



ARIA

The newsletter of the Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation

Welcome to the 14th edition of Aria – the newsletter of the Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation - read on and take a wander

FOUNDATION SUPPORTS NEW ZEALAND SINGING SCHOOL



The Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation recently announced significant support for the 2013 New Zealand Singing School through a naming rights sponsorship of its Festival of Song. The Festival of Song is the programme of concerts that come out of each New Zealand Singing School: Te Wānanga Toi Waiata.

The Singing School which is based at the Eastern Institute of Technology in Taradale (Hawkes Bay) includes 11 days of masterclasses, technical sessions, lectures and a lot of singing practice. In just that short time, students of the School perform in

the 9 concerts and a church service which make up the Festival of Song. Six of the concerts are in-house concerts performed on campus at the and ensures all students get a chance to perform solo in front of an audience. The 3 larger concerts are the Cabaret Concert with a musical theatre and contemporary singing repertoire, the Classics Concert with a classical and opera repertoire and the final Gala concert which showcases the best of the school across the streams of classical and contemporary singing.

"Funding the School and Festival is a continuing challenge, and without the support of organisations such as the Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation, School fees would be around double what they are", says New Zealand Singing School Chairperson Eileen von Dadelsen."

"The support of the Foundation is a real honour and I think it's a reflection of the calibre of faculty we appoint for each School and the ability of the students and their achievements following the School" she said.

Dame Kiri said ' the Foundation's motivation for getting involved was to show its support for this important biennial school which has for nearly 30 years provided a platform for many of our finest young singers to develop their talents within a supportive environment and in a number of cases to launch their own international careers'.

YOUNG WELLINGTON TENOR JOINS AUSTRALIAN OPERA



Wellington tenor Jonathan Abernethy (pictured), whom the Foundation has been supporting through tuition and travel grants has been offered an exceptional opportunity to join Opera Australia's Moffatt Oxenbould Young Artist Programme for the 2012 – 2013 season. Jonathan will be performing the role of Normanno in the opening 2012 season of Lucia di Lammermoor and will be joining the other young artists in a recital a few days following opening night. As a young artist he will spend the year immersed in the workings of a busy opera company under the tutelage of experienced opera artists.

Although somewhat nervous about what will be an extremely busy and challenging year ahead, he is extremely excited about all the opportunities and experiences it entails. Jonathan will perform in a special fundraising recital at St John's in the City,

Wellington, on Sunday the 29th July at 4pm. He will be joined by soprano Amelia Berry and fellow Foundation grant recipient baritone Kawiti Waetford – they will be accompanied by Terence Dennis.

PHILLIP RHODES ON A ROLE



The Foundation continues to support young New Zealand baritone Phillip Rhodes who recently sang the title role in the brand new opera Hôhepa for The NBR New Zealand Opera at the 2012 New Zealand International Arts Festival. In a recent letter to the Foundation Phillip passed on the good news that he will be singing the role of Conte di Luna in the Dorset Opera's production of Il Trovatore in July. New Sussex Opera have also asked him to perform the role of Frank in their semi-staged version of Puccini's Edgar in September/October and Opera North have offered him the role of Aeneas in Handel's Dido and Aeneas and also the cover of Iago in their production of Verdi's Otello in Jan/Feb. Things are really starting to happen for Phillip.

FOUNDATION WELL REPRESENTED AT WINDSOR RECITAL



Terence Dennis.

The Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation was recently well represented at a prestigious private recital hosted by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh at Frogmore House, Windsor for a small special group of donors of The Outward Bound Trust, of which HRH The Duke of Edinburgh is the Patron.

Dame Kiri had been invited for this recital personally and invited fellow Foundation trustee Professor Terence Dennis to be her accompanist. At very short notice Terence made the trip to the UK with the encouragement and financial support of the University of Otago. Terence is currently Professor and Head of Classical Performance Studies at the University of Otago Department of Music. He has accompanied Dame Kiri in recital many times – in NZ, Australia and Hawaii. The recital included works by Handel and Vivaldi, songs by Liszt in French and Italian, Canteloube's Chants d' Auvergne and a selection of English folk songs and concluded with Puccini.

