



# THE SOUTH WEST OPERA COMPANY INC.

## A PROFILE AND CV OF SWOC 1986 - 2021

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 35 years.



The South West Opera Company Inc. (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 industry and others who are passionate about the Arts and the role of SWOC in the wider community.

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**'. Underlying this goal is the active promotion and production of Concert performances and Theatre productions within the Greater Bunbury and Southwest Region.

Since 1986 SWOC has presented a variety of quality productions throughout the South West and Great Southern regions of Western Australia. This has given rural towns and centres such as Albany, Augusta, Bridgetown, Bunbury, Burekup, Busselton, Cowaramup, Donnybrook, Harvey and Kojonup the opportunity to experience a wide range of live music performances. SWOC has been involved with the small theatres and venues throughout the South West. Mutually reciprocal relationships have been formed with the Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre, Bunbury Regional Art Galleries, Bunbury Musical Comedy Group, Sol y Sombra dance group, Busselton and Harvey Shires and Margaret River Arts.

### **SWOCLETS**

In 2009 the Company formed its 'SWOCLETS' junior program following the successful Company production of '*Oliver*' which included 35 energetic children in the cast. Understanding that the future of singing lies in its youth SWOC formed a children's group with the aim of providing musical education and experience through group singing and performances.

The SWOCLETS participate in SWOC annual concerts at Gibbs Pool Amphitheatre, the SWOC Christmas concerts and SWOCLETS maintain an active participation in the Bunbury South West Eisteddfod held at the Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre. SWOCLET members have been involved in unpaid community performances with professional and amateur musical groups. This includes including singing performances with Opera Australia, The South West Philharmonic Orchestra as well as performances in the COB Mayor's Concert and Setagaya Sister Cities concert. SWOCLETS have sung Christmas Carols for the elderly at the Community Home Care client Christmas party providing Christmas Carols to the elderly.

The success of the SWOCLETS junior 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. Members of SWOCLETS have also received nominations and awards in the annual Finley Awards for amateur productions.



### **SWOC MUSICAL THEATRE GROUP**

After SWOC's Award-winning production of Cinderella in 2015, the Company recognised there was keen interest by younger (and older) adult members of the Company in forming a 'Musical Theatre' Group. Whilst predominantly a singing group, elements of music, dance and choreography are utilised and incorporated in performance. In actively encouraging the participation of younger members in more contemporary music, the Company seeks to further fulfil its Mission Statement in encouraging the development, appreciation and love for music and singing within the Region.

Members of the Musical Theatre Group are actively involved in SWOC productions and provide a core of talented amateur performers which enhance its Concert and full stage 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 all 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.

She has had many principal roles including Violetta in “La Traviata”, Valenciene in “Merry Widow”, Fiordiligi in “Cosi fan Tutte”, Rosalinde in “Die Fledermaus”, Marsinah in “Kismet”, Mabel in “Pirates of Penzance”, Eurydice in “Orpheus in the Underworld”.

With her eclectic taste and wide experience Marguerite continues her goal of bringing opera, musicals and variety concerts to our South West audiences and at the same time providing opportunities for our local talent.

### **Artistic Director - Rob Hill**

Rob joined the South West Opera Company Inc in 1995 after performing for a number of years with the Gilbert & Sullivan Society of W.A. at His Majesty’s theatre and around the regional areas of the state. He has been actively involved in many country musical productions both in performance and direction.

With SWOC he has 'directed The Pirates of Penzance, The Mikado, HMS Pinafore, The Gondoliers, Patience, The Secret Garden, The Wizard of Oz and co-directed ‘Les Miserables’. He has performed many roles in SWOC productions. His most memorable and rewarding role was as Javert in the 1995 and 2005 productions of Les Miserables when he co-directed the show with John Milson.

Rob was made a life member of SWOC in 2006. 2016 sees him celebrate his 50 th year as a performer on stage.

### **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 then joined SWOC with her performing daughter Holly in 2009 for the production of Oliver!

Since then, she has used her talents to design and coordinate SWOC’s costumes for the production of Die Fledermaus, The Mikado, Pirates of Penzance, The Wizard of Oz, Beauty and the Beast, for which she received a Finley nomination for Best Costumes, Cinderella, for which she won Best Costumes in a Musical at the Finely Awards and was also nominated for Best Set, and Patience. In 2014, Deb joined the Artistic Direction team for SWOC.



