

# ARIA



ISSUE 28 | DECEMBER 2019

## Dame Kiri comments ...

My seventy-fifth birthday year has been incredibly busy and filled with memorable moments, but when they told me about the move to attach my name to the Concert Hall in the Aotea Centre it took me by complete surprise. Looking back on those 75 years, for me, this has to be the high point of all the high points!

2019 has been another very interesting year for me – full of surprises and memorable experiences, interesting musical projects and lots of contact with young singers being supported by the Foundations.

There is so much good news to report – from the UK Foundation's 12-monthly report, Manase Latu taking out the Australian Singing Competition with Samson Setu close behind and the appointment of two new trustees. Our current singers in the UK are also continuing to perform and study well.

I know you will enjoy this 28th edition of *Aria*.

Finally I want to thank my Trustees in New Zealand and the UK for their untiring efforts to achieve our goals and to wish them, all our enthusiastic supporters and the singers we are currently helping, a very Happy Christmas and New Year!



CREDIT JOHN SWANNELL

## Welcome to the 28th edition of *Aria*

### Featured in this issue . . .

Gala Concert honours Dame Kiri	2
News in brief	3
New UK Trustees	4
UK Foundation reflects on a busy year	4



*Happy Christmas*

Dame Kiri and the Trustees of the Kiri Te Kanawa Foundations extend their very best wishes for a very happy Christmas to all our supporters and their families and the singers that the Foundations are privileged to work with and support. May the joy and peace of Christmas be with you throughout this wonderful season and may 2020 bring you continuing prosperity and good health.



## Gala Concert honours Dame Kiri

In other great cities, it is seen as appropriate to honour an iconic artist who has established a special existential relationship with a particular performing complex by putting their name on it. Vivian Beaumont was a renowned actress who made a significant contribution to the establishment of the Lincoln Centre – her name is on the Vivian Beaumont Theatre. The Joan Sutherland Theatre in Sydney is the home of The Australian Ballet and Opera Australia. Laurence Olivier made a huge effort in developing the National Theatre on London's South Bank – the largest theatre in the National Theatre complex is named after him – the Olivier Theatre. For some time the Foundation respectfully considered it was time to think about similar recognition for Dame Kiri and began exploring the possibility of somehow involving Dame Kiri's name with the Aotea Centre theatre – and so it came to pass ...

On November 20, 2019 Dame Kiri was honoured at a star-studded gala event celebrating her remarkable career and also the renaming of the Auckland Aotea Centre's ASB Theatre to the 'Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre'. 'A GALA CONCERT IN THE PRESENCE OF DAME KIRI TE KANAWA' was produced by Auckland Live in association with the Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation and featured the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra conducted by music director Giordano Bellincampi, together with the Freemasons New Zealand Opera Chorus and some of New Zealand's finest operatic voices – Anna Leese, Pene Pati and James Ioelu (both Pene & James have been the recipient of Foundation support).

Dame Kiri was the special guest of honour at this extraordinary sold out concert which featured some of

her best-loved opera choruses and arias, and highlights from her career. It celebrated and saluted her formidable talent, contribution to the arts and support of young singers through her Foundation. Tributes during the concert included video messages recorded from some of the young singers that Dame Kiri has mentored – Julien van Mellaerts, Anthony Schneider, Bianca Andrew, Phillip Rhodes, Thomas Atkins, Eliza Boom and concluded with another apparent onscreen message from Ipu Laga'aia (another graduate of the 2nd Kiri Programme) who suddenly made a switch from screen to an actual appearance on stage, singing Granada to his own guitar and coaxing Dame Kiri to dance – and she gladly obliged – the audience loved it! (follow link to view this concert segment).

Speaking about the recognition Dame Kiri said it was something she had never expected.

"It's extraordinary to have something like this, it's quite breathtaking," she said. "It's a great honour and an acknowledgment of the art form I have dedicated my life to. How very wonderful, it is... a tribute to music, classical music and performing arts. I think it will be a very thrilling moment when I walk in and suddenly it's got my name on the front there.

"But it's not about me. It's about music. It's about what we've all worked for so much. The Foundation, all the people in NZ who have promoted young singers, all the people who have established small festivals. Everyone's helped. It's just amazing."

The previous day Dame Kiri had been welcomed into the centre by Ngāti Whātua representatives,



Manase Latu

## NZ Singers excel in major Australian singing competition

Two NZ singers – tenor Manase Latu and bass baritone Samson Setu recently pulled out all the stops to finish first and third respectively in the 2019 IFAC Handa Australian Singing Competition. Manase's win brought with it a range of awards and grants including the prestigious Marianne Mathy Scholarship ('THE MATHY') and AUS\$30,000 to assist his future studies. Both singers were members of the 2nd Kiri Programme (the personalised Foundation initiative based on a series of training skills workshops which help prepare talented singers for overseas study).

They were both assisted by the Foundation when they successfully auditioned for the Royal College of Music in September and also offered full scholarships.

Manase is currently enrolled in the Masters programme at RCM as a Kiri Scholar under the tutorship of Russell Smythe. He is making his mark already and was recently given a role in a concert performance with the London Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall of Elgar's *The Apostles*.

for a blessing to restore the mauri to the new name of the Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre. Dame Kiri unveiled the new plaque which recorded that the new name had been gifted by ASB Bank. (follow this link to view Dame Kiri reflecting on the name change).

Later in the day a visit to her old school (St Mary's College) and a special assembly followed (follow link to view TV coverage of the visit).