The concert was so successful that the Outward Bound Trust has agreed to promote Dame Kiri in two further recitals later this year with funds being shared between the Trust and the Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation.

Photo caption: –HRH The Duke of Edinburgh with Dame Kiri &

KIRI TE KANAWA RETIREMENT VILLAGE PASSES THE TEST



Dame Kiri Te Kanawa recently captivated her Gisborne hometown crowd as she sang some of her favourite songs when she attended the official opening of the Kiri Te Kanawa Retirement Village on a Foundation related visit.

Speaking to the residents and invited guests before her performance, Dame Kiri said she wanted to first take them back to her ordinary background when she was raised in this "wonderful town" until the age of 12.

"I was adopted by two amazing people, one Maori and one white."

She was proud to see the huge developments in the Maori people and culture, as she remembered a language that was not allowed to be spoken "ever . . . ever" while she was growing up." They suffered but how wonderful it is to see Maori developing."

Dame Kiri said she had had roses, bridges, trains, parrots and dogs named after her and having a retirement village in her name was "supreme".

"I have a building named after me and I am actually eligible to check in. I congratulate you on an amazing building and I thank you so much for inviting me. I'm really, really thrilled."

After her performance, Dame Kiri mingled with the residents and invited guests.

Dame Kiri pictured with Jean Milton (left) and Rose Doleman (right).

LEXUS SONG QUEST TALENT STUNS PRELIMINARY JUDGES



Eminent NZ bass-baritone Preliminary Judge Rodney Macann (a Foundation Trustee) said " NZ continues to punch above its weight when it come to the production of world-class opera singers. Hearing the latest crop of outstanding young singers in the Lexus Song Quest convinces me that the future is looking very bright indeed."

As this edition of Aria goes to press the names of the six finalists in the 2012 Lexus Song Quest were announced. The list includes young Dunedin based baritone Kawiti Waetford (pictured) who has been supported by the Foundation for nearly 3 years and mentored by Dame Kiri. In 2011 with the support of the Foundation he attended the Georg Solti Accademia di Bel Canto in Italy. The Foundation wishes him every success in the Lexus Song Quest final on August 30.

FOUNDATION PROVIDES SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT FOR 2012 LEXUS SONG QUEST



The Lexus Song Quest is New Zealand's most prestigious song contest. During its 56 year history it has provided a platform for many talented New Zealand singers including Dame Malvina Major, and Dame Kiri Te Kanawa to launch international opera careers.

The distinguished Welsh tenor Dennis O'Neill (pictured) has been secured as the Chief Judge for the 2012 competition – the final will be held in Wellington on August 30.

The Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation have committed over \$50,000 in support of the 2012 contest and the 4-city masterclass tour led by Dennis O'Neill - to help the competition reach its full potential. The Lexus Masterclasses sponsored by the Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation will be held in Wellington (31 August), Auckland (September 3), Dunedin (September 7) and Christchurch (September 5). Singing teachers, their students and

the general public are encouraged to attend and observe free of charge. At the conclusion of the tour Dennis O'Neill will select one of the masterclass participants who will receive the Kiri Te Kanawa scholarship for advance studies.

PROFESSOR JACK RICHARDS – FOUNDATION PATRON



Following a meeting with Dame Kiri last year Professor Jack Richards responded to her invitation to support the Foundation on an ongoing basis. He was subsequently named Associate Patron in recognition of this commitment. As a Foundation Patron Professor Richards takes great interest and pride in the Foundation's activities and featured in the recently produced DVD. Aria asked him why he is such an enthusiastic supporter. He told us...

"As a sponsor of a number of ventures in music and the arts, I often get requests for support from young singers who are seeking to further their studies abroad. In the past I have had to make decisions about who to offer support to and for what purposes - decisions that are difficult for me to make without proper advice. I was

therefore delighted when Dame Kiri invited me to work with her through her Foundation, since I can leave the Foundation to make decisions about the kind of support best suited to emerging opera singers' needs.

