



President's newsletter, April 2023

Dear Guild members,

I hope that you had a pleasant Easter break. I'm writing to update you on recent Guild initiatives.

To supplement the existing AGQ Code of Practice, the committee has now developed Guidelines for Working Conditions as a Queensland accompanist. The guidelines provide a centrally approved model that aims to encourage and clarify expectations of reasonable treatment for accompanists at work. Provisions include adequate notice for music preparation and performance situations where additional fees may be appropriate. Additionally, there are specific guidelines concerning accompaniment work in schools. I strongly encourage you to familiarise yourself with the new guidelines and direct clients towards them as necessary! Deep gratitude is extended to the tireless committee and other members of the AGQ who contributed towards the development of these working conditions:

<https://accompanistsguildofqld.org/guidelines-for-working-conditions/>

Note the presence of our new AGQ logo and an overall fresher feel to the website: Many thanks to Kathy Sander for her elite design skills and other members of the committee who helped to update and remodel the website.

To promote accompaniment in South-East Queensland, the Guild engaged 4MBS to air AGQ advertisements on radio, which commenced in late January 2023. We negotiated a heavily discounted rate that acknowledged our role as a not-for-profit arts organisation with community impact. The agreement accommodates thirty airings over a six-month period, but our schedule has been heavily bonused given the ongoing availability of additional airtime on 4MBS.

On an historical note, many thanks to Sue Witham for providing fascinating documents and correspondence relating to the establishment of the AGQ, including a personal letter from the

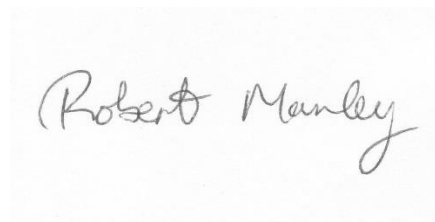
late Geoffrey Parsons. I'm happy to report that a scanned record of all materials now sits firmly within the Guild's collection: Please contact me on presidentagq@gmail.com if you wish to arrange a private viewing of this historical material.

Keep your eyes peeled for the next AGQ social gathering and AGM meeting date. I will be stepping down as President at the 2023 AGM and our venerable past President Valerie Dickson will sadly be leaving the committee. Expressions of interest to join our vibrant committee are encouraged. Serving the AGQ provides an exciting opportunity to advocate for and enhance the arts of accompaniment and collaborative piano in Queensland.

I've been enjoying my new (very hectic) roles as Accompanist Coordinator, Resident Accompanist, and Piano Teacher at New England Conservatorium in Armidale NSW. Please drop me a line if you're passing through town: We'll have a cuppa!

All the best for Term 2.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Manley". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Dr Robert Manley

President

