



## The newsletter of the Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation



### Issue 7 - FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES NEW SCHOLARSHIP

Welcome to the latest edition of 'Aria' - the newsletter of the Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation.

In this newsletter you will read a personal message from Dame Kiri, hear about a new scholarship for young singers, get an update on the Jenny Wollerman research project, meet a new trustee and hear about Dame Kiri's visit to Otago University and much more....

#### A PERSONAL NOTE FROM DAME KIRI

I thought readers of Aria might be interested to learn about some of the recent Foundation activities I've been involved with here in the UK.



*We are now in the final stages of the preparation of Jenny Wollerman's Research Report. I've seen the draft and want to assure you that its outstanding. Jenny spent 3 months here and managed to fit in an amazing schedule in such a short period. Jenny gave up 3 months of her time for this Foundation project and I'm sure we will see the benefits now and into the future.*

*One such moment arose when Jenny was here with me along with Jonathan Papp. I received a call from a young student who was seeking my advice. The student had been asked by her college to stay for another year with 90% of her scholarship paid - that same week she was also asked if she would accept a place at the National Opera School with full scholarship. I asked her to describe her first instinctive response to these opportunities and also what had been her teachers advice? The answer was that her teacher advised her to stay at her college as the Opera School would not necessarily include time for singing lessons.*

*From my experience the most important person in a young person's life is her teacher, and the consistent work with that teacher to stabilise a vocal technique.*

*I discussed this with Jenny and Jonathan and both advised her to stay at the College, so there was our first moment of pulling together and making a small contribution to a very young singers life - giving her the feeling she could make her own choice but that we would be there for her if she decided to go in another direction.*



*We've had some excellent fundraising events this year including the gala concert on the Isle of Jersey (and you'll read more about it later in this newsletter). I invited two young singers to join me - Madeline Pierard a New Zealand student studying at the Royal College and Icelandic Tenor Gardar Thor Cortez whom I have worked with in Iceland. The concert was a magic experience and raised significant funds.*

*Last week I was asked by the Royal College to spend 2 days working with young students who were about to start production on *The Marriage of Figaro*. I loved every minute of seeing these young up and coming students singing in an opera that started my career. They were all so beautifully prepared and their voices were such a joy to listen to.*

*It is so gratifying to feel that this could be such fun and I am able to pass on what this world of music has taught me, even the bad bits need to be explained, as all I can say to some of these young ones – you only learn by your mistakes.*

*I hope you enjoy this edition of *Aria* and thank you for your continuing support of my Foundation.*

Best wishes



## YOUNG SINGERS RECEIVE BIG BOOST WITH ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW SCHOLARSHIP

A new annual scholarship announced recently will boost the hopes of young New Zealand singers focused on an international career at the highest level.

The Laurie Coon Foundation Scholarship in Singing will be presented and managed by the Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation and funded through annual donations from the Laurie Coon Foundation. It provides for \$10,000 to be awarded annually to a young singer who meets clearly defined criteria.

In announcing the new award, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa said her Foundation was delighted to be working with Laurie Coon, a long-time supporter of the Foundation and other arts related causes.

“Each scholarship recipient will be an outstanding young NZ singer with genuine financial needs who has ideally completed tertiary study and be focused on the development of an international career. Aspirants will be required to provide background details about themselves including a viable study plan with an appropriate budget. Applicants must also arrange for an independent recommendation from a respected music teacher” she said.

Laurie Coon, Chairman of the Laurie Coon Foundation said his Foundation was very pleased to be working with Dame Kiri and her trustees on this new project.

“We are delighted that the Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation has agreed to handle the day-to-day management and to establish and control the selection process – it's very encouraging to know the scholarship is in such good hands” he said.

Full details about the Laurie Coon Foundation Scholarship including the criteria and application process are available from [foundation@kiritekanawa.org](mailto:foundation@kiritekanawa.org) or on the website [www.kiritekanawa.org](http://www.kiritekanawa.org)



## UK RESEARCH PROJECT NEARS COMPLETION



The report of the research project undertaken by Jenny Wollerman in the first half of 2007 is in the final stages of preparation and will be available soon. The project examined the current study and career scene for singers in the UK and the experiences of young New Zealand singers there, with the aim of finding ways to help better prepare them for this path before they leave New Zealand. The project was the brain child of Dame Kiri who saw at first hand the number of young New Zealand singers arriving in the UK under prepared and lacking the vital information about who the teachers and coaches were or which ones they might apply to work with. The project was funded and organized by the Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation

with the aid of Air New Zealand, the New Zealand School of Music and other sponsors.

