

## 2005 NEWSLETTER #7

Dear Friends,

**Have you booked your tickets yet?** Many of you have already booked for *Dardanus*. But some have not. If you do want to come, may we suggest that you book soon? Our sales are well ahead of previous years and although seats are still available for all four performances, Wednesday, Saturday or Sunday are starting to get tight. Press advertising and other publicity will start in a week or so and sales will increase again then. We would hate it if any of our loyal newsletter readers missed out or could not get the seats they wanted, so please book as soon as you can. The City Recital Hall Angel Place box office is on (02) 8256 222 or you can book online at [www.cityrecitalhall.com](http://www.cityrecitalhall.com). And when you do come, please stop at the Pinchgut desk in the lobby and say hello to us.

**Rehearsals have started!** Antony, Justin and the principals have all arrived safely in Australia and rehearsals started last Thursday. Antony began with music calls for the principals, accompanied by Neal Peres da Costa on harpsichord and Danny Yeadon on baroque cello. Music calls are where details of interpretation of the music are worked on, and where things like speed and character are decided upon. It is a very exciting experience to hear the first notes of a production we have thought about and worked on for so many months.

A couple of days later director Justin Way and designer Hamish Peters presented the production concept to the principals and others in the production team. We won't spoil it by telling you how the story is to be told, but here are a couple of photos taken on the day, showing Justin and Hamish with the model box of the stage and set and a shot of the principals and crew all together. The chorus started rehearsal today, and the orchestra are arriving to start rehearsals in two weeks time.





Thanks to KLM Royal Dutch Airlines for making it possible to assemble such a strong cast in Sydney for this production.



**Dardanus will be broadcast live on ABC Classic FM on Saturday 3rd December at 7.30 pm.** If you are not coming to the show on that night you might want to stay home and listen. And for all of you that have booked tickets for this performance please remember that we'll be starting right on time because of the broadcast, and allow yourself a little extra time to get in and seated at Angel Place.

#### **Coming from out of town?**

**THE GRACE** The Grace Hotel is offering a number of packages starting from \$195.00 for a Superior room. The Heritage Floor has also been packaged to include full buffet breakfast for 2 and sparkling wine on arrival for \$285.00 per room. Rooms are subject to availability. Reservations can be made by contacting The Grace Hotel on 02 9272 6890. Email [reservations@gracehotel.com.au](mailto:reservations@gracehotel.com.au) Website [www.gracehotel.com.au](http://www.gracehotel.com.au)



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#### **Meet some more of our artists**

We're taking this opportunity to introduce you to some of our wonderful artists in the cast, chorus and orchestra. We're very fortunate to have many highly skilled and talented people working on our productions and it's hard to know where to start! But we've picked a few people that you may have seen in past years. As you'll see they lead varied and interesting lives, and sometimes have quite surprising other things going on.

**Miriam Allan** has come back from a very successful singing career in the UK to be part of Dardanus. She'll be singing a Phrygian woman and one of the Dreams. We asked her about her singing :



"I can't remember a time when I wasn't singing. I'm from a musical family, whose weekly bonding activity was singing in the Cathedral Choir in Newcastle. When I was at high school I was French Horn player in orchestras, and despite my parents constantly telling me not to be a poor starving musician (like them), I did think that I would be an orchestral player. A fellow member of one of the orchestras I was playing in who heard me singing on a CD and suggested I could take singing seriously. I think I was 16. I have many terrific experiences singing as an ensemble member of many groups of the past few years, including Polyphony, the Sixteen, Ex Cathedra and the BBC Singers. As a soloist, my best singing experiences relate to singing with others. I've had a stunning year this year of singing with terrific countertenors - no more fun can be had than to be dueting with Daniel Taylor and Robin Blaze. You can never sing enough Bach, Monteverdi, Handel and Mozart. I've really enjoyed singing Haydn songs and being in chamber music situations, singing music such as Vivaldi motets and Scarlatti cantatas. Oh and Pinchgut has given me a skill I never thought I'd have - pole dancing in *Fairy Queen*!

**Corin Bone** you might remember as one of the angel attendants in *Semele*, or as one of the lovers in *Fairy Queen* (Miriam was the other one). This year Corin is one of the Dreams, as well as singing in the chorus.



