

Dennis Brain

A. Mus. A. Pianoforte; L. Mus. Pianoforte

A. Mus. A. Singing, D.C.S.M., M.M.T.A.

Dennis Brain, studied pianoforte with Alan Jenkins and voice with William Herbert at the Canberra School of Music. After four years of full time study he graduated in 1975. Extensive voice development was undertaken with Patricia Davey and Eleanor Houston.

In 1976-77, with the assistance of a German Government Scholarship (DAAD), postgraduate work specialising in Lieder was undertaken in Köln (Cologne) Germany. This also included two months at the Goethe Institute for German language study.

He has participated in master classes with Dame Joan Hammond and with Geoffrey Parsons both as a pianist and as a singer.

Dennis is an active teacher of voice, pianoforte and musicianship at a large full time private studio in Canberra, with levels ranging from Preliminary to Licentiate. He has been teaching for over 30 years. With over 20 years adjudicating experience in NSW, he has a wide and diverse knowledge of most Eisteddfods. He has also adjudicated in Tasmania and Queensland.

As a performer he was an official accompanist for the Canberra National Eisteddfod Society in the 1970's and has been the accompanist for numerous concerts particularly with the Canberra Lieder Society. He has performed as soloist for the Klavier Teacher's Association and has recorded for Young Australia with the ABC. He accompanies all his singers for grade and diploma examinations, conducts choirs and has held workshops throughout NSW and the Canberra region for the various Music Teachers' Associations and ANATS in both pianoforte and voice.

Professional development lectures have been given since 2000, in aural, sight-reading and on the AMEB pianoforte and singing syllabi, with personal demonstration performances of repertoire from Preliminary to Associate levels.

His musical philosophy tries to encourage all types of musicians including the memoriser, the reader, the improviser, the accompanist, the composer and the conductor. He is especially interested in the heritage and performance of Australian music.