### **Choreographer – Mary-Ellen Sutherland**

Mary-Ellen has been dancing since the age of three, specialising in Jazz, Tap and acrobatics.

She is currently working at Geographe Primary School, running the school's dance program and her own Year Four class. Mary-Ellen has a Bachelor of Arts in primary education, specialising in human movement, and has a separate Theatrical Dancing Teacher's Diploma with the Commonwealth Society of Teachers of Dancing.

Mary-Ellen choreographed 'The Man from Muckinupin' for Stark Raven Theatre (1999), and the SWOC productions of The Gondoliers (2000), Broadway Blitz (2003), Carousel (2004), Oliver (2009), The Wizard of Oz (2011), Beauty and the Beast (2014), Frozen in Time (2014), Patience (2016) and was a senior teacher at Jazz Attack Dance studio for ten years (2000 – 2010). In 2015 Mary-Ellen made her directorial debut with the SWOC production of Rogers and Hammerstein's Cinderella, and is delighted to have the honour of choreographing and directing SWOC's 2017 production of Fiddler on the Roof.

In 2021 - 2022 the Board of Management comprises the following people:

<b>President</b>	Glen Perks	<a href="mailto:glenperks@bigpond.com">glenperks@bigpond.com</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	Susanna Ingham	<a href="mailto:musicdance@live.com.au">musicdance@live.com.au</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Ray Grant	<a href="mailto:grunter52@hotmail.com">grunter52@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Gundi Maratea	<a href="mailto:omiomi@live.com.au">omiomi@live.com.au</a>
<b>Committee</b>	Jenni Minchin	<a href="mailto:minch.2@bigpond.net.au">minch.2@bigpond.net.au</a>
<b>Committee</b>	Glen Maslin	<a href="mailto:h.paton@bigpond.com">h.paton@bigpond.com</a>
<b>Committee</b>	Nerida Mangano	<a href="mailto:nerida_g@hotmail.com">nerida_g@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Musical Director</b>	Marguerite Monagle	<a href="mailto:msmonagle@bigpond.com">msmonagle@bigpond.com</a>
<b>SWOClets</b>	Jenean Halket	<a href="mailto:Jha91897@bigpond.net.au">Jha91897@bigpond.net.au</a>

### **Performances**

As evidenced by the following record of performances the South West Opera Company Inc has presented numerous productions throughout the Southwest and great Southern regions of WA. 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.



YEAR	PRODUCTION	VENUE/TOWN, MONTH
<b>Bunbury Choral Society</b>		
1986	Concert- By Festival of Arts	Paisley Centre, Oct
<b>Bunbury Choral &amp; Operatic Society</b>		
1987	Benefit Concerts -Community Entertainment Centre & Anglican Withers Community	Paisley Centre, Sept.
1988	Concert on Tour	Margaret River Cultural Centre, Marg.R
<b>South West Opera Chorale Inc.</b>		
1988	Concert	Paisley Centre, 30 Nov & 1-3 Dec.
1989	Concert Tour	Margaret River, Albany, Collie
	OPERA BALL	South West Italian Club, Aug
	Concert	South West Italian Club 24 Nov – 2 Dec
1990	Concert Tour	Brunswick Town Hall, Mar Collie Miners' Institute, Mar Margaret River Cultural Centre, Mar
	Concert Tour	Kojonup Aug
	OPERA BALL	South West Italian Club, Aug
	<i>The Merry Widow</i>	By Entertainment Centre – Oct
	Official opening Bunbury Entertainment Centre HRH The Duke of Edinburgh	Segment of program inc By City Band, By Youth Chorale, C Tibbits (ballerina) & M Groom (solo pianist), Nov
<b>South West Opera Company Inc.</b>		
1991	Concert Tour	Brunswick, Bunbury, Albany, Margaret River, May
	Combined concert South Australia male voice choir	BREC, Aug
	Concert <i>Magic of Melodies</i>	2 performances BREC, Nov
	Concert on 'Discover Bunbury' Weekend	2 nights at BREC
1992	Concert Tour	Pinjarra, Augusta, Bridgetown and Albany, Sept
	Concert <i>Viva la Musica</i>	2 nights at BREC, Dec
1993	Opening celebration	Bunbury Art Gallery 5 <sup>th</sup> year



