

# THE SHARP EDGE

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April 2013



PHOTO: ALAN DOVE

## Tecwyn Evans conducts Voices' Messiah

Tecwyn Evans joins Voices NZ Chamber Choir, soloists and Orchestra Wellington for a performance of Handel's Messiah arranged by W A Mozart.

Conductor, Tecwyn Evans, is an Alumnus of the New Zealand Youth Choir. After his studies in New Zealand he took up a Fulbright Scholarship to study conducting at the University of Kansas with Brian Priestman and Simon Carrington. From 2009-2011 he was Kapellmeister and Deputy to the Music Director of Grazer Oper, Austria.

He began his conducting career as Chorus Master for Glyndebourne Festival Opera in 1999 - a position he held for four years and, after making his performance debut for Glyndebourne on Tour, he went on to work with English Touring Opera, Opera New Zealand, Oper Köln, Grazer Oper, Exeter Festival, and Opera North. In 2005 he was a finalist in the Leeds' Conducting Competition soon after which followed his debuts with the BBC Philharmonic, at the BBC Proms and at Opera North.

Tecwyn has appeared in concert with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Ulster Orchestra, Grazer Philharmonic, Manchester Camerata and in New Zealand with the Auckland Philharmonia, Southern Sinfonia and Christchurch Symphony Orchestra. He recently made his Australian debut with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra.

In 2010 he recorded a CD of the music of Anthony Ritchie and the world premiere of Ross Harris's First Violin Concerto with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra. He also recorded a CD with Bryn Terfel and the orchestra of Welsh National Opera for Deutsche Grammophon.

More recently Tecwyn made his debut in the Musikverein in Vienna and conducted 'Aida' for Dublin Lyric Opera. In 2013 he conducts the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra for a number of concerts - 'On Anzac Eve' (Wellington 24 April), Bryn Terfel (Wellington & Auckland 3/4 May), 'Hear & Far' (Wellington & Auckland 10/25 May) and will return in October for a national tour of 'Tall Tales and Tangos' with narrator Anton Oliver.

Presented by Choirs Aotearoa New Zealand Trust

George Frideric Handel's  
**Messiah**

as arranged by  
**W A Mozart**  
*A baroque favourite in a classical style*

**Voices New Zealand Chamber Choir**  
*with Orchestra Wellington*

**Sunday 2 June 2013 at 3.30pm**  
Wellington Town Hall

Tecwyn Evans  
conductor

Morag Atchison  
soprano

Bianca Andrew  
mezzo soprano

Henry Choo  
tenor

James Clayton  
bass

Tickets from Ticketek (service fee will apply)  
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# Trans-Tasman Quartet

Soloists from either side of the Tasman join forces for a memorable Messiah

## Morag Atchison

Morag Atchison is a graduate of the University of Auckland and the Royal Academy of Music, London. She was a finalist in the Kathleen Ferrier Competition and a prize winner in the Royal Over-Seas League Competition. Her career has included concerts in the UK, Europe, the USA and Africa, working with conductors Sir David Willcocks and Sir Colin Davis and in famous concert halls such as the Wigmore Hall and the Royal Albert Hall.

In 2012 Morag was soprano soloist in Choirs Aotearoa's Mozart Requiem in Wellington Cathedral, sang Helmwig in Die Walküre for the NZSO and was solo soprano in Tippett's 'A Child of Our Time' with the NZ Youth Choir and the NZSO National Youth Orchestra in Christchurch.



## Bianca Andrew

Bianca Andrew graduated from the New Zealand School of Music with a BMus and Postgraduate Diploma of Music after which she undertook further study and research in Europe. This included lessons with Paul Farrington, vocal coach at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden and in Paris with Nathalie Spinosi at the Schola Cantorum.

In 2012 she performed in the NBR New Zealand Opera Hōhepa production for the NZ International Festival of the Arts and was soloist with the Vector Wellington Orchestra in Beethoven's Missa Solemnis and the Mozart Requiem with Voice NZ Chamber Choir.

