



February 2004

Dear Friends

Best wishes for a wonderful year in 2004. We are sending you a quick newsletter to announce two important developments for Pinchgut Opera in the new year.

Orfeo in 2004

We are very pleased to announce that our 2004 production will be Claudio Monteverdi's *Orfeo*. *Orfeo* is another great work, with glorious music which is not often performed by the major companies so it fits Pinchgut's criteria. The work was first performed in 1607 for the court of the Duke of Mantua in Italy and is of course based on the Greek Orpheus myth also used by Gluck and Offenbach in later operas.

We will tell you more about the work, our production and the director and soloists in later newsletters. However – most importantly - please note the performance dates: Wednesday 1 December, Friday 3 December and Monday 6 December 2004, all at 7:30 PM and all at the City Recital Hall Angel Place. Ticket bookings will open in July.

Angels Sought

Pinchgut aims to be financed primarily by box-office, sponsorship and donations. We do not expect substantial government funding. Our first two productions were underwritten by a group of music lovers who have agreed to continue to support the next production and we have obtained a grant of \$15,000 from the NSW Ministry of the Arts. Until now, we have not made a major fund raising drive because we wanted to show what we can do first. We thought we should earn your support through our achievements. We think that, with *Semele* and *The Fairy Queen*, we have now done that. If Pinchgut is to become an established part of the Australian music scene, we need to broaden our financial base.

Can you help? We hope to find a group of people who would like to join us in building a different kind of opera company. Let's say ten Archangels who can contribute \$5000 each and twenty five Angels who will contribute \$2000 each. Donations are tax deductible and will be acknowledged in programmes and our other publications. Under the rules for tax deductibility, we cannot promise any other benefits, though we want to make all our Angels part of the Pinchgut family, so we will find ways of thanking you.

If you would like to talk to us about this, please phone Liz or Ken Nielsen on 02 9908 1962. Cheques may be sent to Pinchgut Opera, PO Box 1017, Neutral Bay 2089. Receipts for tax purposes will be issued.

Looking forward to taking you on another wonderful journey this year. Until our next newsletter.

Best wishes from the Pinchgut team,

Liz, Anna, Alison, Antony, Erin and Ken