



Dear Friends

Have you bought your Christmas presents? Why not take your friends and family to something that they'll never forget? Forgotten to buy your tickets? Tickets sales are better than ever - so do it NOW! Call the box office on 8256 2222 or online and book your tickets! We love this quote from last year which we think says it all: "Pinchgut Opera is becoming a favourite pre-Christmas tradition. The fairylights go up in Martin Place and the houselights go down in City Recital Hall as this resilient and enormously talented bunch of artists present their annual foray into neglected operatic treasures." SMH Dec 2006

This will be our last newsletter for 2007 and our last before the opening night of *Juditha*. The company is well into rehearsals. Director Mark Gaal has almost finished the production work with the principals and chorus. The orchestra starts work this week and soon we will put all the various pieces of the puzzle together. We're very excited by it all - it's looking and sounding magnificent!

Blog

Our blog has notes and comments about the rehearsals as well as photographs - some very good ones by Bridget Elliot and some not so good ones by Ken and Liz. Still, if you want to know how an opera is created, the blog is one of the best ways to find out. It will continue, with entries most days, up until closing night. So far as we know, no one has ever reported on the making of an opera in this way before.

Juditha documentary

'Making Juditha' is the title of ABC Radio National's 'Into the Music' feature on Saturday 8th December. The hour-long documentary is the result of recording over several months by producer Jennifer Bowen with the Pinchgut Opera cast and production team as they prepare for the opening night of 'Juditha Triumphans'. Members of the Orchestra of the Antipodes discuss the special characteristics of baroque music making, while the director, designer and singers talk about presenting Vivaldi's work on stage. 'Making Juditha' is broadcast on Sat 8th December at 5.05 pm, repeated on Friday 14th December at 3.05 pm. It can be listened to via the internet for a month after broadcast on www.abc.net.au (follow the prompts to 'Into the Music'); there is also available online an extended interview with one of

Juditha Triumphans

BOX OFFICE

The box office for Vivaldi's *Juditha Triumphans* is open!

The prices are:

A Res \$110 B Res \$90 C Res \$70

Group booking for over 10 people on any night:

A Res \$99 B Res \$81 C Res \$58

Under 27 Years prices any night are:
B Res \$45 C Res \$30

(We don't offer a senior/pensioner's price.)

You can book:

~ **In person** at the box office in Angel Place (near the Pitt Street entrance).

Hours are 9-5 weekdays and extended hours if there is a concert in the Hall.

~ **By phone** to (02) 8256 2222 or 1300 797 118 (for the cost of a local call).

~ **Online** at www.cityrecitalhall.com or [here](#).

The performances are:

Wednesday 5 December 7:30 pm

Saturday 8 December 7:30 pm

Sunday 9 December 5:30 pm

Monday 10 December 7:30 pm

the string players from the orchestra. The ABC thanks all at Pinchgut for their participation in the making of the program.

Juditha broadcast

Juditha will be broadcast live on Monday 10 December on ABC Classic FM nationally and on the Web. It will also be available to listen to for a week afterwards on the ABC website.

Idomeneo Recording

ABC Classics, and especially producer Virginia Read, have done an excellent job with the recording of our 2006 production of Mozart's Idomeneo. The sound is very good and we think a live recording has more, well, life, than a studio recording. The soloists are Mark Tucker, Fiona Campbell, Martene Grimson, Penelope Mills and Paul McMahon. The three CD set will be on sale at City Recital Hall Angel Place before each performance.

Clarinets



With the help of some wonderful supporters, we had reproductions of what was probably the first clarinet made. Daniel Deitch in San Francisco finished them a few weeks ago. One went to Craig Hill in Melbourne and the other to Owen Watkins who lives in the US but who is coming out for the production.

Here is an email from Craig when he arrived:
 "The clarinet arrived 40 minutes ago and I've had the great pleasure of playing it for the first time. The sound is utterly unique. My wife came in while I was trying out my Vivaldi part and said 'That sounds like a wooden trumpet.' Exactly!"

Two Christmas concerts (sadly both on the same day)

Josie Ryan and some of the players from Juditha are doing a program of Vivaldi, Bach and Buxtehude on Sunday 16 December at 2.30 pm in the Chapel at Kincoppal-Rose Bay. This concert is a fundraiser for the historic Puget organ which is being restored. More info and bookings: Ann Henderson 9418 8856 or annhenderson@optusnet.com.au.

Cantillation and members of Sydney Soloists (including Neal and Danny) will be performing Messiah in Mittagong at 3.00 pm on Sunday 16 December. More info at www.shambala.com.au

Last minute issues

Like anything of this scale, there are a number of things that don't go quite as planned in the lead up to the opening. Here's an example of a musical issue to give you some idea of the complexities :-

You might be aware that Vivaldi didn't write an overture to go with the piece. Attilio has recently chosen a work (Sinfonia RV 562A) for us to use, but it has proved difficult to track down (complicated by the fact that like many Vivaldi works it exists in a very similar version - RV 562 - which has led to some confusion). Finally a copy was located in Amsterdam University Library, and Erin Helyard (who will be making an edition of this) arranged for a copy to be sent to McGill University where he is studying. Phew. But ... the parcel got lost along the way! And at the time of writing the score still isn't in Montréal. Erin will write an article about the whole process for the newsletter next year. We do have a contingency plan though.

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Sara's Limelight

Sara Macliver won the award from the readers of Limelight magazine for her recording with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra of Mozart Arias. We might see if she can sign copies for sale at *Juditha*.

Latin Test

In the last newsletter, we asked *What does David Beckham have tattooed on his left forearm?*

And the answer is *Ut Amen et Foveam* - "That I might love and cherish." (Most probably referring to his wife Victoria, whose name in Hindi also appears on that arm.)

What case is used in the expression? A trick question? No, a mistake. It contains no case but is in the subjunctive mood. I must have been home sick the day we studied that at school.

And for the bonus prize: *Why was the Centurion in The Life of Brian wrong?* (Just in case you don't remember, the Centurion said Brian should have written *Romani ite domus* for "Romans go home".)

The best answer came from Boston: The centurion in *The Life of Brian* is wrong because he instructs the hapless Python to use the locative case of "domus". The locative is used for the place where something happens ("at home"), not motion towards a place. Furthermore the locative form of "domus" is "domi", not "domum". The final version of the graffiti (graffitus?) is in fact correct, with the accusative "domum" for "to home". (We're very impressed with the number of passionate Monty Python fans reading this newsletter).

Thank you all. Next year, we will test you on the economic influence of the developments in ship-building techniques, 1450 to 1485.

Anna's Surfboard

You will remember that Liz and Ken promised Anna Cerneaz a new surfboard if we have a full house for any performance. Anna is feeling confident as the box office reports for the Sunday matinee are looking very good. Liz will have to settle for the body board she got for her birthday.

Thanks for all your support this year, and we look forward to seeing you at *Juditha*. Have a great Christmas. Ken, Alison, Liz, Anna and Andrew.

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