



January 2003

Dear Friends,

First of all, thank you for your support to Pinchgut and Semele. Many of you contacted us to say how much you enjoyed the production. It matters a lot for us to hear directly from you. Our Newsletters are meant to be part of a 2-way communication, so please let us know what you think.

Welcome to all the new Newsletter subscribers. We plan to write every 6-8 weeks during the year, as we have something interesting to tell you. When we started Pinchgut, we wanted to develop a group of supporters who, as we put it, came with us on the journey. We had never started an opera company before and we thought that you might enjoy the adventure with us. So the Newsletter is not just advertising – it is a kind of diary. All Newsletters from last year are on the website:-

<http://www.pinchgutopera.com.au/newsletter/index.html>

On the website, there are also links to all the reviews of Semele we have found:

<http://www.pinchgutopera.com.au/media/index.html> - reviews

And also some photos of the production, taken by our photographer Ed Hughes:

<http://www.pinchgutopera.com.au/productions/photos/index.html>



The photos you see here are a small taste of what's available. The website will be changed soon, adding material of The Faerie Queen and Purcell, but the current material will still be available.

## Our next production

We are now planning our next production: Henry Purcell's The Faerie Queen. It will be in City Recital Hall, Angel Place 3,6,7& 8 December 2003.

The Faerie Queen meets our criteria: wonderful music, not often done and can be presented in a way that is entertaining. It is based on Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream. We have booked several of the principal singers – Sally-Anne Russell and Stephen Bennett who made such great contributions to Semele, and soprano Sara Macliver. We are thinking about the director and should be able to announce the choice soon. Antony Walker will be back to conduct and Sirius and Cantillation will be with us again. We will report on the rest of the story as it unfolds.



There are several good recordings of Faerie Queen. We recommend The Sixteen on Coro. Fish Fine Music (George St near Martin Place) has it and Michael's Music Room (Town Hall Arcade) should have it soon. And if you want to start early on your homework, the libretto is on the web at <http://opera.stanford.edu/Purcell/FairyQueen/libretto.html>.

Other interesting material on Purcell is at <http://www.geocities.com/Vienna/Strasse/9570/purcell/> or [http://www.geocities.com/Vienna/1790/p\\_op.htm#Z629](http://www.geocities.com/Vienna/1790/p_op.htm#Z629)


## News

The cast and crew of Semele has spread out to the four corners of the earth. Anna Ryberg has taken up her position with Welsh National Opera, and is now in Cardiff, where she says it's raining. Angus Wood is back in Michigan, where it's snowing, Justin Way is back at the Royal Opera House, and Toby Cole is just about to take up his Met Opera Young Artists Study grant. Various of the chorus and orchestra are now in the Netherlands, the UK and Germany and as you are reading this Antony Walker is arriving in Washington where he's starting work on his first production with Washington Concert Opera – Berlioz' Beatrice et Benedict. At his request Sally-Anne Russell is going over there too to sing the part of Ursule. Matt McDonald (who played bass in Semele) has been playing with the Berlin Phil, and they've booked him to come and do some more work with them. Matt is just about to take up a position with the prestigious Ensemble Modern.

Ben Loomes, who sang in the chorus for Semele, has composed a new one-act opera "The Boat". Based on the award winning play, by Queensland playwright Jill Shearer, "The Boat" explores issues of mid-life retrenchment, family loyalty and madness, all touched with a light brush of comedy.

The cast of four includes two of the Semele cast with Jenny Duck-Chong playing another slightly neurotic mother and Ben playing her son, Brian.

Performances will be on the 14th and 15th of February in Annandale. Tickets are \$25 adults and \$15 concession. Phone for details and bookings on (02) 9415 2277 or e-mail [loomes@ozemail.com.au](mailto:loomes@ozemail.com.au) for a flyer or more info.



Sherbrook Productions proudly presents

### The Boat

a new one-act opera

By **Ben Loomes**  
Libretto by **Jill Shearer**

Performances at  
**Christians in the Media Venue**  
cnr Johnston St & Booth St  
ANNANDALE  
14 & 15 Feb 2003 - 7:30pm

*"If they retrenched you  
wouldn't you go crazy?"*

Starting:	Jenny Duck-Chong Ben Loomes Anna Fraser Simon Pryce	\$25 Adult \$15 Conc.
Pianist:	Natalia Raspopova	BOOKING ENQ. Phone: (02) 9415 2277 <a href="mailto:loomes@ozemail.com.au">loomes@ozemail.com.au</a>

Thank you all again for being part of Pinchgut, Liz, Alison, Anna C, Anna Mc, Antony, Erin & Ken.

PS If you don't want to receive our newsletters, please reply to our email (removing the attachment) and simply say "Goodbye" in the message or drop us a line in the mail or phone. But we'll miss you.

And in a nice handover from Handel to Purcell quotes .... A conversation between Handel and Savage, a critic and historian, at Jephthe :-

*Savage* : **"This movement, sir, reminds me of some of old Purcell's music."**

*Handel* : **"If Purcell had lived, he would have composed better music than this."**