



THE SOUTH WEST
OPERA COMPANY INC.

A PROFILE AND CV OF SWOC 1996 - 2019

The South West Opera Company is the leading Opera Company based in the South West Region of WA. With an enviable track record in producing quality performances in Opera, Operetta and Musical Theatre the Company has a history which spans more than 32 years.

The South West Opera Company (Inc) known as SWOC, is a community membership based performing arts group. A Not-for-Profit incorporated body, SWOC operates with a volunteer Board of Management. Membership of the Board includes experienced professionals and business operators as well as individuals with great experience in the Performing Arts.

The Mission Statement for the Company is **'To produce and perform high standard, quality Classical and Contemporary Music with Voice and Instruments in a Spirit of Friendship and Teamwork'**.

Performances

The South West Opera Company (Inc) has presented numerous productions throughout the Southwest and Great Southern regions of WA. Highlights include sold out performances of *Les Miserables*, *Cinderella*, *Carmen*, *Die Fledermaus* and *Oliver*.

Rural towns and centres such as Albany, Augusta, Bridgetown, Bunbury, Burekup, Busselton, Cowaramup, Donnybrook, Harvey and Kojonup have enjoyed the experience of a wide range of live music performances. Mutually reciprocal relationships have been formed with the Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre, Bunbury Regional Art Galleries, Bunbury Musical Comedy Group, Bunbury Men of Song, Sol y Sombra dance group, Busselton and Harvey Shires and Margaret River Arts.

SWOClets

Understanding that the future of the performing arts lies in its youth, the Company formed the SWOClets junior program in 2009 following the successful SWOC production of *Oliver*. The success of the SWOClets junior and senior program is evidenced by many past SWOClet members who have been accepted into the WA Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) programs in Musical Theatre and Classical singing.

SWOC MUSICAL THEATRE GROUP

After SWOC's Award-winning production of *Cinderella* in 2015, the Company recognised there was keen interest by adult members of the Company in forming a Musical Theatre Group. Elements of music, dance and choreography are utilised and incorporated in with the sung performance. Members of the Musical Theatre Group are actively involved in SWOC productions.

ARTISTIC TEAM

The South West Opera Company (Inc) is fortunate in having as a permanent part of its production team a dedicated group of talented individuals whose vast experience in the Performing Arts in both amateur and professional companies sets SWOC apart from other amateur performance companies in the South West.

Musical Director – Marguerite Monagle

Marguerite studied voice and piano and has broad experience in opera, operetta, musical theatre, recital and choral works. Marguerite has acted as Artistic Director and Musical Director for many memorable SWOC productions.

Artistic Director - Rob Hill

Rob joined the South West Opera Company (Inc) in 1995 and has been the Artistic Director for productions as diverse as *Pirates of Penzance* and *Les Miserables*.

Costume and Set Designer - Deb Prentice

Deb is a multiple award-winning costume and set designer. She studied the History of Costume and Design at Bentley Design Campus and Perth Theatre Design College. Deb joined SWOC in 2009 for the production of *Oliver*.

Choreographer – Mary-Ellen Sutherland

Mary-Ellen has been dancing since the age of three, specialising in jazz, tap and acrobatics. In 2015 Mary-Ellen made her directorial debut with the SWOC production of Rogers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*, and had the honour of choreographing and directing SWOC's 2017 production of *Fiddler on the Roof*.

With a proud history of high standard performances and boasting some of the State's best Regional talent, SWOC looks forward to continuing its Mission in promoting musical performances and enhancing the cultural profile of the Region in which it is situated.

In 2018 – 2019 the Board of Management comprises the following people:

President	Marianne Lehmann	mlehmann1@bigpond.com
Vice –President	Tony Martin	tony.paj.martin@gmail.com
Secretary	Geoff Binckes	gebinckes@inet.net.au
Treasurer	Ray Grant	grunter52@hotmail.com
Committee	Rob Hill	hrh@globaldial.com
Committee	Marianne Yip	myip@aapt.net.au
Committee	Gundi Maratea	omiomi@live.com.au
Committee	Jenni Minchin	minch.2@bigpond.net.au
Committee	Deb Prentice	debnholly@bigpond.com
Committee	Glen Maslin	h.paton@bigpond.com
Committee	Susanna Maratea	musicdance@live.com.au
Musical Director		
Ex Officio	Marguerite Monagle	msmonagle@bigpond.com
MD Jnr SWOClets		
Ex Officio	Jenean Halket	jh91897@bigpond.com.net.au