As part of the project Jenny Wollerman spent three months based in London visiting the major UK music colleges and institutions, observing classes and lessons, attending student and professional concerts and operas, and interviewing teachers, students, institution staff and other professionals in the field, particularly those who had worked with young New Zealand students and singers.

The results of these interviews and observations form the basis of the report. It has been written for young New Zealand singers and their teachers and is to be made available to them in the hope that this will help those considering overseas study to be better informed and better prepared for what they will encounter.

The report includes a series of short and long term recommendations to better prepare students as well as advice and information which may be used in a practical sense by singers considering overseas study as well as those who have already embarked upon it. It includes sections on planning study and career paths, funding, common issues and problems, deciding where to study, choosing and changing teachers, culture shock, auditions and career advice.

Further details about the report will be announced soon.

During her stay in the UK Jenny Wollerman wrote a series of very interesting newsletters describing each stage of the project. These can be read on the website - <http://www.kiritekanawa.org/news>

## DAME KIRI & FRIENDS RAISE A STORM AT JERSEY GALA CONCERT



Dame Kiri Te Kanawa was recently part of the planning team for a very successful charity concert. 'Dame Kiri Te Kanawa and Friends' was staged in the beautiful grounds of St John's Manor on the Isle of Jersey. For this special occasion Dame Kiri invited two young singers to be her guest - Icelandic tenor, Gardar Cortes and New Zealand mezzo-soprano, Madeleine Pierard. The three singers were accompanied by British conductor and pianist, Julian Reynolds. The concert repertoire included music that

ranged from arias to more popular songs.



**ROLEX**

Over 350 people attended this gala occasion, organised by Rawlinson & Hunter, a Jersey based company that specialises in trusts and fund services.

The evening included an auction featuring 10 items generously donated for the occasion. Over £85,000 was raised for the Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation and CLIC Sargent, a charity which supports local children with cancer and their families. Dame Kiri organised and donated a number of the auction items including a salmon fishing trip to Iceland, a 2-day visit to Glyndebourne to enjoy world class opera in one of the world's greatest opera houses and a framed t-shirt signed by her friend, Luciano Pavarotti who died the day before the concert.

### **DAME KIRI INSPIRES MUSIC STUDENTS**

Earlier this year Dame Kiri interrupted her NZ Tour with the NZSO to make a special visit to Dunedin to talk to the members of Voice Class at Otago University about the Foundation, her lifetime experiences and to coach two of the senior students.



The visit was organized by Isabel Cunningham (Senior Teaching Fellow in Voice Studies) who describes the visit ....

'All the students had been asked to prepare questions which ranged from struggling financially in the early years, through at what stage to go overseas to study, and where, to how one copes with the stresses of constant performing and keeping healthy. The acquisition of language skills and what to aim for when interpreting songs and arias were also addressed. Dame Kiri answered candidly and fully, and from her answers the students gained valuable insights into the working singer's life. Great importance was placed on always being prepared, grabbing opportunities with both hands, always presenting oneself in a positive way, being prepared to sacrifice too much socialising as this saps one's energy, and doing the groundwork of technical study each and every day, to keep the voice in good shape.

In her coaching Dame Kiri made the observation that the text has to be attended to in great depth and detail. Diction must be clear, phrasing artistic, musical detail attended to assiduously and the presentation alluring. Dame Kiri used her own voice to great effect in demonstrating these principles abundantly clearly! To hear her exquisite voice at such close range was a real thrill for all in the room.

The magic of having someone of Dame Kiri's eminence in our midst will linger for a very long time. Her charm, approachability, sense of humour, and frank and open manner were much appreciated.'

### **ASB BANK'S SUPPORT FOR FOUNDATION APPRECIATED**

The ASB Bank was one of the first corporates to enthusiastically support the Foundation when it was launched in 2004. Their ongoing support was recently rewarded when Dame Kiri accompanied a small group of young singers from Opera Factory to perform at a private function prior to a special mid-year dinner attended by the bank's directors and senior staff. Dame Kiri spoke about her gratitude for the bank's continuing support and reminded guests that the ASB had been one of the financial institutions who had backed her when she left New Zealand in the 1960's to pursue further training in the UK.



Dame Kiri introduced the young singers and joined them in a short musical programme.

