

TASMANIAN MUSIC TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION STATE CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 28TH 2015 AT THE HUTCHINS SCHOOL.

SEDIVKA LECTURE TO BE PRESENTED BY MRS FRANCES UNDERWOOD

PATRON OF THE TASMANIAN MUSIC TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION



A Question of Musical Genius.

Genius is a gift that has its own force; you can't make it or fake it. But what if your pupil is not only a genius, with exceptional intellectual and creative power and natural ability, but also your own son? How do you teach such a person? How, as a teacher, do you create the circumstances that allow genius to show itself and flourish? This was the question that Verna Tozer, mother of Geoffrey Tozer, had to grapple with.

At the launch, in Melbourne, of Geoffrey Tozer's compositions on 11 December 2014 former Prime Minister, the Hon. Paul Keating, described the late Geoffrey Tozer as "a man of humble greatness; an Australian genius who can rightfully take his place alongside the three Australian greats; Melba, Grainger and Sutherland." Apart from his international prize winning performing prowess, his ability to improvise, transpose at sight or create on the piano a richly textured reduction of an orchestral score at sight was legendary. He was also a composer.

According to Schumann a genius can only be understood by another genius. In delivering the Jan Sedivka memorial lecture, Frances Underwood will explore the genius of Verna Tozer, through her teaching of her son, Geoffrey up to the age of ten when he became a pupil of Eileen Ralph. Pamela Freeman, music curator of the Geoffrey Tozer Estate, will explore the genius of Geoffrey Tozer, particularly his compositional legacy in ***Pieces from Childhood***, written between the ages of seven and fourteen. Lachlan Redd, a student of the late Geoffrey Tozer, will perform, for the first time in Tasmania a selection of the works. Manuscripts and recordings will be available for purchase.



Pamela Freeman: I am delighted to present *Pieces from Childhood* - compositions by Geoffrey Tozer from the 60's decade - in the Jan Sedivka Memorial Lecture on 28 February. I am also very pleased to be able to bring Lachlan Redd with me to perform some of these compositions for you.

Since Geoffrey's death in 2009, I have transcribed over 150 compositions by Geoffrey, and the Estate is now bringing these pieces, together with accompanying CD's of the works, out for the world to see, hear and play. Geoffrey spent part of the 60's decade in Hobart and had strong feelings for his 'home away from home'. He knew the Sedivkas well and would be delighted to think he was to be featured in this important event.

The volume "*Pieces from Childhood*" will be available for purchase (\$39 - cash or cheque) after the lecture. Please refer to the website: www.geoffreytozerlegacy.com

Pictured left: Paul Keating with Pamela Freeman (Music Curator, The Geoffrey Tozer Estate) and standing Peter Wyllie Johnston (Executor, The Geoffrey Tozer Estate) and Lachlan Redd, pianist, friend and colleague of Geoffrey Tozer.