So far this year she has performed in the Summer Concert with Orchestra Wellington at Government House and will appear in the upcoming NBR NZ Opera production of Madame Butterfly.



## Henry Choo

A former member of the Australian Boys Choir, Henry Choo attained an Associate Diploma in Singing in 1997 under the guidance of Noel Ansell, and furthered his vocal and performance studies at the Melba Conservatorium of Music and the Australian National Academy of Music.

Henry made his career debut in Opera Queensland's production of Don Pasquale, and made his principal debut with Opera Australia as the Italian Singer in Der Rosenkavalier. Since then he has sung many leading roles for the national company.

Henry has been engaged as soloist in many concert works including Mozart's Requiem, Handel's Messiah, Bach's St John Passion and Rossini's Petite Messe Solennelle. He performed Bach's Cantata No. 207 with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and the Evangelist in Bach's Christmas Oratorio with Bach Musica, Auckland. He has been a frequent guest artist with the Queensland, Adelaide and Tasmanian Symphony Orchestras, Sydney Philharmonia and The Australia Ensemble.



## James Clayton

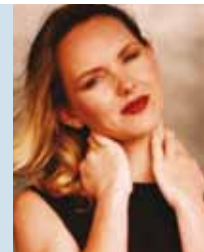
James Clayton is one of the leading singers to emerge from Western Australia in recent years; he became a Young Artist with West Australian Opera in 2006 and has gone on to sing many roles in the company. He has also enjoyed considerable success on the concert platform appearing as soloist in Haydn's Mass in Time of War and Puccini's Messa di Gloria (Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra), Fauré's Requiem (Collegium Symphonic Choir), Mozart's Mass in C Minor and Orff's Carmina Burana (West Australian Symphony Orchestra) and Messiah (UWA Choral Society).

In 2012 he made his Opera Australia debut in La traviata in Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour.

This year James Clayton sings Escamillo in Carmen for Opera Australia and the title role in Rigoletto, Leporello in Don Giovanni and Schaunard in La bohème for West Australian Opera. He will also appear in concert with the West Australian and Tasmanian Symphony Orchestras.



Paul Whelan



Jenny Wollerman

## NZSO goes 'Hear & Far'

The New Zealand Symphony Orchestra celebrates home-grown contemporary compositions alongside the works of international composers in 'Hear & Far', a fresh annual concert dedicated to Modern Masters.

American composer John Adams' riveting piece, 'Harmonielehre' was composed in 1985. This beautifully textured three-movement work was inspired by a dream in which Adams' was driving across the San Francisco – Oakland Bay Bridge when he saw an oil tanker on the surface of the water abruptly turn upright and take off like a rocket. Famously, this impressive work, which means 'study of harmony' in German, appears in the video game Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets.

Of his 2002 composition 'Orpheus in Rarohenga' composer John Psathas says "It's like a movie without the visuals... It's storytelling on a grand scale." Psathas' major oratorio was commissioned to mark the 50th anniversary of the Orpheus Choir of Wellington and tells a unique tale of Captain James Cook's 1769 voyage to the Southern Hemisphere, ostensibly to view the Transit of Venus but which also resulted in the European discovery of the islands of New Zealand. This voyage, and its resulting historical ramifications, are literally merged with the journey by the mythical figure of Orpheus to the Underworld.

This NZSO performance surprisingly features three New Zealand Youth Choir Alumni, soprano Jenny Wollerman, bass-baritone Paul Whelan and conductor Tecwyn Evans who will be joined by tenor Richard Greager and the Orpheus Choir.

**Wellington Town Hall, Friday 10 May**  
at 6:30pm: Ticketek 0800 842 538  
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**Auckland Town Hall, Saturday 25 May**  
at 7.30pm THE EDGE 0800 289 842  
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PHOTO: ROBERT CANTO

## Robert Wiremu

### Vocal Consultant

Robert Wiremu studied at Victoria University of Wellington, University of Auckland and the Queensland Conservatorium of Music. He joined the first auditioned NZ Secondary Students' Choir in 1989, directed by Roger Stevenson, and became a vocal tutor and accompanist for the NZSSC some years later, under Elise Bradley. He sang under the direction of Dr Karen Grylls as a member of the NZ National Youth Choir from 1991 to 1994, participating in a tour of Canada and the United States, and since 2000 has been an accompanist and vocal consultant. He was also a representative for New Zealand in the World Youth Choir of 1994 under the direction of Robert Sund (Sweden). Robert has been guest director for the Auckland Chamber Choir and created the ACCENTS series as part of its annual programming schedule.