Corin was born in Adelaide into a musical family - his grandfather played double bass for many years in the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, his father is a piano technician and his mother an ethnomusicologist. He studied music at Sydney University, singing with Sue Falk, and screamed in a noise-rock band. At university he was also involved in acting, and first encountered Justin Way's inimitable direction style when he played Leontes in Shakespeare's "A winter's tale". After graduating he has become very busy as an ensemble and solo singer. He has sung with Cantillation since 2001, taking part in many recordings and performances. Over the last three years Corin has done extensive touring with Sounds Baroque and the Song Company as part of the Musica Viva In Schools program, and has sung bass solos in many oratorio performances around Sydney. Apart from singing, Corin is also an obsessive home brewer and self-confessed beer-geek, and was runner-up in the 2005 Australian Amateur Brewing Championships.

**Simon Rickard** has played bassoon in every Pinchgut Opera performance, though last year played curtal in Orfeo. But Simon has a very interesting second career ...



Simon was born on the NSW north coast, but spent most of his life in Canberra. Simon was passionate about music and plants from a young age, and being blessed with the most supportive parents any child could hope for, began piano lessons at seven, before taking up clarinet at thirteen and bassoon soon after. He studied bassoon at the Canberra School of Music graduating with the university medal. Simon then went to the Netherlands to study historical bassoons at the Royal Conservatorium at the Hague. Whilst in Europe, he began working with some of the best period instrument ensembles, including Les Arts Florissants and the Gabrieli Consort and Players, with whom he was principal bassoon for six years. Simon returned to Australia in 1996 but spent a third of each year in Europe and the remainder in Australia playing with, amongst others, Orchestra of the Antipodes, the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra and the Australian Chamber Orchestra. In 2001 he decided to simplify his existence by becoming a gardener. This backfired somewhat, and Simon now finds himself with two full time jobs - Baroque Bassoonist and Garden Guru. Simon is Head Gardener at the Diggers Garden Club in Victoria, overseeing the gardens at Heronswood on the Mornington Peninsula and St Erth in the Central Highlands. He now resides in the beautiful Central Highlands of Victoria, where his obsession with plants continues unfettered.

**David Greco's** first production with us was *Fairy Queen* and he was a spirit and shepherd in *Orfeo* last year. This year you'll see him singing a beautiful rondo in Act 3 'Paix Favourable' with Anna Fraser.



David began singing professionally at the end of his B.Mus degree at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. From that time on he was sure that music was going to be his 'thing'. In fact David's love of music (bordering on the obsessional) extends to all aspect of his life, including his other jobs. This is why he became an usher and barman at three respectable theatres in Sydney because (as he viewed it), at the times he wasn't performing to people on stage, he would be in the aisles. Plus it combined his two favourite things, music and drink! His recent solo engagements include Sydney Phillharmonia Choirs Bach cantatas project, Britten with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra and more Bach Cantatas with Willoughby Symphony Orchestra. David was lucky enough to recently tour with Emma Kirkby as a soloist and member of Cantillation, which was a complete thrill. Next February he will sing the bass solo in Mozart's Coronation Mass in C with the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra. At the moment he is keeping the music stores of Sydney in business in his attempt to compile as many of the Bach cantatas on CD as he possibly can!

**Dominic Glynn** played in *Semele* and *Fairy Queen* before (sadly) being lured to North America to work on his other career. Happily, however, he is coming back to play in *Dardanus* this year.



A graduate of Marryatville High's special interest music school, Dominic studied modern violin under Beryl Kimber Lesky at the University of Adelaide's Elder Conservatorium before specialising in baroque performance. A founding player with Pinchgut Opera and avid contributor to Australia's ever growing scene of historically informed performance, he has recorded Bach's Brandenburg Concertos with Anna McDonald for ABC Classics yet his creative passions fall squarely on the border of math and music. Dominic holds a Masters Degree in Engineering from the University

of South Australia and whenever not playing baroque violin he is consumed by Hollywood feature films as a software engineer, mathematician and colour scientist. Dominic has spent the last two years in Canada working on Disney's computer animated feature film "The Wild" and will join Pixar Animation Studios in 2006 to work on their upcoming slate of movies from San Francisco.

