

How to leave a Legacy in support of Australia's young opera singers

Leaving a Legacy

One way of caring for our next generation of singers and perpetuating the Sutherland/Bonyng e legacy is to consider leaving a bequest or gift in your Will. Each individual legacy will help us support our most talented young singers with their studies and ensure the continuation of the Joan Sutherland & Richard Bonyng e Bel Canto Award, scholarships and study grants. If you are considering leaving a legacy in your Will to the Joan Sutherland & Richard Bonyng e Opera Foundation or Joan Sutherland Society, here is some information that may assist you.

What is a Legacy?

A legacy is when you leave a bequest or gift of personal property to a named person or organisation in your Will. It is an instruction in your Will, directing some or all of your estate be gifted to a charity or particular cause.

Types of Legacy

- You can leave a specific amount of money from your estate.
- You can leave a portion, a percentage or the residual of your estate.
- You can leave a specific gift from your estate. e.g. real estate property, shares, debentures, artworks, jewellery, antiques, musical instruments or other objects of value.

Who can leave a legacy?

You don't have to be wealthy to leave a bequest or gift - whatever you choose to give will make a difference as long as you are over 18 years of age and have a legal Will.

What about my family?

We are extremely conscious of people's families and their needs, therefore most people leave a portion of their estate to charity and the rest to their family. We would strongly recommend you discuss clearly with your family and your lawyer your wishes so as to avoid any difficulties with your estate.

How do I leave a Legacy?

- It is a simple procedure that allows you to include the Foundation or Society as a beneficiary in your Will.
- A bequest can be made by creating a new Will or by adding a codicil to your existing Will.
- It is important that the wording regarding your bequest is very specific. If you have any doubts about making a bequest, please seek advice from a solicitor or lawyer.
- Bequests or gifts are usually directed to the Society's tax deductible public fund, the *Joan Sutherland & Richard Bonyng e Opera Foundation* for use at the Board's discretion.
- They can also be directed towards a specific purpose.

Examples of specific purposes

- A number of years ago the Society received a bequest of \$20,000 from the Marja Baudish Estate. Dame Joan's singing had comforted Marja Baudish through a difficult period in her life after suddenly losing her son in an accident. The Committee at the time decided to use the bequest to provide the \$1,500 third prize in the Joan Sutherland & Richard Bonyngé Vocal Scholarship. For a number of years that prize was called the Marja Baudish Encouragement Award until those funds ran out. It is now called the Eva Maria Szekely Award thanks to two new generous donors, Duncan and Annamaria Kinnon.
- Mr Alan Jones AO is the proud sponsor of the \$3,000 Rosina Raisbeck Award.
- Mr Paul Ferris is the proud sponsor of the \$3,000 Deborah Riedel Award.
- You can perpetuate your love of opera by sponsoring one of our awards or by leaving a specific amount of money to be either spread out over a number of years or given as a one off prize or donated for general use.
- We also provide study grants to singers from time to time. Most recently we assisted Australia's entrant in the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World Competition, mezzo soprano Helen Sherman with one of these grants.

Additional important information

- We would recommend you use a qualified solicitor or lawyer to draw up your Will or any codicils to an existing Will.
- You must be over 18 years of age for a Will to be valid.
- Your Will must be in writing - handwritten, typed or printed.
- Your Will must be signed by yourself and two witnesses in a specific way (all using the same pen).
- The Will must be dated and each page signed by you and your two witnesses.
- If in doubt, it is always preferable to seek legal advice.
- Keep your Will in a safe place and tell your executor where it is.

What is the correct wording for a legacy in my Will?

We have the following suggested wordings but highly recommend you seek professional advice from a qualified solicitor or lawyer when leaving your legacy.

Non-specific legacy

I hereby bequeath to, THE JOAN SUTHERLAND & RICHARD BONYNGE OPERA FOUNDATION, a New South Wales non-profit organisation (ABN: 61 583 080 824) whose postal address is at P.O. Box 880, Leichhardt NSW 2040, (insert specific item to be given) or the sum of (insert specific amount to be given) for its general purposes as determined by the governing Board.

Specific Legacy

I hereby bequeath to, THE JOAN SUTHERLAND & RICHARD BONYNGE OPERA FOUNDATION, a New South Wales non-profit organisation (ABN: 61 583 080 824) whose postal address is at P.O. Box 880, Leichhardt NSW 2040, (insert specific item to be given) or the sum of (insert specific amount to be given) to be used to fund a prize in the Bel Canto Award or, to be used to provide a prize/scholarship/study grant in (insert name) name for (insert number of years) number of years.

Keep in touch

If you are planning to leave a bequest or gift to the Foundation or Society in your Will, please let us know so we can thank you personally.