

New General Manager at Pinchgut Opera

Sydney's Pinchgut Opera has appointed Anna Cerneaz as its general manager. Anna has been with Pinchgut since it was set up in 2000 and has been responsible for marketing, publicity and other areas through that time.

Antony Walker (who is also music director of Pittsburgh Opera and Washington Concert Opera) and Erin Helyard (of McGill University in Montréal) are the artistic directors of Pinchgut while Alison Johnston is responsible for artistic administration.

In December this year Pinchgut presents its ninth opera production - Haydn's *L'anima del filosofo: Orpheus & Euridice* - at City Recital Hall Angel Place Sydney opening on Thursday 2 December. Composed in 1791, this work was Haydn's last opera and this is its first Australian production.

Haydn's Orpheus is a rarely heard, beautiful, classical opera in Italian is based on the myth of Orpheus as told in Ovid's Metamorphoses. The story of Orpheus has fascinated composers and librettists over the centuries. The opera was never performed during Haydn's lifetime and its first performance, surprisingly, was in 1951 in Florence with a cast including Maria Callas and Boris Christoff.

The 2010 Pinchgut production will be simply staged, with a set and costumes and emphasis on the music performed at the highest level. The cast will include soprano Elena Xanthoudakis in the double part of Euridice/Genio and tenor Andrew Goodwin as Orfeo. The opera makes extensive use of the chorus, which will be Cantillation, and world acclaimed conductor Antony Walker will conduct a classical orchestra (Orchestra of the Antipodes) that will include Erin Helyard playing fortepiano.

Pinchgut specialises in presenting unfairly neglected operas, mostly from the baroque and early classical periods.

Pinchgut Opera presents Haydn's - Haydn's *L'anima del filosofo: Orpheus & Euridice*

4 performances: 2, 4, 7 December 2010 at 7.30pm & 5 December 2010 at 5pm

City Recital Hall Angel Place, Sydney

This will be the first professional Australian production of this work

Principals: Euridice, Genio - Elena Xanthoudakis; Orfeo - Andrew Goodwin

Conductor: Antony Walker

Director: Mark Gaal

Designers: Alexandra Sommer & Brad Clark

Lighting Designer: Bernie Tan-Hayes

Orchestra: Orchestra of the Antipodes with fortepiano Erin Helyard

Sung in Italian with English surtitles (libretto by Carlo Francesco Badini)

Box office opens July 2010

www.pinchgutopera.com.au

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