



TE PAE KŌKAKO TANZOS OPERA GALA AND FAREWELL

WITH PIANIST, DAVID GOWLAND AND DIRECTOR, ELAINE KIDD
FRIDAY 15 DECEMBER | 7:30PM | DR JOHN GALLAGHER CONCERT CHAMBER
TE WHARE WĀNANGA O WAIKATO - THE UNIVERSITY OF WAIKATO, HAMILTON



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WAIKATO
Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato

DUE TO ILLNESS, TANZOS 2023 ARTIST, TAYLOR WALLBANK IS SADLY UNABLE TO SING, BUT PLEASE LOOK OUT FOR FUTURE PERFORMANCES OF TAYLOR'S ON OUR WEBSITE.

Programme

Aria: 'Eri tu che macchiavi quell'anima' from *Un ballo in maschera* – Giuseppe Verdi

Renato's wife, Amelia, is in love with his best friend, Riccardo - the governor of colonial Massachusetts (or in some productions King Gustav III of Sweden). This extramarital affair is chaste, but when Renato discovers it he suspects Amelia and his best friend are unfaithful. Renato realizes that Amelia should not be the one to pay for cheating on him, but rather his treacherous best friend Riccardo. He decries his torment over his lost paradise. – **Samuel McKeever**

Aria: 'Signore ascolta' from *Turandot* - Giacomo Puccini

Princess Turandot seeks a husband who can answer her three riddles. The Prince of Persia failed and is now facing execution. A crowd gathers to witness his beheading, including Liù, her aged master, and young Calaf, who recognises the old man as his father. Calaf asks Liù why she remained faithful to his father, and she recalls how Calaf smiled at her years ago. Suddenly, Princess Turandot arrives, and Calaf is smitten. Despite Liù's protests, Calaf decides to pursue Turandot, risking the same fate as the Prince of Persia. Liù cannot bear to see him suffer the same fate. – **Katherine Winitana**

Aria: 'O du mein holder Abendstern' from *Tannhäuser* – Richard Wagner

"Song to the Evening Star" ("O du, mein holder Abendstern"), also known as "Oh Star Of Eve", is an aria sung by the character Wolfram in the third act of Richard Wagner's 1845 opera *Tannhäuser*. Wolfram is a Minnesinger (court poet/musician) who had defeated Tannhäuser, a fellow Minnesinger in a singing contest. He prays for the evening star to guide his beloved (now deceased) Elisabeth to heaven. – **Alfred Fonoti-Fuimaono**

Aria: 'Il est doux, il est bon' from *Hérodiade* - Jules Massenet

Salomé, is looking for her mother. She was abandoned at birth and does not know that she is actually the daughter of the King's wife, Hérodiade. She tells Phanuel, a Chaldean astrologer, of her determination to find her mother and then continues, telling him that the only one who understands her is the prophet Jean (John the Baptist). – **Rhiannon Cooper**

Duet: 'Udiste...mira di acerbe lagrime' from *Il trovatore* – Giuseppe Verdi

The commander of the Royalist Aragon troops, Count di Luna, is obsessed with Leonora, a young noblewoman in the queen's service, who does not return his love. Leonora is in love with Manrico (the Troubadour), leader of the partisan rebel forces. The Count is furious and duels Manrico, who overpowers the count but spares his life. However, Manrico's army has been defeated, and he and his mother, the gypsy, Azucena are being held captive in di Luna's castle. Leonora has escaped and now comes to the prison to pray for Manrico's salvation. When di Luna orders the execution of Manrico and Azucena at sunrise, Leonora offers herself to the count in return for her lover's life; however, she secretly takes a slow-acting poison, sealing her fate. – **Katherine Winitana and guest, TANZOS 2024 artist, Samuel McKeever**

Aria: 'Di rigori armato il seno' from *Der Rosenkavalier* - Richard Strauss

The Italian Singer provides a beautiful standalone moment in the action of *Der Rosenkavalier*. In the court of the Marschallin, Princess Marie Thérèse von Werdenberg, he sings to assembled servants and traders and is rudely interrupted by Baron Ochs, the Marschallin's cousin who is engaged to the young Sophie von Faninal, and who is wrangling with his young bride's lawyer about her dowry. The words of 'Di rigori armato il seno' ('With my breast armed with severity') were lifted in their entirety by Strauss from the concluding ballet of *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme* (Molière, 1670) for which Lully wrote the music. - **Emmanuel Fonoti-Fuimaono**