**Dan Walker's** first season with us was *Orfeo*, and he had a very poignant moment after Eurydice's death. Dan is also that rare animal - a working composer. We asked him about his work as both singer and composer:



"When I made the decision to make the move from Brisbane almost four years ago, the notion of singing baroque opera would have never crossed my mind. But such are the opportunities that arise in a town like Sydney, and this is the nature of Pinchgut Opera chorus; people from all walks of life bringing together a passion and an overwhelming commitment to making beautiful music. For me, the last couple of years have been incredibly rewarding as both a singer and as a composer. Currently writing mostly choral music, I have developed a close working relationship with Lyn Williams' Gondwana Voices, and have written several large-scale works for overseas performances, including the Songbridge festival in Mexico City in 2004 and the World Expo in Nagoya this year. I've found these kids have a raw energy and passion for new music. More recently though, I have arranged several pieces for ABC Classics, and at the moment am working on some bon-bons for the 2005 SSO Christmas concert series. However, I could never have imagined that singing could have taken over my life as it has. I regularly sing with Cantillation and Sydney Chamber Choir, and have had the odd guest spot with The Song Company and the Australian Brandenburg Choir. This is my second production with Pinchgut, and I am really looking forward to what will undoubtedly be a fantastic season."



And we've saved **Rachael Beesley** who will be leading the Dardanus orchestra until last as we have a special announcement to make about her. Rachael lives in the

Netherlands and plays with many terrific groups and we asked her about life as a travelling player and she's given us a day in the life of a musician ....

### ~ Today Oct something, probably Wednesday

**9 a.m.** Woke up to aquarium style hotel room, fish literally swimming in wall – very bizarre. Breakfast downstairs in smoky hotel bar – horrible tasting orange juice. Attacked by tiny kitten, Speedy who seems to think I'm a tree! Anyway, food having restorative powers after previous night's "dinner" of cherry tomatoes, apple and Baileys!

**10 a.m.** Hurriedly packed for about the 10th time this week, made way to Concertgebouw (concert hall) through cobbled stone streets of historic Brugge, Belgium. Third day of recording Ravel (La Valse, Bolero and Pavane etc) on period instruments with Belgium orchestra, Anima Eterna. Beautiful French instruments create wonderful sound colours in the winds and brass, and gut strings for the string section combined with very little vibrato, is revelatory! Rehearsals taking place in four different languages (English, German, French and Flemish) – feels strangely normal!

**Lunchtime** Autumnal storm outside, so can't possibly go for run. Instead hunt for ATM in pouring rain – finally success! Think Brugge must be real life Hogsmeade, complete with chocolate shops filled with Halloween figures. Helped myself to chocolate dipped figs filled with marzipan and ginger filled chocolate buddhas! Two hours for lunch, so still time to practice Bach cantatas, (oh and Rameau!!).

**6 hours of recording later** - just time to try out some violins on the concert hall stage with colleagues. Give knowledgeable advice on setups and strings for C19th and early C20th repertoire!! Walk to train station for 2+1/2 hour trip back to Rotterdam. Quiet trip listening to Diana Krall and Crowded House on groovy new Ipod Mini. Grrr - cold waiting for delayed connecting train in Antwerp.

**10:38 p.m.** Lovely boyfriend picked me up from station, in manner of "Knight in Shining Armour"! Arrived home to see family of white swans, swanning along canal in front of apartment, as if sunny Sunday afternoon! Checked emails (8).

**11:30 p.m.** Discussed dimensions of new IKEA cupboard to fit in TAX papers and extraneous bits of computer in bedroom??!!

**Midnight** Fall asleep dreaming of chocolate buddhas swimming past window....

**Sponsorship** of Rachael Beesley, Dardanus leader



Pinchgut Opera is pleased to welcome Grosvenor Financial Services as Rachael's sponsor for this production. Grosvenor was established to serve the financial needs of medical, dental, and legal professionals, and those of a similar profile. Pinchgut Opera wants to thank Grosvenor for their support in bringing an excellent musician like Rachael to our audiences. [www.grosvenor-fs.com.au](http://www.grosvenor-fs.com.au).

And that's it from us. We're looking forward to seeing you at *Dardanus* very soon! Best wishes from Ken, Alison, Liz, Anna, Andrew, Antony & Erin.

"Rameau never had a model or a rival." Michel-Guy de Chabanon in his *Éloge de M. Rameau*, 1764.

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