Singers who receive the Foundation's support can not only count on Dame Kiri's mentoring and advice, but also benefit from guidance from other world-class singers and voice coaches - an experience I was able to witness first-hand when I recently had the chance to spend a day watching a number of young singers working with Dame Kiri and some of her colleagues. So by contributing to the Dame Kiri Foundation I am able to provide support that has a much greater impact than anything I could offer on my own."

ICONIC NEW ZEALANDER OF THE YEAR NAMED



Dame Kiri Te Kanawa was recently named the Iconic New Zealander of the Year at the 2012 World Class New Zealand Awards. The annual awards are a celebration of New Zealand innovators and entrepreneurs who have made significant contributions to the country's growth and development. The Iconic New Zealander of the Year Award is a new special category launched this year at the World Class New Zealand Awards.

Kea Global board member and Chair of judges John Stace said New Zealand is proud of Kiri Te Kanawa, who has conquered the hearts of people worldwide with her beautiful voice and outstanding singing talent. "Kiri is undoubtedly an iconic New Zealander who

makes us all feel proud with her magnificent success and achievements that cross international boundaries."

Accepting the award Dame Kiri told guests that her main focus now is working with the Foundation to bring through the next generation of classical singers. She was delighted with the depth of talented singers she has been working with. To view the presentation and interview please go to the website.

Photo caption – Left to right - David McLean, General Manager of Private Wealth and Insurance at Westpac who presented the award with Dame Kiri, Sir Don McKinnon

DVD WILL HELP PROMOTE FOUNDATION'S WORK



The Foundation now has a 6 minute DVD which will be used for promotional and educational purposes. It was produced for the Foundation by Robert Hagen from Arts & Entertainment Productions. Robert was the Producer of the documentary 'Rhodes actor singer' which traced the inspiring journey of Phillip Rhodes from a childhood of violence and despair to the international world of Opera and his contact with Dame Kiri and the Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation. Much footage included in the DVD was filmed at Dame Kiri's home during a recent weekend with young students. A copy of the documentary is included as a bonus track on the DVD disc. Go to www.kiritekanawa.org to view the DVD.

YOUNG NEW ZEALAND TENOR STUDYING IN CARDIFF



Darren Pene Pati is a 24yr old Samoan-born tenor living in New Zealand. In the past two years he has won the Sydney Eisteddfod Macdonalds Aria, the prestigious NZ Aria in Rotorua where he also received the 'Most Promising Voice' award and the Performing Arts Competition Society 'NZ Young Performer of the Year' award. Last year he accepted an invitation to study under Dennis O'Neill at the Wales International Academy of Voice in Cardiff. At the time of acceptance he said "my time at the Academy of Voice"will provide me with the necessary time to consolidate my vocal technique and provide performance opportunities and a platform of exposure in the UK and European opera market. This will be the most important time of my development, and a time I know will carve the way for the rest of my career. Working with Dennis in this environment will

set me up with a proper bel canto technique."

Earlier he had attracted the attention of Dame Kiri who spent time mentoring and advising him about his technique and career. The Foundation is providing grants for his tuition and living expenses to support his first year in Cardiff.

TALENT IS A GIFT

Those who have been blessed with it deserve the opportunity to nurture and develop it to the full. We need your help, to help them ... to live their dreams.

Donations to the Foundation of any size are always welcome and very important for the continued aim of supporting talented singers and musicians. Regular contributions are particularly important.

The Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation and the Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation (UK) are registered charitable trusts which offer a range of opportunities to support their work. Further information about how to make a donation is on the website or contact the Foundation for details.

BEQUESTS – LEAVING A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

Leaving a bequest is a simple procedure that allows you to include the Foundation as a beneficiary of your will. Bequests are usually directed to the Foundation for use at the trustee's discretion but they can also be directed towards a specific purpose such as a music scholarship for a talented singer, musician or conductor identified by the trustees as meeting all the required criteria. Leaving a gift in your will is one way to make the type of gift that you may not be able to make during your lifetime. If you'd like to discuss this matter further or would like sample language for your lawyer please contact the Foundation office.

The Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation is proudly supported by



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