Duet: 'Lippen schweigen' from *Merry Widow* - Franz Lehar

Hanna Glawari, a very wealthy widow who has just arrived in Paris from Pontevedro, has been matchmade by the Pontevedrian ambassador, Baron Mirko Zeta, to marry Danilo Danilovitch - a womanizing aristocrat and the embassy secretary, so that her millions will stay in Pontevedro. The two have met and fallen in love before, but she was considered to be beneath him in social status. They reminisce about their love in the duet 'Lippen schweigen'. At this point, Hanna has attempted to save the reputation of the ambassador's wife, who has been pursued by Camille de Rossillon, a young Frenchman, by declaring she herself is engaged to Camille, but eventually reveals her ruse and ends up with her old flame, Danilo, after all. - **Rhiannon Cooper and Alfred Fonoti-Fuimaono**

INTERVAL - 20 MINUTES

THE OPUS BAR IS OPEN DURING THE INTERVAL

Duet: Act IV - Marcello/Rodolfo - 'O Mimi, tu più non torni' from *La Boheme*

Rodolfo, a writer and Marcello, a painter - two of the four 'Bohemians' living in poverty in a Parisian garrett, are attempting to work but instead are fixated on lamenting their ex-lovers, Mimì and Musetta (respectively) who have left them and found wealthy lovers. Mimì for much nobler reasons than Musetta - to spare Rodolfo from the burden of a dying lover. - **Emmanuel Fonoti-Fuimaono and Alfred Fonoti-Fuimaono**

Aria: 'Einsam in trüben Tagen' from *Lohengrin* - Richard Wagner

After the mysterious death of her brother Gottfried, Elsa's guardian Count Friedrich Von Telramund, to whom she is promised in marriage against her will, accuses her of killing him. Elsa is summoned to defend herself before a large assembly with King Heinrich present as judge. She appears absent as she is still in a state of shock caused by the death of her brother. Instead of defending herself, Elsa tells of her grief over the death of her brother and of a dream that a knight will appear who will fight for her and prove her innocence. - **Rhiannon Cooper**

Aria: 'Vissi d'arte' from *Tosca* - Giacomo Puccini

Tosca, a celebrated singer, is in love with Mario Cavaradossi, a painter. Baron Scarpia, the Roman police chief, wants Tosca for himself and has arrested Cavaradossi for protecting his friend and political prisoner, Cesare Angelotti. Scarpia has lured Tosca to his house to watch while he tortures Cavaradossi in order to reveal Angelotti's hiding place. Scarpia offers to stop the torture if Tosca agrees to have a night with him. Tosca is in an emotional state of emergency, having had to watch her lover Cavaradossi being abused in the torture chamber and hear the unspeakable threats and blackmail of Scarpia. These violent scenes trigger violent feelings. She reacts with disbelief. Why does God punish her? She leads a pious life! – **Madeleine Pierard (Dame Malvina Major Chair in Opera/TANZOS Director)**

Aria: 'Io morro' from *Don Carlos* – Giuseppe Verdi

Rodrigo, the Marquis of Posa visits Don Carlos, the Spanish prince in prison to tell him that he has used secret papers to take the blame upon himself for the Flemish rebellion and will die in Carlos's place. Agents of the Inquisition arrive unseen and shoot Rodrigo. As he dies, he urges Carlos to take up the cause of liberty for Flanders. He declares that he does not fear death - he is happy to have sacrificed his life for a man who will become Spain's saviour. – **Alfred Fonoti-Fuimaono**

Scena: Act I – Mimi/Rodolfo - 'Che gelida manina', 'Sì, mi chiamano Mimi', 'O soave fanciulla' from *La Bohème* – Giacomo Puccini

Rodolfo's Bohemian roommates have left for the Café Momus to make merry after the musician Schaunard came in to some money. Before Rodolfo leaves, there is a knock at the door—the visitor is Mimì, a pretty neighbour, whose candle has gone out in the stairwell. As she enters the room, she suddenly feels faint. Rodolfo gives her a sip of wine, then helps her to the door and relights her candle. Mimì realizes that she lost her key when she fainted, and as the two search for it, both candles go out. Rodolfo finds the key and slips it into his pocket. In the moonlight, he takes Mimì's hand and tells her about his dreams ('Che gelida manina'). She recounts her life alone ('Sì, mi chiamano Mimi') in a lofty garret, embroidering flowers and waiting for the spring. Rodolfo's friends call from outside, telling him to join them. He responds that he is not alone and will be along shortly. Happy to have found each other ('O soave fanciulla'), Mimì and Rodolfo leave, arm in arm, for the café.

– **Katherine Winitana and Emmanuel Fonoti-Fuimaono**

Ensemble: 'Libiamo ne' lieti calici' ('Brindisi') - from *La Traviata*

Violetta Valéry knows that she will die soon, exhausted by her restless life as a courtesan. At a party she is introduced to Alfredo Germont, who has been fascinated by her for a long time. Rumour has it that he has been enquiring after her health every day. The guests are amused by this seemingly naïve and emotional attitude, and they ask Alfredo to propose a toast. He celebrates true love, and Violetta responds in praise of free love. -**Tutti**

THE OPUS BAR WILL BE OPEN BRIEFLY FOLLOWING THE CONCERT.