### WATCH

[Ipu Laga'aia - A Gala Concert In the Presence of Dame Kiri Te Kanawa](#)

[Kiri reflects on the renaming of the theatre in her honour](#)

[Kiri returns to the Auckland school where she learned to sing](#)



## Brief Updates about Foundation supported singers in the UK

**Eliza Boom** – received a Foundation scholarship earlier this year to attend the National Opera Studio and is making quite an impact.

**Katherine McIndoe** is happily installed as the Foundation's Victoria League Scholar in London where she continues her studies at the Guildhall Opera School with Yvonne Kenny. She made her debut performance last month at Snape Maltings, singing "On this Island" song cycle by Benjamin Britten, set to beautiful choreography by Richard Alston, and will appear with his award winning dance company on tour through their season until March.

**Madison Nonoa** – is enjoying her time at Glyndebourne where she is covering in Rinaldo, and is continuing to do very well at the Guildhall – she's benefitting tremendously from her time there.

**Felipe Manu** – this year's cohort of singers in the Jette Parker Scheme are already hard at work, and Felipe is covering Tamino in the Royal Opera's upcoming production of *The Magic Flute*, and will also be covering in many upcoming operas.



Cameron Shahbazi



Marvic Monreal

## UK Foundation reflects on a busy year



As we write, a year after the Wigmore Hall Gala Concert, it is good to reflect on the myriad activities which have kept the London Foundation busy since then. Thanks to all those who helped make the evening such a success, the Foundation have been able to grant three scholarships in London for Manase Letu, Samson Setu, both at the Royal College of Music, and to Eliza Boom at the National Opera Studio. To support Kiri's tireless work as Patron of the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World Competition 2019, the UK Foundation also made substantial contributions to the Main Competition Prize, as well as the Song Prize awards, and this support will continue for the next two competitions in 2021 and 2023. We were delighted to welcome several Foundation supporters to join Kiri in attending the final; a thrilling concert held at St David's Hall, Cardiff, seen by millions worldwide.

Watching rehearsals at the Royal Opera House this year has given Trustees an insight into the invaluable opportunity given to the two recipients of this year's Foundation Cover awards. Cameron Shebazi and Marvic Monreal have been coached by the ROH music staff, directors and vocal coaches in the roles of Charlotte and Narciso in Werther and *Agrippina* respectively – unforgettable experiences for these two young singers. We were also delighted to learn that the 2016/17 singer chosen to receive the Foundation Cover Award, Liparit Avetisyan, will return to Covent Garden to sing the main role of Alfredo in *La Traviata* in December 2020.

The generous support the Foundation receives not only makes a difference to a new generation of singers, but continues to underpin the vital and flourishing world of opera. Thank you to all!

### New UK Trustees

Recently Dame Kiri announced two new trustees would join the UK Foundation. Welcoming the appointments Dame Kiri said both would be wonderful assets bringing a great depth of knowledge and experience to support future UK Foundation projects:



Fiona Rose studied singing at the Royal College of Music, the Banff Centre for the Arts, Canada and the National Opera Studio in London. She also participated in numerous courses, including the Britten-Pears School, Aldeburgh, the Salzburg Mozarteum and the Academie Ravel, St Jean de Luz. On completing her studies, she went on to pursue a career in opera, performing throughout the UK and Europe. After living in Berlin for many years she returned to the UK to take up career in Philanthropy, returning to the Royal College of Music where, as the Senior Major Gifts Manager, she secured a number of transformational gifts. Fiona is now the Associate Director of Leadership Philanthropy at the London School of Economics.



Andrew Robinson leads Deloitte's specialist Valuation Group in the UK and EMEA. He has executive responsibilities at Deloitte in the UK and internationally and currently leads the UK and EMEA Valuation practice for Deloitte. He is a Councillor (the ultimate governing body) and Fellow Member of Chartered Accountants of Australia and New Zealand ("CAANZ"), an Associate and Corporate Finance Faculty Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales ("ICAEW") and Member of the Securities Institute. When time allows Andrew takes a keen interest in mentoring and supporting young professionals joining his firm or as members of CAANZ. He has also organised numerous work experience opportunities for 15-17 year olds considering accountancy or the City as a career.

Further information about how to make a donation is on the website or contact the Foundation for details.

#### KIRI TE KANAWA FOUNDATION

ADMINISTRATOR: Paul Gleeson  
POSTAL ADDRESS: P O Box 38387, Howick, Auckland 2145, New Zealand  
TELEPHONE: +64 9 5349398  
MOBILE: +64 275 944534  
EMAIL: [foundation@kiritekanawa.org](mailto:foundation@kiritekanawa.org)  
WEBSITE: [www.kiritekanawa.org](http://www.kiritekanawa.org)

#### KIRI TE KANAWA FOUNDATION (UK)

C/- Gillian Newson  
23B Prince of Wales Mansions  
Prince of Wales Drive,  
London SW11 4BQ  
United Kingdom  
MOBILE: +44 (7768) 166381  
EMAIL: [gilliannewson@outlook.com](mailto:gilliannewson@outlook.com)

#### KIRI TE KANAWA FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS



The next issue of *Aria* will feature more news about the Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation. If you want information about the Foundation please contact us. However, if you do not wish to receive further editions of *Aria* please advise us by sending an email.

It is believed that the contents of this newsletter are a full and fair representation. Interested parties should make their own enquiries to satisfy themselves on all aspects. PRIVACY POLICY: Under the Privacy Act 1993 any address or information you supply us will be held in secure circumstances by the Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation and used to communicate with you about the Foundation's events, associations and activities. Our mailing lists are available only to the Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation and are not available to any third parties or organisations.