In 2013, the Auckland Chamber Choir will present the 5th ACCENTS concert featuring art music of New Zealand and the Pacific.

In 1999, Robert joined Voices New Zealand on tour to Singapore for the Asia South Pacific Symposium on Choral Music and to Germany for the 9th International Chamber Choir Competition in Marktoberdorf. He has featured as a soloist with the NZ String Quartet, recorded the Britten realisations of songs by Henry Purcell for Radio NZ Concert and featured as a soloist on the 'A Voices Christmas' CD.

Robert is a vocal coach at Auckland University and is in demand as an adjudicator, consultant and clinician throughout New Zealand. In his time working with choirs, Robert has developed diction models and technical tools that have been adopted by singing teachers and conductors throughout New Zealand and other countries. Recent artistic activities include 'An Evening with Simon O'Neill'; 'Kiri and Friends'; the George Benson Tribute Concert to Nat King Cole; presenting Michael Parekowhai's Venice Biennale 2011 entry, 'On First Looking into Chapman's Homer'; producing Rotorua's Opera in the Pa (since 2006); and directing Whaka-Aria Mai: opera in te reo for the 2013 Auckland Arts Festival. Since 2012, Robert has been the artistic consultant for New Zealand's leading vocal octet, V8 Vocal Ensemble.

# THE WEEK THAT WAS!

NZYC in Aotea Square, Auckland >>



Carla van Zon, Artistic Director of the Auckland Arts Festival, poured lavish praise on the work of the five *War Requiem* choirs at the post-concert function, as did the CEO of the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra, Barbara Glazer. The audience response was held in the silence, as Maestro Eckehard Stier ever so slowly bought his hands to rest at his side, at the conclusion of this phenomenal work. The critics' words in the papers, the live radio reviews and the *NZ Listener* were effusive. So many singers and artistic colleagues made this possible. The involvement gave our two choirs the opportunity to present a solo recital *Little Britten*, with James Tibbles (organ), and to provide the chorus for the Britten *War Requiem*. In addition to all this, and in the light of the 100th anniversary of Britten's birth, there were recorded rehearsal sessions and actual recording sessions scheduled throughout the week, to record three Britten works with organ accompaniment.

We would like to acknowledge the contribution of the Auckland-based singers, who were not CANZ choir members, and the fantastic treble choir (from St. Cuthbert's College and Westlake Girls' High School) trained by our own alumni, Megan Flint and Rowan Johnston, both members of Voices New Zealand Chamber choir and who sang in the *War Requiem* performance themselves.

There was an important 'premiere' for the CANZ choirs during this week: the *Little Britten* recital in Holy Trinity Cathedral was the first time that the NZYC (60) and VNZCC (16) had performed, separately and together, in the same programme... a bit like hearing a symphony orchestra and a string quartet in the same concert. This worked very well indeed – one radio reviewer described this concert as the musical highlight of the festival. We both had the opportunity to conduct our own choirs, as well as the combined ensemble of 76 singers, which made a most impressive sound. In terms of the quality of performance and musical outcome, these two Britten concerts were exceptionally rewarding for the choir members and audience alike.

The final day of the week saw 17 members of the 2011-2012 NZYC perform at the Auckland Arts Festival Family Fun Day in Aotea Square, and this was well-received by the audience and festival organisers.

We are very keen to see the two CANZ choirs work together in future, as this was probably the most enjoyable aspect of the week's activities.

**Karen Grylls** (CANZ Artistic Director & Music Director of VNZCC)

**David Squire** (Music Director of NZYC)

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