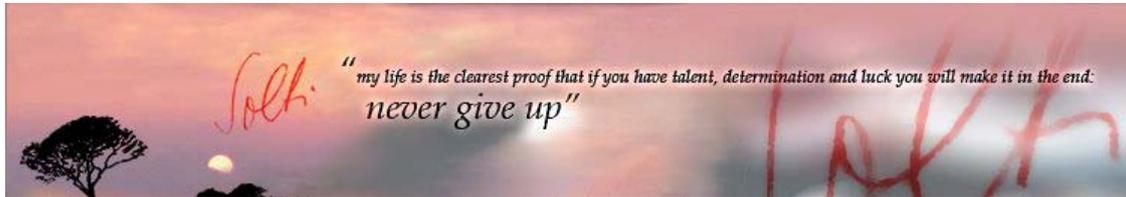


# GEORG SOLTI ACCADEMIA DI BEL CANTO



## NEWSLETTER

April 2007

Welcome to the inaugural Newsletter of the **Georg Solti Accademia di Bel Canto**. In this bulletin we would like to tell you something of the Accademia's aims, its plans for 2007 and its future aspirations, as well as highlighting the careers of some of its most promising students.

**Candice Wood**  
Executive Director



### *A message from Lady Solti*

My husband would have been overjoyed with the success of the Accademia Solti and most of all with the enthusiasm of the students and the professional success of so many of them. Georg Solti loved Castiglione; it became an essential part of his life, the place where every summer he retreated to the tranquility of the pine forest of Roccamare to study his scores and prepare his chosen music for the forthcoming season.

This year will be the 10th Anniversary of Solti's death which, rather than a memory of his departure from this world, will be a celebration by young singers from all over the world of the energy, passion and love of music making which he shared with all of us who had the privilege to be caught up in the magic of his music making. Indeed a friend always used to refer to him as Mr Magic.

I am so grateful to the team who have created the Accademia - Jonathan Papp, Candice Wood, Emanuela Ferrari, Paola Specca and Corradina Caporello from New York, who joined the faculty last summer. We have been so fortunate that my husband's colleagues Dame Kiri Te Kanawa and Mirella Freni

have taken time out of their busy schedules to hand on to the new generation of singers the secrets or mystery of performance that they have learned during their careers. This year another of my husband's colleagues, the great Italian baritone Maestro Leo Nucci, will be giving classes.

None of this would have been possible without the support of the Nando Peretti Foundation, the Grosseto Chamber of Commerce, the Group Alain Ducasse, Terra Moretti, Gea Commercial Italy, SAR Systematic Absolute Return, