



Singing Strong

Newsletter 2017

www.singingstrong.com.au

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WHAT'S ON IN 2018

Singing success in the Singing Strong Studio in 2017

by Mary Mirtschin



As we come to the close of another year I wanted to reflect on what has been happening in the Singing Strong Voice Studio as well as the successes with students in their many performing ventures.

It has been a busy year for me working with nearly 50 students, both the young and young at heart.

I absolutely love teaching and it has been such a thrill for me to see the singing skills develop and improve over the year.

The one thing that keeps being reinforced to me is that those who put in the hard work achieve the greatest results. Too often people think you are born with a gift or it just comes naturally and I agree some people have a greater desire than others. But singing is like any skill, you have to keep practicing to improve. So keep singing!

Congratulations to all students who kick started the year participating in the fun pantomime "The Princess and the Pirate"



Zahra and Emily

Singing Strong at the recording studio



Ella



Zoii



Rose



Ellia



Carolyn



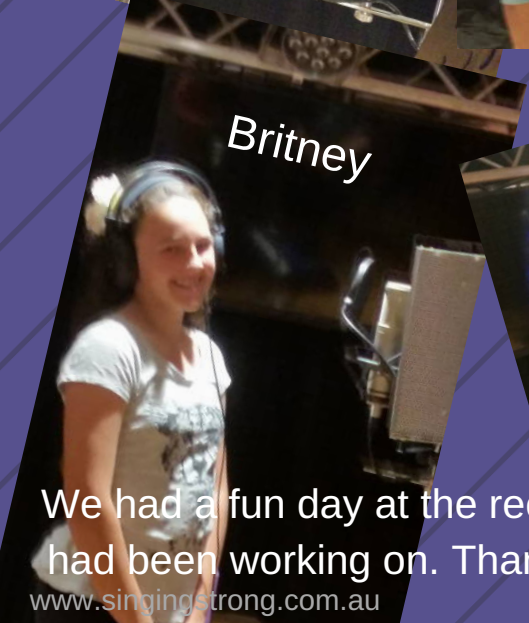
Alicia



Tash



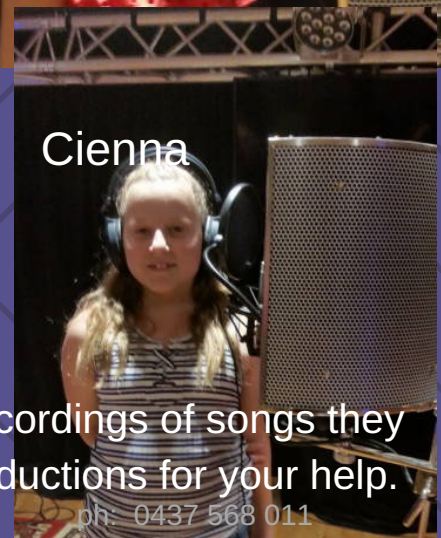
Sanya



Britney



Bryce



Cienna

We had a fun day at the recording studio. Students made recordings of songs they had been working on. Thanks Brett Tippet at Spectrum Productions for your help.

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Cafe concert

In term 2 Singing Strong once again held a cafe concert at Dal Mondo cafe. This is always a great opportunity for singers to perform in a friendly environment. Congratulations to Karla Murdoch on her solo debut.



Karla singing "My Favourite Things"



The Townsend brothers singing "Jailhouse Rock"

Workshop with Kerryn Lockhart

In May my good friend and very talented performer and teacher Kerryn Lockhart visited Singing Strong at the Latrobe Performing Arts Centre, Traralgon to share her knowledge with us about performing and auditions and answered a variety of questions from students. After an hour long lecture students were able to work with Kerryn in a masterclass to focus on skills.



Kerryn was very impressed with the standard of singing from students and gave some very positive feedback. Her focus was on developing the belting technique which was very interesting to listen to.

Shows that Singing Strong students have been involved in 2017

It has been amazing the number of shows students have been involved in this year. Some students have participated in as many as 4 shows! That is an incredible effort. Here are a couple of highlights for the year.

Emma Brinker-Ritchie was the lead role in Sale's production of "Alice in Wonderland."



Sebastian Poole was the lead role in Latrobe Theatre Company's production of "Oliver". He was recognized for his performance with a nomination for most outstanding Youth Performance Male from the Gippsland Associated Theatre Awards. Congratulations Sebastian.

Congratulations to Carolyn Crisp (Cinderella), Emily Williams (Jack's mother) and Rose Mirtschin (Rapunzel) who all performed brilliantly in Class Act Productions "Into the Woods". All three girls also successfully auditioned to travel to New York in Feb 2018 to perform with Manhattan Concert Productions at Carnegie Hall.



Rose



Carolyn



Emily

Congratulations to Tyrah Read (Teen Fiona, Red Riding Hood), Chantal Patton (the wicked witch), Hollie Gibson (Baby Bear), Britney Nellthorpe (Guard) and Natasha Murcott (fairytale creature) for their terrific performance in Shrek Jnr. It was lots of fun!





What is AMEB?

The Australian Music Examinations Board AMEB provides syllabuses and graded examinations for a wide range of musical instruments, music theory, singing, speech and drama. AMEB Victoria's commitment to quality means that teachers and students are assured of the highest possible standard of syllabuses and examination programs.

