given many song recitals in theatres throughout the Netherlands and performed at the prestigious Grachtenfestival of Amsterdam in 2008 and 2010. In 2013 she was invited to give a recital in New York at the Netherlands Club, performed at Queensland's Parliament House, and was both soloist and vocal coach for the Queensland Music Festival's production of 'Boomtown'.



HANS SCHELLEVIS

Following his training as a pianist at the conservatories of Amsterdam and The Hague, Hans made his name as an accompanist for both instrumentalists and vocalists and played recitals in Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Czech Republic, Denmark, Norway, Great Britain and the United States.

As repetitor, Hans was appointed to the ZaterdagMatinee from 2001-2013, where he worked with many renowned musicians such as Antonio Pappano, Frans Bruggen, Philip Herreweghe, Anne Sofie von Otter, Ian Bostridge, Matthias Goerne and Nicolai Ghiaurov. As score editor he works for companies as ZaterdagMatinee (Donizetti: Caterina Cornaro) and Opera Rara in London (Mercadante: Virginia and Donizetti: Parisina). Presently, he is producing a critical edition of Maometto secondo for Bärenreiter's Rossini Edition. Bärenreiter has since requested Hans to edit several more scores that will be published in 2015/16. Besides being a pianist, repetitor and score editor, Hans has recently started a career as a conductor and has led several very successful opera productions.



JESSICA JOHNSON (ACCOMPANIED BY MARCEL RINGUET)

Born and raised in Gladstone and a descendant of the local Gooreng Gooreng people, Jessica is an immensely talented singer and songwriter. She was a soloist and featured artist in the Queensland Music Festival's 2013 production of 'Boomtown'. Following this, she was twice invited to perform alongside the legendary James Morrison.

Her repertoire consists of traditional Aboriginal songs and contemporary compositions. Jessica has performed as lead singer in many bands such as 'Kambala' and 'The Blaq Pearlz' and has also released a self composed song, 'You Bring Joy' which was part of a compilation of songs by Indigenous artists.



BRENT LANZON

As a lyric tenor, Brent has had a long career in locally produced musicals and light operas, generally playing a lead role. He can swing with ease between the discipline required for formal stage work to rhythm and blues, jazz, soul and rock as front man for local big band 'The Corporates' and cover band 'Swim'.

Brent is currently strengthening his formal voice training with Michael C. Smith in Sydney.

