



June 2002

Dear Friends,

Box Office opens!

The Box Office opens for newsletter subscribers from 1 July.

For two weeks you can have first pick of seats by telling the City Recital Hall Box Office that you receive the Pinchgut Opera newsletter.

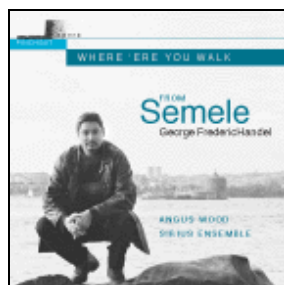
The Box office will be open to the general public from 15 July.

All bookings are through the City Recital Hall Box Office on phone 8256 2222 or their website www.cityrecitalhall.com. Tickets are \$95 for A Reserve and \$75 for B Reserve. There are also 50 tickets at each performance at \$45 for enrolled full time students who can show a student ID at the box office. These prices don't include the City Recital Hall booking fees.

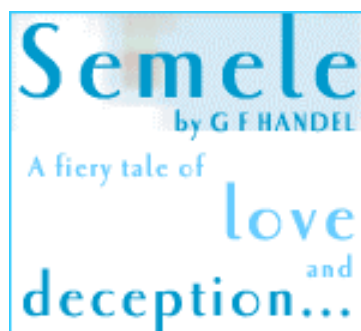
Book early and get the dates and seats you want.

(You can see the seating plan on the City Recital Hall website.)

CD sampler



Angus Wood, our Jupiter, has recorded a CD sampler of the most famous aria from Semele - "Where 'ere you walk" for us, with Erin and Anna and other members of Sirius. We will be using this for promotion of Semele. Please let us know if you would like to be able to use it for example for radio airplay. It is not for sale but we hope to put it on the website for downloads.



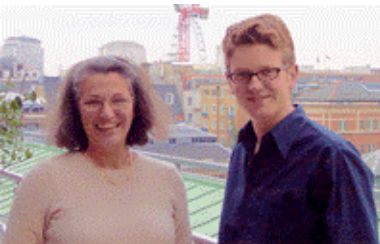
City Recital Hall
Angel Place, Sydney
4,6,7 & 9 December 2002
at 7.30 pm

Bookings open 1 July for
newsletter subscribers

Since our last Newsletter

- ✓ We have appointed a lighting director for Semele. Bernie Tan has a very impressive resume for one so young – working with Sydney Theatre Company and Company B and for South Australian Opera in Parsifal, and the next Adelaide Ring Cycle.
- ✓ Tobias Cole appeared at Angel Place in an all Bach program that was very well received. It was Toby's first view of the recital hall, and he was very impressed.
- ✓ Neal Peres de Costa who was co founder, with Anna McDonald, of Florilegium in UK has returned to Sydney to live and will join Erin Helyard in Sirius on harpsichord with Danny Yeadon also from Florilegium leading the cellos.
- ✓ Liz and Ken had an interesting time researching Handel in London. At the Bank of England they were able to look at the actual hand written ledgers of Handel's accounts at the time of the presentation of Semele. He was an amazing man, he not only wrote the music and rehearsed the musicians but also was the entrepreneur behind the production of his operas. It seems, from the bank records, that he was also a successful stock market speculator.
- ✓ From the British Library we have been able to get a microfilm copy of Handel's hand written score for Semele that Erin, Anna and Antony will be able to use to prepare the performance.

More news on our director



When in London Ken & Liz caught up with Justin Way at Covent Garden. The photo is taken from the balcony of Covent Garden overlooking the Covent Garden Market with Justin and a reluctant Liz.

Justin is very excited about Semele and working in Australia. Up until now he feels that he has been a squirrel hoarding away all the experiences he has been having in Europe; greedy for other cultural experiences, and learning the language of each opera he has been involved in. He sees his role as director to take the audience to that particular place - onto the island that is the opera - so they can experience the work. "Opera does need the audience to want to go on the ride to the island and the audience needs to trust the people that take them there. As the director I have to earn that trust so that the audience is not hood winked and can just relax."

Since leaving Australia in 1995 after graduating from the NIDA Director's Course, to work with the Kirov Opera in St Petersburg Justin has worked with many of the great directors in new productions

and directed revivals at Covent Garden. He has also created productions for the Opera Theatre of Lucca in Tuscany and for the DivaOpera's tour of France and Switzerland. Justin's ideas for the production are very exciting and they are going to provide a very classy setting for this wonderful music. "I'm going to make Semele dazzle" he says.

This will be Justin's first professional visit back to Australia since he began work at Covent Garden as a house director.

A personal response to Semele and Handel from Anna Ryberg -

"It was in Germany at the Halle Handel Festival, where I was introduced for the first time to the music of Handel. It is certainly a work-out for both the brain and the voice. When the opportunity came to work on a role such as Semele, which really tests the technique, stamina and creativity of the singers, I leapt at the chance. With the added bonus of coming back to Australia and to work with Antony Walker, it was a chance of a lifetime. Having worked with him briefly in his first choir, The Contemporary Singers, I knew it was going to be an immensely rewarding experience.

I have been so inspired by this new range of repertoire that I have found myself doing more and more Handel, and will shortly be performing the role of Iole in Hercules at the Athens Festival. It is a good thing that more and more modern opera houses are including Handel in their standard repertoire as it is now proving to be accessible and equally as dramatic as grand opera with modern interpretations. Semele is a great collection of fabulous tunes and fun musical 'gags' in the orchestration with some great, and very real, characters. Learning this role has been the focus of the past few months and I am so excited about coming home! I'm counting the days..... "

So are we, Anna!

Take advantage of your head start and book before the 15 July.

Regards

Liz, Alison, Anna Cerneaz and the rest of the Pinchgut Opera Team.

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"(Handel) is the only person I would wish to see before I die, and the only person I would wish to be, were I not Bach." J.S.Bach.