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FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Dear Members,

The New Year has arrived and all our hopes for a better year.

We ended 2021 with our Windsor lunch which was very successful. Renewing old friendships and starting new ones. There are photos on our website.

Thank you to all the Members who have already renewed their 2022 membership and a reminder to those who haven't renewed that subscriptions were due by January 31st 2022. Once you have renewed your membership, the dress rehearsal booking form will be sent to you and you will be able to attend the other events planned for 2022 and attend the Annual General Meeting.

Our plans for the New Year are of course our dress rehearsals and there are still tickets available. We are pleased to welcome Stacey Alleaume, our own Melbourne girl, as Violetta in La Traviata. Lyndon Terracini rates her as good as any other worldwide. Lohengrin, although long, features Jonas Kauffman a wonderful tenor.

Before that we are planning a luncheon at a new venue for us, that is The Lyceum Club in Ridgeway Lane on March 17th where we will be hosted by our member Mrs. Margaret Farmer. A treat for our members. A booking form is enclosed.

For our lunches this year we will have two new Melba Scholars to present to you. Both are Melbourne singers; Samantha Hargreaves, a soprano and Nathan Breeze a baritone who has studied in WA with Emma Matthews who rates him extremely highly. They are of course supported by the Eleanor Blakemore and the Max & Jill Schultz scholarships. We look forward to our Lyceum Club lunch to meet these singers and enjoy a special performance.

Morning Melodies is back and we are making available bookings for three of the most popular events. A booking form is enclosed.

In March we will have our Annual General Meeting. The forms are enclosed for the meeting along with proxy voting forms which we are always very happy to receive. A committee nomination form may be obtained by contacting the office by email or by telephoning Pauline Cleary on 0413 330 232. We are grateful to the Melba organisation for allowing us to use their spacious rooms. The date is the 22nd of March 2022 at 6 pm. Due to COVID restrictions we are unable to provide refreshments on this occasion.

Best wishes,

Valma Allaway OAM

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PRESIDENT