### **INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF OUTSTANDING YOUNG NEW ZEALAND SINGERS AND MUSICIANS**

The Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation offers a range of opportunities to support its work. A 12 page brochure is available on request with details of specific support packages with various benefits available. The Foundation welcomes donations of any size and these may be sent by cheque (to the address shown at the end of this newsletter) or by credit card – email the Foundation for details.



## NEW FOUNDATION TRUSTEE APPOINTED



Professor Terence Dennis the current Head of Performance Studies at the University of Otago's Department of Music was recently appointed as the Foundation's latest trustee. Professor Dennis brings with him a wide range of musical experience. He is widely regarded as one of New Zealand's finest musicians with an international reputation as a highly-sought accompanist and his performances throughout New Zealand and overseas have received high acclaim.

Since 1991 he has been the official pianist for the finals of the Mobil Song, the premier vocal competition of New Zealand. In 2005 he continued this association as official pianist for the finals of the Lexus Song Quest, the successor of the Mobil Song Quest, accompanying the finalists and master classes of Grace Bumbry, the celebrated mezzo-soprano. He has been official pianist for seven international string competitions: the Lexus NZ International Violin Competition, the last four Adam International Cello Competitions and the first two Michael Hill International Violin Competitions.

## LEAVE A LEGACY TO REFLECT YOUR LOVE OF MUSIC



It's often said that we are put on this earth "to live, to love, to learn and to leave a legacy". What better way to leave a legacy for music than by making a bequest in your will to the Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation.

Leaving a bequest is a simple procedure that allows you to include the Foundation as a beneficiary of your will. Bequests are usually directed to the Foundation for use at the trustee's discretion but they can also be directed towards a specific need such as a music scholarship for a talented singer, musician or conductor identified by the trustees as meeting all the required criteria.

If you would like to discuss this matter further or would like a copy of sample language for your lawyer please contact the Foundation office.

## 'FULFIL A DREAM' FOUNDATION'S WISH COMES TRUE



'A dream come true' was how Julie Meates described the circumstances that led to Dame Kiri's agreement to meet a group of young singers during their short tour of the North Island of New Zealand earlier this year. The tour was arranged by Julie and the Fulfil A Dream Foundation. The party included students from MIS, Kurakaupapa, Chanel, Wairarapa and Greytown intermediate and high schools. The theme of the tour was 'Our Vision, Our Future' and it focused on encouraging a climate of learning that emphasises positive self-esteem, discipline, and wise and visionary leadership.

Dame Kiri entertained the group for morning tea at her hotel in Wellington and gave them an inspirational talk about the importance of developing important life skills, her work with the Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation and young singers and musicians and the importance of positive self-esteem.

Julie said she believed the trip and the opportunity to meet and listen to Dame Kiri was life changing for some of these youth and helped strengthen them physically, intellectually, emotionally and spiritually.



## SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT US

The Foundation has been fortunate to be able to attract a small group of high profile sponsors who have enthusiastically lent their corporate name and contributed significant funds and resources to ensure the long term achievement of the Foundation's aims.

The Foundation wishes to thank the following sponsors for their support and respectfully suggest they are worthy of your support as well:

Rolex  
ASB Bank  
Paul Harrop & Co (Accountants)  
Morrison Kent (Solicitors)  
Star Public Relations  
EMI Music  
Air New Zealand  
Zenago (Website management)

We will keep in touch and keep you in touch about the Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation and its activities....

Your next issue of Aria will feature more exciting news and views about the Foundation.

And we can keep others up to date too. . .

- If you would like us to mail material about the Foundation to you, please ask. Be sure to include your contact details in your email to the Foundation.
- To add members of your family or friends to our e-mail database please let us know
- However, if you do not wish to receive further editions of this newsletter, please let us know.



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It is believed that the contents of this newsletter are a full and fair representation. Interested parties should make their own enquiries to satisfy themselves on all aspects.

If you do not wish to receive further newsletters from the Foundation please advise us by sending an email to [foundation@kiritekanawa.org](mailto:foundation@kiritekanawa.org)

For more information please visit our website at [www.kiritekanawa.org](http://www.kiritekanawa.org)

### PRIVACY POLICY:

Under the Privacy Act 1993 any address or information you supply us with will be held in secure circumstances by the Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation and used to communicate with you about the Foundation events, its associations and activities.

Our mailing lists are available only to the Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation and are not available to any third parties or organisations.