

MEDIA RELEASE

August 19, 2011

Young Australian Soprano Wins International Prize

Australian opera singer Siobhan Stagg looks set for international stardom after winning two major prizes at a prestigious aria competition held in Austria last week.

Ms Stagg was announced the winner of the Meistersinger Vocal Competition as well as the coveted Orchestra and Audience Favourite prize last Friday. The 23 year old from Mildura has spent the last 8 weeks studying at the American Institute of Musical Studies (AIMS) Summer School in Austria as part of an Opera Foundation Australia study scholarship.

“An international competition like the Meistersinger can be a good way to break into the European opera scene,” said Ms Stagg.

“Several agents were on the panel and in the audience, so I now have somewhere to start when I head back over next year. It’s good to know I’m on the right path”

Siobhan, a current Master of Music student of the University of Melbourne’s Conservatorium of Music, credits a large part of her blossoming professional singing career to the support and practical career training and assistance she has received from organisations such as the Dame Nellie Melba Opera Trust, the University of Melbourne and the Opera Foundation Australia.

“I wouldn’t have achieved any of this without the support of a few key parties - particularly the Dame Nellie Melba Opera Trust, who laid the groundwork in my training and nurtured my professional development,” said Siobhan.

“The support of Opera Foundation Australia has also been pivotal in my success as they supported my first venture into the international opera scene.”

Amy McPartlan, General Manager of the Dame Nellie Melba Opera Trust, said it was always Dame Nellie’s vision to support the development of young opera singers with exceptional promise ‘in the hope that another Melba may rise’.

“Siobhan has been the recipient of the Amelia Joscelyne Scholarship with the Melba Opera Trust for the last three years, and her development over that period of time has been remarkable,” said Ms McPartlan.

“She has thrived on the intensive training her scholarship funding has provided, and has made the most of every networking opportunity afforded to her by our Mentor Program. Siobhan’s recent achievements are exactly what Dame Nellie Melba would have hoped the Trust would inspire and support.”

Director of the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, Professor Gary McPherson said, “we are thrilled that Siobhan has won this prestigious award which will open doors for her on

the world stage. Her achievements serve as an example for the many other Australian singers who have a talent that is equal to any internationally.”

Siobhan studies voice with international soprano Rosamund Illing and renowned educator Dermot Tutty.

From undergraduate degree and Masters, to a tailored program focused on promoting a strong foundation for a young singers in Australia, to winning an international scholarship and triumphing abroad – Siobhan’s path to international success has been and continues to be well supported by a combination of Australian arts and learning organizations.

“Siobhan’s European success is a shining example of how three complementary organisations can work together to support each and every stage of a young singer’s professional development,” said Ms McPartlan.

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MEDIA INTERVIEWS AND IMAGES

Interviews with Siobhan Stagg, current Dame Nellie Melba Opera Trust Recipient and Amy McPartlan, general manager of the Dame Nellie Melba Opera Trust, can be arranged upon request.

High res images of Siobhan Stagg are also available – please contact us as per below details.

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