In the singing stream there are 3 types of Singing Exams:

1. Classical Singing
2. Singing for leisure (this includes classical, music theatre, jazz and pop)
3. Musical Theatre (this is a new exam, now in its second year)

Singing exams are great for work on technical skills, learning repertoire and seeing what areas of singing needs more work.

They also give students a goal to aim for.



Congratulations to the following students who successfully completed singing exams in 2017

Cienna Pepper: Singing for Leisure Preliminary

Zoe McDonald: Singing for Leisure Preliminary

Zahra Hanratty: Musical Theatre Grade One

Natasha Murcott: Singing for Leisure Grade Two

Ella Brent: Singing for Leisure Grade Three

Emma Brinker-Ritchie: Musical Theatre Grade Three

Carolyn Crisp: Musical Theatre Grade Five

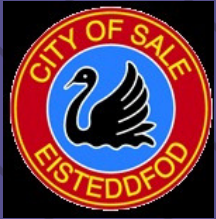
Alicia Hooimeyer: Classical Singing Grade Six

If you would like to complete a singing exam in 2018 please let me know.

Link to ameb Victoria website: <http://ameb.unimelb.edu.au/>

EISTEDDFODS

Congratulations to all the students who participated in the following Eisteddfods



Cienna Pepper
Claudia Said
Rose Mirtschin



Sophia Patikisa

Britney Nellthorpe



Emma Brinker-Ritchie
Zoe McDonald



Latrobe Valley Eisteddfod Inc.

Britney Nellthorpe
Hollie Gibson
Rose Mirtschin
Ella Hill
Alicia Hooimeyer
Zahra Hanratty

Cienna Pepper
Monique Hastie
Zoi Kyriacou
Ella Brent
Sanya Palta



Congratulations to
Cienna Pepper who was
guest soloist for
David Hobson



FROM BACH TO BING"
A Christmas to remember
DAVID HOBSON and GEORGIA WILKINSON

VCE Contemporary Voice Popular

Congratulations to the following students who completed their exams for VCE this year:

Sophia Patikisa

Emily Williams

Chantal Patton

I would also like to acknowledge Samantha Vasquez who prepared for her exam.

I wish them all the very best in whatever pursuit they continue to follow.

It is with much sadness that I say goodbye to Sophia Patikisa as she will be moving to Melbourne next year for study. Sophia has been having singing lessons with me since year 7 and she is not only a superb musician but also a beautiful person. I know we will still see each other and I wish you all the best as you move on to the next stage in your life. Keep singing!



I was fortunate to travel to Perth in November to attend the graduation concert of past student Lauren Burns. Lauren has just completed her studies in classical singing at Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts. She has also been accepted into honors year at Melbourne University in 2018. Congratulations Lauren!

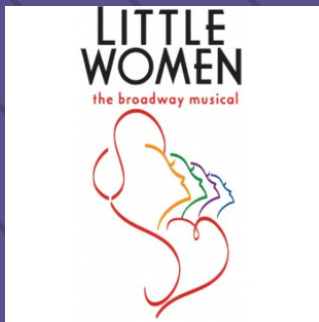
Some personal highlights

The Latrobe Choral

Some of you may not realise that I work a lot with community and school choirs. I am currently musical director of The Latrobe Choral. In June this year we performed Brahms's Requiem. This is a beautiful oratorio and I was fortunate not only to conduct the choir but also managed to sing the soprano solo.

I also conduct St Paul's junior show choir and this year was very satisfied to gain first place at the Latrobe Valley Eisteddfod in the Primary Choral Section. They also performed at a number of events throughout the year.

I teach music at Flinders Christian Community College. I had so much fun working with the primary school to put on the musical "Good Kings come in small packages".



PUTTING ON A SHOW!

Little Women

It has always been a dream of mine to put on a musical.

Two years ago I heard the song "Astonishing" from the musical "Little Women". I had loved this story as a child and when I heard that it had been made into a musical I knew I just had to do it. Two years later I achieved my dream and at the end of October had the privilege of seeing this show come to life. With a brilliant cast and directing team, "Little Women" was a great success with a wonderful response from the audience.

It was also a delight to see my daughter Rose play the role of Beth so beautifully, receiving a GAT nomination for her efforts. I am most grateful to the Latrobe Valley community who were only too happy to help whenever I asked for it and also to the audience for coming along to see the show.

"Little Women" was nominated for 11 GAT awards, something to very proud of. It was wonderful to see Tayla Gane receive an award for most outstanding female actor in a musical and Lawrie Fildes for most outstanding cameo performance. We also received a judges award for our efforts. Well done to all involved.



Cast and crew at the Gippsland Associated Theatre Awards

What's on in 2018?

The Singing Strong voice studio resumes lessons from Monday 29th January.

Please note that I will be absent from Wednesday 14th February to Wednesday 28th February as I will be travelling with my daughter Rose to New York.

Term One 2018: 8 week term Monday 29th Jan - Thursday 29th March

Term Two 2018: 11 week term Monday 16th April - Friday 29th June
Students are required to attend 10 lessons in term 2.

Term Three 2018: 10 week term Monday 16th July to Friday 21st September

Term Four 2018: 9 week term Monday 8th October to Friday 7th December

Songs from the movies

This concert will take place in term One 2018.
Date to be confirmed.



Singing Workshops to take place each term. Dates to be confirmed.

Term 2: Cafe Concert.
Sale Eisteddfod

Term 3: Cafe Concert
Warragul Eisteddfod
Yarram Eisteddfod
Latrobe Valley Eisteddfod

Term 4: AMEB exams
End of year recital

