

PETTICOAT GIRLS CONCERT
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, FRIDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2018

Please be seated.

Good evening and welcome to this unique concert performance by 'The Petticoat Girls' of Art Circle Residence 2018, supported by the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land—the Mouheneener people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community, who have survived invasion and dispossession, and continue to maintain their identity, culture and Indigenous rights.

May I acknowledge among you:

- Her Excellency Dr Anna Prinz, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany;
- The Honourable Elise Archer MP, Attorney-General, Minister for Justice, Minister for Corrections, Minister for the Arts, Minister for the Environment;
- The Honourable Rebecca White MP, Leader of the Opposition;
- Senator the Honourable Lisa Singh;
- Senator Steve Martin;
- Mr David Shelley, Honorary Consul for the Federal Republic of Germany in Tasmania;
- David Sudmalis, Director, Arts Tasmania;
- Stefano and Monique Lubiana;

- Cameron Dick, General manager Hobart BMW;
- Artists Veronika Krobs and Edbin Tutta;
- and our wonderful performers for this evening, Barbara Tanze, Rebeka Hren Dragolič and Accompanist Jennifer Marten-Smith.

Here in Tasmania we are thrilled to be hosting the second Petticoat Girls Concert, following last night's Opening Concert at the Albert Hall in Canberra.

And we're proud that Tasmania, through Government House and Stefano Lubiana Wines, is part of the inaugural year of Art Circle Residence, the mission of which is to connect German, other European and Australian artists and winemakers.

This evening's performers have exceptional track records. The Petticoat Girls are Opera Singers Barbara Tanze and Rebeka Hren Dragolič, who formed the ensemble in 2013 with the aim of promoting classical music with a modern twist – and a sense of humour instilled into what is highest quality musical performance.

We have been told – by an opera singer as it happens – that she found the acoustic of this Ball Room to be as good as any she has encountered for this mode of voice, and so I am very excited to know that we'll shortly have the privilege of hearing Barbara and Rebeka.

Some biographical notes:

Barbara Tanze studied opera singing and vocal pedagogy at the conservatoire de Lausanne in Switzerland. She has sung leading roles in opera productions in Europe, and she was a finalist at the international competition "Festspielstadt Passau" in Germany. She regularly performs with different styles of music, having broadened her repertoire from purely classical.

Barbara teaches singing and MDH Breathing Coordination, a new and revolutionary method aimed at optimising breathing efficiency particularly in sports. She is an international master teacher of the method.ⁱ

Rebeka Hren Dragolič studied classical flute and singing at the Academy of Music in Ljubljana and Zagreb and graduated with a first class honours degree in 2007. She has won several first prizes in competitions for young musicians. Her repertoire includes Lied, Mélodie, Baroque music and Opera arias which she performs as a soloist and musician in Europe, Asia and USA.

Rebeka is currently teaching singing and flute.ⁱⁱ

And this evening the Petticoat Girl have as their Accompanist **Jennifer Marten-Smith**, performing on the Government House Bluthner Piano ... which of course is German-made. Hobart-based Jennifer also has a fabulous career profile. When she was just twelve she was invited to study at the Musikhochschule in Cologne.

At age 16 she made her public debut with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra and she went on to become the youngest graduate of our University's Conservatorium of Music, awarded a high distinction as a double major in piano performance and accompaniment. She has performed with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra; the State Opera of South Australia; the Niedersächsisches Staatsorchester Hannover; and she was a full-time member of the music staff with Opera Australia from 2001 to 2012. Jennifer has more than 90 operas in her repertoire.ⁱⁱⁱ

Thank you.

ⁱ <http://www.artresidence.net/artists.html>, accessed 26 September 2018.

ⁱⁱ Ibid.

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.tso.com.au/artists/jennifer-marten-smith/>, accessed 26 September 2018.