

Newsletter — *December 2009*

PINCHGUT OPERA

All Over



Orchestra conducted by Erin Heylard. David Walker & Fiona Campbell; Kanen Breen & Anna Fraser. *Photos by Simon Hodgson Photography.*

L'Ormindo finished its run of four performances on Monday 7 December. The set and lighting came out of City Recital Hall (by 4:30 the following afternoon) and the costumes and props were packed away. David Walker and Deb Fox flew back to the US and many of the other performers to their homes around Australia.

We have had excellent reviews - you can see a collection at www.pinchgutopera.com.au/media - and very many lovely messages from audience members that we have also collected on our website. We really do like to hear from you - whether you loved, liked, were bored, or hated the show. Send your emails to Anna at anna@pinchgutopera.com.au or PO Box 309, Edgecliff 2027

Thank you to all those who made it possible: ticket buyers, donors and the cast and crew.

2010

We announced our 2010 production, as usual, in the *L'Ormino* program. It will be Joseph Haydn's *L'anima del filosofo ossia Orfeo ed Euridice* which translates as *The soul of the philosopher, or, Orpheus and Euridice*. We'll call it *L'anima del filosofo*.

The story of *Orpheus* has fascinated composers and librettists over the centuries. You will remember that we did Monteverdi's wonderful version of the story in 2004 (*Orfeo*). In the newsletters next year there will be lots of interesting stuff about Haydn and the work. Why, for instance, it was first performed in 1951?

We want to share with you the work as we make it happen over the year. The cast is being contracted and we will announce it not too far into 2010. We can say that there is a chorus, so Cantillation will be back with us. Antony Walker will conduct a classical orchestra that will include Erin Helyard playing fortepiano. We'll persuade him to tell us about the fortepiano - the subject of his Masters thesis - during the year.

There are it seems two recordings in the catalogue: one with Richard Bonyng and Joan Sutherland and a more recent one from Christopher Hogwood and Cecilia Bartoli. We have alerted our favourite record stores and they should have stock in the New Year. There is increasing interest in Haydn operas in recent years - Nikolaus Harnoncourt has conducted quite a few - though so far as we can tell from www.operabase.com (the best online record of opera programmes) ours is the only production anywhere next year.

Gift Ideas



For a special Christmas gift idea, why don't you take up our special offer of \$30 for Pinchgut's *Juditha Triumphans*, *Idomeneo*, *Dardanus* and *The Fairy Queen* recordings? The offer is through Pinchgut only.

Also on offer is the limited edition Pinchgut T-Shirts with every season listed. They come in a range of sizes (S, M, L, XL). at \$25 each. Call Anna on ph 02 9389 8117 or anna@pinchgutopera.com.au to order (add \$6 postage). Credit card payment available.

Our highly acclaimed 2008 production of Charpentier's *David & Jonathan* has just been released on CD. Swedish tenor Anders J Dahlin and Australian soprano Sara Macliver headline as the doomed lovers in this long-forgotten masterpiece. Reviews described our performance as "totally compelling" (Sydney Morning Herald) and "elegant and exuberant" (The Australian). On sale now at ABC shops, fine music stores and online at <http://shop.abc.net.au> or www.buywell.com.

What's on in January

We don't suppose that you believe that our players and singers spend all their time during the year practising for the next Pinchgut production. We don't pay enough for that and, anyway, the players can't go more than a week or so without picking up their instruments. We try to tell you during the year about performances outside Pinchgut that you might be interested in.

The past couple of years violinist Julia Fredersdorff has organised a lovely festival early in the New Year on the Mornington Peninsula. As well as Julia, Neal Peres Da Costa, Danny Yeadon, Nicole Forsyth, Laura Vaughan and David Greco will be there. More information at www.peninsulafestival.com.au.

Later in the year, another festival we enjoy is Four Winds at Bermagui over Easter. Genevieve Lacey is the artistic director and the website is www.fourwinds.com.au. (Ken tried to slip in something about the Tamworth Country Music festival but it was edited out.)

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And that's it for us. Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year Ken, Alison, Anna, Liz, Andrew, John, Antony & Erin.