	Gala night Festival of Arts&Nature	BREC
	Mayor's Variety Concert	BREC
	<i>Die Fledermaus</i>	2 nights BREC
	Concert	Elanora Villas, Bunbury
<b>1994</b>	Concert tour – <i>Magic of Melodies</i>	SW centres, Margaret River, Sept-Oct
	Concert inc. <i>Trial by Jury</i>	Donnybrook Town Hall
<b>1995</b>	<i>Les Misérables</i>	10 performances in Bunbury
<b>1996</b>	<i>Carmen</i>	Bunbury, Fremantle, Bridgetown, Margaret River, Katanning and Albany
<b>1997</b>	<i>The Pirates of Penzance</i>	7 performances (Bunbury and Mandurah)
	Musical Showcase	April
	Musical Showcase	August
	Concerts	Mayor's Garden Party and BREC, Nov
	Christmas Carols concert	Brunswick Town Hall, Dec
<b>1998</b>	Concerts Musical Showcase	Bunbury, Mandurah and Margaret River
	Festival of Songs	BREC Foyer, Aug
	Christmas Carols concert	Brunswick Town Hall, Dec
<b>1999</b>	<i>Fiddler on the Roof</i>	Perform Bunbury, Mandurah, Albany
	Gala Concert	"Launch a Star" at BREC
	Orpheus in the Underworld	Perform Bunbury, Mandurah, Albany
	Carols concerts	Brunswick; Kingston Estate, Dec
<b>2000</b>	Mandalay concert	Busselton, Feb
	St Patrick's Cathedral	Bunbury, March
	<i>The Gondoliers</i>	5 performances in BREC
	Carols concerts	Brunswick; Kingston Estate, Dec
<b>2001</b>	Official opening of Graham Bricknell Memorial Music Shell	Bunbury
	Mandalay concert	Busselton
	Baptist Church Snr Citizens	Bunbury
	Marguerite and friends	Old Harvey Town Hall
	Concert for Pregnancy Help	St Patrick's Cathedral, Bunbury, Sept
	Sharee Russell Leukaemia Foundation concert	Donnybrook Town Hall, Oct



	Christmas concert	Bunbury Women's Club, Nov
	City Council Christmas Lights	GBM Music Shell, Bunbury, Dec
	Christmas concert	Masonic Village, Bunbury, Dec
	<i>Hallelujah! – a Christmas concert with Bunbury Festival Orchestra</i>	St Boniface Cathedral, Bunbury, Dec
<b>2002</b>	Capel concert	Gallery 934
	Mandalay concert	Mandalay Holiday Resort
	Harvey concert	Harvey Town Hall
	<i>The Secret Garden</i>	New Lyric Theatre, Aug
	<i>A Christmas Fantasy</i> concert	St Boniface Cathedral, Dec
	Concert + carols	SW Health Campus, Dec
<b>2003</b>	SWOC Soirée (internal concert)	Bunbury Regional Art Gallery
	<i>Stranger on the Shore</i> (concert)	BREC foyer
	<i>Broadway Blitz</i> cabaret concert	Donnybrook, Burekup, Busselton, Augusta, Bricknell Music Shell
	<i>Sleeping Lions</i> (11 track CD)	Recorded St Boniface Cathedral, July
	<i>Joy to the World</i> (with guest performers By Youth Chorale)	St Boniface Cathedral, Dec
<b>2004</b>	<i>Cabernet &amp; Carmen</i> (Zarzuela with Sol y Sombra)	Cowaramup, Harvey, Mandalay Holiday Resort, Bunbury Regional Art Galleries
	<i>Carousel</i>	New Lyric Theatre, Busselton, Albany
	<i>Let there be Joy</i> (concert with orchestra)	St Boniface Cathedral, Dec
<b>2005</b>	<i>Encore!</i> (with Sol y Sombra)	Cowaramup, Harvey, Mandalay Holiday Resort, Bunbury Regional Art Galleries
	<i>Les Misérables</i>	6 performances in BREC
	Choral concerts – 15 min brackets	ANCA <b>SING OUT</b> choral festival, BREC
	<i>A Christmas Journey</i> (concert with orchestra)	St Boniface Cathedral, Dec
<b>2006</b>	<i>Maritime Medleys</i>	Cowaramup, Harvey, Mandalay Holiday Resort
	Concert	Gibbs Pool, Harvey
	<b>20<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY DINNER AND MASQUERADE BALL</b>	
	2 brackets of songs	Sol y Sombra <i>Fiesta</i> at Bunbury Catholic





