

## **New Chair for the Helpmann Academy Board**

**The Helpmann Academy Board of Governors has recently appointed Ms Karen Thomas as the new Chair of the Board.**

Ms Thomas is a managing partner of leading Adelaide commercial law firm Fisher Jeffries Gagens and has been a long-term supporter of the Helpmann Academy.

Fisher Jeffries has a long history of commitment to the Helpmann Academy and has been one of the Academy's major sponsors since its inception. In 1996 Fisher Jeffries initiated the hugely successful annual Maestros & Apprentices black tie fundraising dinner.

Ms Thomas has held numerous Board positions that reflect her wide ranging interests and her ability to work with multiple stakeholders. Her current positions include Deputy Chair of the Institute of Medical & Veterinary Science and its commercialisation company; Medvet Science Pty Ltd. Previous roles include membership of the boards of SATAB and the SA Housing Trust.

When asked about the future of the Helpmann Academy under her stewardship, Ms Thomas said: "I look forward to facilitating the continued success of the Helpmann Academy as a unique training support model for young and emerging artists. The collaboration between the partner institutions, government, corporate sponsors, private patrons, and the arts community is particularly inspiring and a great example of how we can work together to support creative talent in South Australia."

Ms Thomas takes over the role of Chair from Gary Watts who has headed the Helpmann Academy Board since 2005.

The Helpmann Academy looks forward to continuing its work to support young and emerging artists with Karen Thomas on board.