TANZOS 2023 ARTISTS

RHIANNON COOPER SOPRANO

Originally from Whangārei, soprano Rhiannon Cooper studied voice at the University of Otago until 2020. Rhiannon is the Dame Jenny Gibbs TANZOS Artist, studying under Nikki Li Hartliep. Rhiannon was also a Studio Artist with New Zealand Opera for their 2023 Artist Development Programme. Rhiannon has appeared onstage as Fiordiligi in scenes from *Così fan tutte*, and Rosalinde in *Die Fledermaus*. Rhiannon has been awarded many competition prizes in Aotearoa, was winner of the DMM Waikato Aria Competition and won third place in the Auckland Opera Studio Scholarship Competition.



ALFRED FONOTI-FUIMAONO BARITONE

Alfred Fonoti-Fuimaono is from Flaxmere, Hastings, and discovered his passion for opera through Project Prima Volta. Alfred has completed BMus Hons at The University of Waikato where he sang the title role in Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi* to great acclaim and was awarded first place in the Otago Daily Times Aria Competition. Alfred has performed as a solo and ensemble singer with Auckland Opera Studio, Chamber Music New Zealand, Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra, Festival Opera and New Zealand Opera. Alfred's TANZOS Artist for 2023, studying under Kristin Darragh, and is generously supported by Lady Judi Gallagher.



EMMANUEL FONOTI-FUIMAONO TENOR

Emmanuel Fonoti-Fuimaono started singing opera through Project Prima Volta. He was a Dame Malvina Major Studio Artist at NZ Opera and is now a Dame Malvina Major Foundation Scholar at TANZOS, studying with Nikki Li Hartliep. Emmanuel won the Lockwood NZ Aria in 2022 and was winner of the Sydney Eisteddfod Opera Scholarship 2023 and the IFAC Handa Australian Singing Competition and earlier this year, won the Lexus Song Quest Dame Kiri Te Kanawa Award. For NZ Opera, Emmanuel has sung Malcolm in *Macbeth* and Tupaia in Tim Finn's *Avei'a - The Star Navigator*. For Wellington Opera, Emmanuel has sung Alfredo (*La Traviata*) and Arturo (*Lucia di Lammermoor*), as well as Tamino in Festival Opera's *The Magic Flute* with the NZSO.



TAYLOR WALLBANK TENOR

Taylor Wallbank first encountered opera through Project Prima Volta. He recently completed his Bachelor of Music (Hons) at The University of Waikato and is now a Te Pae Kōkako Scholarship Recipient at TANZOS, studying with Kristin Darragh. For Festival Opera, Taylor has sung Le Remendado (*Carmen*), Gastone (*La Traviata*) and Monostatos (*The Magic Flute*), which he will sing with the NZSO. In 2022, Taylor sang the role of Rinuccio in UoW's production of *Gianni Schicchi* to great acclaim. In 2022, Taylor won the DMM Waikato Aria Competition and in 2023, the Ronald Dallow Memorial Scholarship.



KATHERINE WINITANA SOPRANO

Katherine Winitana was a Dame Malvina Major Foundation Studio Artist with NZ Opera in 2021. She has experience in a wide variety of music genres as a performer and composer. Katherine is a recipient of the Dame Malvina Major Award for her studies as a TANZOS Artist, under the tutelage of Nikki Li Hartliep. Katherine was a member of Project Prima Volta. For Festival Opera, she has sung Papagena and Pamina (*The Magic Flute*) and Annina (*La Traviata*) for Wellington Opera. Katherine is a Student Mentor for Project Prima Volta in Hawkes Bay. She was the winner of the Becroft Aria Competition in 2023, and a semi-finalist in the Lexus Song Quest.



YUFAN CECILIA ZHANG
MEZZO-SOPRANO (LONDON)

Yufan Cecilia Zhang studied at Auckland University and completed her studies at TANZOS in September. At TANZOS, Cecilia is the recipient of the Freemasons Foundation Award. Cecilia was runner-up in the 2023 Becroft Aria Competition and is one of the recipients of the Opie & Bridge Scholarship (2022) at the University of Auckland. She is also a trained pianist (ATCL Level) and dancer (contemporary). Cecilia is now studying at the Royal Academy of Music (London) studying under Catherine Wyn-Rogers and has been given the title role in Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia* with British Youth Opera in 2024.



