

## 2006 NEWSLETTER #1

Dear Friends,

### Pinchgut does Mozart

Our 2006 production, opening at City Recital Hall Angel Place on 6 December, will be Mozart's own favourite opera: *Idomeneo*.

### The Stars?



**Lindy Hume** will direct *Idomeneo*. Lindy is currently Artistic Director of the Perth International Arts Festival. She has been Artistic Director of West Australian Opera, Victorian State Opera and Oz Opera. She has directed productions for Opera Australia (including Richard Mills' *Batavia* which will come to Sydney this year), Opera Halle in Germany, Deutsche Staatsoper Berlin and Houston Grand Opera.

**Dan Potra** will design the production. Dan has worked with Lindy on many productions and is also responsible for the design of the current Opera Australia production of *The Magic Flute*.

**Mark Tucker** will sing the role of *Idomeneo*. Mark was with Pinchgut in 2004 when he sang *Orfeo*. He has been very busy in Europe since then and we are glad that he is able to return for what will be his first performance of this role.



**Martene Grimson** will sing *Ilia*. Martene comes from Sydney and has spent her professional career in Europe where she is an Associate Artist with London's Classical Opera Company.

**Fiona Campbell** will sing *Idamante*. Fiona is from Perth and since studying in London she has been working with West Australia Opera and many other music organisations in Australia.



**Penelope Mills** will sing *Elettra*. Penny has been with us for our last two productions – *Orfeo*, in which she sang *Euridice*, and *Dardanus*, in which she sang *Vénus*.

**Antony Walker** will conduct with the Orchestra of the Antipodes and Cantillation.



There will be lots more about these wonderful people in newsletters later in the year.

## **Why Idomeneo?**

With only one production a year, we find it very difficult to decide which opera to do. We receive many suggestions and requests from our supporters. In future years we will return to some of the composers we have performed – perhaps Monteverdi, Handel and Rameau – as well as discovering works that Australian audiences are not familiar with.


But as 2006 is Mozart's 250th anniversary and our 5th birthday, we thought that we really should venture into the classical era and pay tribute to the first true master of opera. We believe we can present *Idomeneo* in a way that audiences will not have seen or heard before. Our orchestra will play on authentic instruments of the early classical period and the intimate space of City Recital Hall is, we believe, more like the halls Mozart would have been familiar with.

## **What's it about?**

Like many operas, *Idomeneo* is based on a Greek myth. Idomeneo, King of Crete is returning from the Trojan War. His ship runs into a storm and he promises Neptune that if he is saved he will kill the first living creature he meets. On landing, Idomeneo meets his son: Idamante. The plot develops from there. The conflict between a vow and parental love, the love between Idamante and Ilia, a captured Trojan princess and the jealousy of Elettra who also wants Idamante.

First performed in 1781 when Mozart was 25, *Idomeneo* has been described as his first truly great opera. Like all great opera it tells a very human and engrossing story and contains much gorgeous music. More about the work and the music in later newsletters.

## **L'Orfeo recording?**

 The ABC Classics recording of Pinchgut's 2004 production: *L'Orfeo Favola in Musica*, is now available. The production features Mark Tucker, Sara Macliver, Paul McMahon, Brett Weymark, Penelope Mills, Anna Fraser, Josie Ryan and Cantillation, and is conducted by Antony Walker. You can buy it at ABC shops, all good records stores or online at <http://www.buywell.com/cgi-bin/buywellic2/03860.html>.

## **You need not wait until December**

Pinchgut will be presenting a preview of music from *Idomeneo* in the House Music series at Government House on 17 September. This is an excellent series of nine concerts over the year in the ballroom of Government House. Bookings on 8329 8211. Info at [http://www.hht.net.au/whats\\_on/events/music/house\\_music](http://www.hht.net.au/whats_on/events/music/house_music).

Be quick, these concerts are always sold out.

## **And there is Bach**

Another interesting concert will be Sydney Chamber Choir's performance of *St Matthew Passion* on April 9 at Angel Place. Conducted by Nicholas Routley, the soloists include Sara Macliver, Sally-Anne Russell, Paul McMahon and Stephen Bennett – all of whom are alumni of Pinchgut productions, and Neal Peres da Costa and his Early Music Ensemble at the Sydney Conservatorium. More information at <http://www.sydneychamberchoir.org/concerts.html>

### **The wonderful Miriam Allan**

Miriam has sung with us in *Semele*, *The Fairy Queen* and *Dardanus*. She is now in London where her career has taken off. She has sung with Harry Christopher's wonderful choir The Sixteen on a tour of the US and recently toured the UK, Europe and the US singing a solo soprano part in Mozart's Mass in C Minor with John Eliot Gardiner's Monteverdi Choir. She also recently recorded Mozart's *Requiem* on Naxos with the Leipzig Chamber Orchestra. We are all proud of Mim!

### **Sponsor**

Pinchgut Opera is pleased to announce that Grosvenor Financial Services, specialist financial managers and accountants for Medical, Dental and Legal Practitioners, will join us again this year as a sponsor. For more information on Grosvenor call 1300 654 546 or visit [www.grosvenor-fs.com.au](http://www.grosvenor-fs.com.au).



And that's it from us. Best wishes from Ken, Alison, Liz, Anna and Andrew.

“In my dreams of heaven, I always see the great Masters gathered in a huge hall in which they all reside. Only Mozart has his own suite.” Victor Borge

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