

Christmas Concert & Party, 19 November 2017

2.00pm: Concert by artists supported by Wagner Society
followed by Christmas Party

As usual we were treated to a wonderful Christmas concert, on Sunday 19 November, this time with a program hastily altered to slot in Rebecca Moret, who kindly consented to replace a voice-less, indisposed Phoebe Humphreys.

Francis Greep, our very talented accompanist, juggled items and we had a wonderful time listening to one of our favourite Society dramatic sopranos, **Laura Scandizzo**, (who has been singing in the Opera Australia chorus) sing *Es gibt ein Reich* and *Ebben, ne andrò lontano*, both of which she had sung to the German President the week before, as well as *Dich, teure Halle*. **Rebecca Moret**, a former Pacific Opera young artist and Opera Australia Schools company artist, sang *Einsam in Trüben Tagen* and *Ritorna vincitor! Sitiveni Talei*, also in the chorus of Opera Australia, sang *Largo al factotum* and *Avant de quitter ces lieux* and finished the concert with a funny duet with Laura "We love the Opera!".

All our artists were presented as usual with Brangayne wines, kindly supplied by Brangayne Wines of Orange, and the afternoon ended with champagne and Christmas fare and the obligatory raffle, with great prizes, CDs from Universal Music, double theatre and concert passes and a special prize of high tea with Travelling Tenor artists, Helen Sherman and Adam Player, appearing in Pinchgut Opera's 'Coronation of Poppea'.

See program and photo below.



Weihnacht 1908, Essen (Königsplatz)

WAGNER SOCIETY CHRISTMAS CONCERT
with
Laura Scandizzo, Rebecca Moret
Sitiveni Talei, Francis Greep

Sunday 19 November 2017, 2pm
St Columba's Uniting Church, Woollahra


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SOCIETY
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(l-r) Leona Geeves (Wagner Society in NSW Vice-President), Laura Scandizzo, Rebecca Moret, Sitiveni Talei, and Francis Greep [accompanist](Photo: Barbara Beasley)

PERFORMERS

Laura Scandizzo & Rebecca Moret, sopranos
Sitiveni Talei, baritone Francis Greep, piano

PROGRAM

Largo al Factotum (<i>Il barbiere di Siviglia</i>) Sitiveni & Francis	Giaochino Rossini
Soave sia il vento (<i>Così fan tutte</i>) Rebecca, Laura & Francis	W.A. Mozart
Abscheulicher! Wo eilst du hin? (<i>Fidelio</i>) Rebecca & Francis	Ludwig van Beethoven
Du meine Herzens Krönelein Nacht Laura, Rebecca & Francis	Richard Strauss
Avant de quitter ces lieux (<i>Faust</i>) Sitiveni & Francis	Charles Gounod
Stridono lassù (<i>Pagliacci</i>) Rebecca & Francis	Ruggiero Leoncavallo

SHORT BREAK

PERFORMER BIOGRAPHIES

LAURA SCANDIZZO

Laura's operatic roles include *Ariadne* in *Ariadne auf Naxos*, and the recently performed role of Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni* in Stara Zagora, Bulgaria at the Varna International Opera Academy in June 2017. She has performed with the Opera Australia chorus in *King Roger*; *Honda* Opera on Sydney Harbour's *Carmen*; *The Nixon Tapes*, presented for the Vivid Festival; and the Verdi *Requiem*.

Laura is a Pacific Opera Young Artist for 2017 and through that association she was honoured to have the opportunity to perform for the German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier and his wife during their recent visit to Australia.

REBECCA MORET

Originally from Melbourne, Rebecca is currently based in Sydney where in 2016 she debuted as Giorgetta in *Il Tabarro*, the title role of *Suor Angelica* and covered the title role of *Madama Butterfly* with Opera Projects Sydney.

Rebecca was a 2016 Young Artist with Pacific Opera and after working with the Opera Australia Schools Company in 2014, she has been performing as a casual member of the Opera Australia Chorus. In 2015 she received the Deborah Riedel Prize in the Joan Sutherland & Richard Bonyngue Foundation Bel Canto Award.

PART TWO

Dich, teure Halle (<i>Tannhäuser</i>) Laura & Francis	Richard Wagner
Einsame in trüben Tagen (<i>Lohengrin</i>) Rebecca & Francis	Richard Wagner
Lieben, Hassen, Hoffen, Zagen - Es gibt ein Reich (<i>Ariadne auf Naxos</i>) Sitiveni, Laura & Francis	Richard Strauss
Mein Sehnen, mein Wähnen (<i>Die tote Stadt</i>) Sitiveni & Francis	Erich Korngold
Ritorna vincitor! (<i>Aida</i>) Rebecca & Francis	Giuseppe Verdi
Ebben, ne andrò lontano (<i>La Wally</i>) Laura & Francis	Alfredo Catalani
Questo amor, vergogna mia (<i>Edgar</i>) Sitiveni & Francis	Giuseppe Puccini
O patria mia (<i>Aida</i>) Rebecca & Francis	Giuseppe Verdi
We love the Opera Laura, Sitiveni & Francis	Ben Moore

SITIVENI TALEI

Australian-born, Sitiveni spent his childhood in Fiji, his father's home country. Siti became a Young Artist at West Australian Opera and performed Ford (*Tablatti*), Poooh-Bah (*The Mikado*), Morales (*Carmen*), Alessio (*La Sonnambula*), Belcore (*L'elisir d'amore*), Antonio (*Le nozze di Figaro*), Jake Wallace (*La Fanciulla del West*), Yamadori (*Madama Butterfly*), a Sailor (*The Love of the Nightingale*) and understudied major roles in *Rigoletto*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* and *Aida*.

Sitiveni won the Marianne Mathy Scholarship (2008) and was awarded the Nelly Apt Scholarship. He moved to Sydney to join the Opera Australia Chorus in 2011.

FRANCIS GREEP

Francis has an international reputation as a vocal coach and pianist, gaining experience at Opera Australia, West Australian Opera and Houston Grand Opera. He has prepared singers and choruses in more than 60 operas and has extensive experience of Art Song across all languages.

Francis is known for preparing established and developing singers for their role debuts, working in Europe, North and South America, New Zealand and Australia. He is guest vocal coach with the Song Company and this year prepared *Pelleas et Mélisande* with Charles Dutoit and the SSO.

Concurrently, Francis is Development and Communications Manager at the world-renowned Gondwana Choirs.