		College, May
	<b><i>The Gipsy Baron</i></b>	SW Italian Club, Katanning, Augusta, Sept
	25 min bracket in <i>Winning Wind and Song</i>	BREC free community concert with S W Wind & Jazz Orchestras, Oct
	<i>Deck the Hall</i> (with orchestra)	St Boniface Cathedral, Dec
<b>2007</b>	<i>To Mother with Love</i>	BREC foyer on Mothers' Day, May
	Special concert with NYCA	St Boniface, July
	ALCOA FREE COMMUNITY CONCERT 30 min bracket	BREC, Aug
	<i>Noël</i> (concert with orchestra)	St Boniface Cathedral, Dec
<b>2008</b>	<b><i>La Traviata</i></b> in concert	Gibbs Pool Amphitheatre, Harvey, Feb Busselton Uniting Church, Mar St Boniface Cathedral, Mar
	<i>Tongues of Fire Gospel Choir</i>	Support for Alan Seymour's <i>Gospel according to Elvis</i> at BREC, Apr
	<b><i>Trial by Jury</i></b>	Manjimup, BREC, Busselton Aug
	Christmas Choral Concert with SW Philharmonic Orchestra	St Boniface Cathedral, Dec
	City of Bunbury Carols by Candlelight	Graham Bricknell Music Shell, Dec
<b>2009</b>	<b><i>Trial by Jury</i></b> with <i>Cinderella Wins 'er Fella</i> , i.e. Rossini's <i>La Cenerentola</i>	Gibbs Pool Amphitheatre, Harvey, Feb
	<b><i>Oliver!</i></b>	BREC, Oct
	<b>SWOClets form after <i>Oliver</i></b>	
	Christmas Choral Concert with SW Philharmonic Orchestra and Junior SWOC	St Boniface Cathedral, Nov
<b>2010</b>	<i>To Mother With Love</i> Concert	BY Dance Studio (Paisley Centre), May
	<i>Die Fledermaus</i> and <i>Mikado</i>	By Catholic College, Augusta, Aug
	Christmas Choral Concert	St Boniface, Dec
	<b><i>The Pirates of Penzance</i></b> – Adapted for Young People	SWOClets, By Cathedral Grammar, Nov
<b>2011</b>	<i>Die Fledermaus &amp; Mikado</i> highlights	Gibbs Pool Harvey, March
	Eisteddfod – SWOClets (Dolci Voici dei Bambini) & SWOC	BREC, June
	Eisteddfod Gala Concert - SWOClets	BREC, July



	Music Guild After'n - SWOClets	St Augustine's, July
	<i>Wizard of Oz</i>	BREC, Oct
	Christmas Choral Concert – SWOC & SWOClets	St Boniface, Dec
	Bunbury Carols by Candlelight – SWOC & SWOClets	Graham Bricknell Music Shell, Dec
<b>2012</b>	<i>We Are One – annual family picnic concert.</i> SWOC & SWOClets	Gibbs Pool Harvey, March
	Eisteddfod – SWOClets	BREC, June
	Vivace, 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St Boniface, SWOC & SWOClets	September
	Vivace – SWOC & SWOClets	Margaret River, Sept
	Christmas Choral Concert – <i>Joy</i> , SWOC & SWOClets	St Boniface, Dec
	Bunbury Carols by Candlelight – SWOC & SWOClets	Graham Bricknell Music Shell, Dec
<b>2013</b>	Music Spectacular? SWOC & SWOClets	Gibbs Pool, Harvey, March
	Eisteddfod – SWOC & SWOClets	BREC, June
	Eisteddfod Gala Concert – SWOC & SWOClets	BREC, June
	Spirit of Australia – Tour of UK	Cuddington, Long Crendon (UK), July
	Concert on the Bay?	SSAC?
	Christmas Choral Concert – SWOC & SWOClets	St Boniface, Dec
	Bunbury Carols by Candlelight – SWOC & SWOClets	Graham Bricknell Music Shell, Dec
<b>2014</b>	<i>Romancing the Moon</i> – SWOC & SWOClets	Gibbs Pool, Harvey, March
	Busselton Fringe Festival	Weld Theatre, Busselton, March
	Vivace	St Boniface, May?
	Eisteddfod – Jnr SWOClets	BREC, June
	<i>Beauty and the Beast</i>	BREC, July
	Vivace	
	<i>Frozen in Time</i> – SWOClets	Cube, Nov
	Christmas Choral Concert – SWOC & SWOClets	St Boniface, Dec
	Bunbury Carols by Candlelight – SWOC & SWOClets	Graham Bricknell Music Shell, Dec