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ELAINE KIDD - STAGING DIRECTOR

HEAD OF THE JETTE PARKER ARTISTS PROGRAMME
AT THE ROYAL OPERA, LONDON

British director, producer, performance coach, and educator Elaine Kidd became Head of the Jette Parker Artists Programme during the 2017/18 Season. For The Royal Opera, she has revived productions including *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *La Fille du régiment*, *Eugene Onegin*, *L'Heure Espagnole*, *Gianni Schicchi* and *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*, and been Associate Director for *Boris Godunov* and *La bohème*.

Kidd studied Modern Languages at Oxford University and trained in movement and devising. She worked as a theatre director before moving into opera. As Head of Staff Directors for The Royal Opera (2007–10), she worked alongside Richard Jones, Laurent Pelly and Graham Vick among others, and revived Royal Opera productions overseas including *Don Carlo* in Oslo, *Boris Godunov* in Berlin, *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk* for La Scala, Milan, *La Fille du régiment* in Barcelona and *Manon* in Tokyo. She was Director of Artistic Planning for Scottish Opera (2011–16), advising on repertory, casting and scheduling.

Elaine has more than thirty years of experience fostering young artists and igniting a passion for opera through many community and education projects, and work in conservatoires, summer schools and for training organisations such as the National Opera Studio.

DAVID GOWLAND - PIANO

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF THE JETTE PARKER ARTISTS
PROGRAMME AT THE ROYAL OPERA, LONDON

David Gowland is Artistic Director of the Jette Parker Artists Programme at the Royal Opera House. He studied at the Royal College of Music, where he won the Ruby Hope and Major van Someren Godfrey prizes for piano accompaniment, and at the National Opera Studio, supported by the Countess of Munster Musical Trust.

He joined the Glyndebourne music staff in 1987, won the 1988 Jani Strasser Award and worked there for 20 years. He was Head of Music Staff at the Grand Théâtre de Genève 1989–96, assisting conductors such as Tate, Patané, Jordan, Bartoletti, Thielemann, Plasson, Elder, de Waart, Bertini and Campanella.

David has been associated with the Young Artists Programme at the Royal Opera House since its inception in 2000, initially as Director of Musical Preparation and from 2006 as Artistic Director. He regularly accompanies all the singers on the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme in recitals of both song and operatic repertory





SAMUEL MCKEEVER - 2024 TANZOS ARTIST

BASS

Sam is a graduate of Project Prima Volta, and has attended the New Zealand Opera School, held every January. Samuel's stage history includes the roles of Rocco (Fidelio) and Gubetta (Lucrezia Borgia) in NZSM's Opera Scenes film (2020), Simone in Gianni Schicchi (NZSM, 2019), and L'Imperial Commissario in Madama Butterfly (Festival Opera, 2018). He has also been a chorus member for Wellington Opera (Don Giovanni, 2021) and Festival Opera, and performed as a soloist with Project Prima Volta and the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra for their 'Broadway Matinee' as part of the Immerse concert series. Sam will be joining TANZOS in 2024, studying under Nikki Li Hartliep.



About Te Pae Kōkako (TANZOS)

Te Pae Kōkako - The Aotearoa New Zealand Opera Studio (TANZOS) is a 12-18 month specialised MMus programme which provides exceptionally promising young opera singers with training at an international level right here at The University of Waikato. It has been developed by our Dame Malvina Major Chair in Opera, Madeleine Pierard at the wish of Dame Malvina herself, who has been championing the development of talent in Aotearoa for more than thirty years. Our students receive coaching from national and international guest tutors and engage in residencies with companies in Aotearoa New Zealand and abroad, including an annual residency with Opera Australia. It is the only programme of its kind in Aotearoa New Zealand and is open to a maximum of six singers per year. TANZOS encompasses all the necessary elements required to give singers the best possible start on the global stage, as well as unprecedented opportunities that would normally only be available to those overseas.

In our inaugural year alone, we have hosted the British baritone, Sir Simon Keenlyside, world-class vocal teacher Jack LiVigni, coach and conductor, Tony Legge and the Head and Artistic Director (respectively) of the Jette Parker Artists Programme at The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, Elaine Kidd and David Gowland. This is in addition to regular coaching from the most in-demand vocal teachers and coaches from around New Zealand and Australia.

The 2024 programme is promising to be every bit as exciting, with another cohort of young talent, another residency at The Sydney Opera House with Opera Australia and some wonderful international guests who will help galvanise these young singers for an international career.



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Help us launch the opera stars of the future

Places on the TANZOS programme are awarded on a scholarship-only basis to Aotearoa's most promising and dedicated young singers. There are currently opportunities available to provide \$35,000 scholarship packages to support a place for individual students or smaller contributions towards delivering the programme at an international level. To become a Te Pae Kōkako donor, talk to Te Pou Taunaki - The University of Waikato Foundation at foundation@waikato.ac.nz or call us on +64 7 8384446

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