<b>2015</b>	<i>Wine, Women &amp; Song</i> - Ensemble	Jalbrook, Feb
	Music Spectacular	Gibbs Pool Harvey, March
	<b><i>Cinderella</i></b>	BREC, July
	<b><i>The Magic Flute</i></b> – Opera Aust., SWOClets	BREC, Aug
	Christmas Choral Concert	St Boniface, Dec
	Mandalay Community Carols	Busselton, Dec
<b>2016</b>	Finley Awards Ceremony	Heath Ledger Theatre, Perth, Jan
	<i>Wine, Women &amp; Song</i> - Ensemble	Jalbrook, Feb
	Music Spectacular	Gibbs Pool Harvey, March
	<b><i>Patience</i></b>	BRAG, Busselton, Augusta, ?July
	Stars on Preston	Donnybrook, Nov
	<b><i>HMS Pinafore</i></b> - SWOClets	Community Home Care
	Christmas Choral Concert	St Boniface, Dec
	Mandalay Community Carols	Busselton, Dec
<b>2017</b>	<i>Wine, Women &amp; Song</i> -Ensemble	Jalbrook, Feb
	Music Spectacular	Gibbs Pool, Harvey, March
	Eisteddfod - SWOClets	BREC, May
	<b><i>Fiddler on the Roof</i></b>	BREC, July
	Mayor’s Concert	Cube, July
	Setagaya Sister City celebrations – SWOClets	Cube?
	<b><i>The Marriage of Figaro</i></b> – Opera Aust. – SWOClets	BREC, August
	<b>30<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION</b>	BRAG, Nov
	Stars on Preston	Donnybrook, Nov
	SW Philharmonic Christmas Concert – SWOClets	Ferguson Farmstay, Dec
	Christmas Choral Concert	St Boniface, Dec
	Mandalay Community Carols	Busselton, Dec
	Finley Awards Ceremony	Heath Ledger Theatre, Dec
<b>2018</b>	<i>Wine, Women &amp; Song</i> – Ensemble	Jalbrook, Feb
	Music Spectacular	Gibbs Pool, Harvey



	BMOS Summer Concert Series	Council Gardens, Bunbury, March
	Vivace	St Boniface, Bridgetown, May
	Eisteddfod - SWOClets	BREC, May
	Mayor's Concert	BREC Stage One, July
	<i>The Phantom of the Opera</i>	BREC, Oct
	Christmas Choral Concert	St Boniface, Dec
<b>2019</b>	<i>Wine, Women &amp; Song</i> – Ensemble	Jalbrook, Feb
	Music Spectacular	Gibbs Pool, Harvey
	Vivace	Bridgetown, St Boniface, June- 3 shows
	Eisteddfod- SWOClets	BREC, June
	Mayor's Concert	BREC Stage One, July
	SWOClets with Opera Australia- Madama Butterfly	BREC, August
	SWOClets Music and Magic	Bunbury Catholic College, November
	Christmas Choral Concert	St Boniface, Dec
<b>2020</b>	<i>Wine, Women &amp; Song</i> – Ensemble	Jalbrook, Feb
	Music Spectacular	Gibbs Pool, Harvey
	COVID 19 Closure	March - July
	Messe Solenelle de Sainte Cecile	St Boniface, October- 2 Shows
	Christmas Choral Concert	St Boniface, Dec – 2 shows
<b>2021</b>	<i>Opera on the Move</i>	Bunbury Fringe Buddies program
	<i>Wine, Women &amp; Song</i> – Ensemble	Jalbrook, Feb
	Music Spectacular	Gibbs Pool, Harvey
	<i>Les Misérables</i>	BREC, Sept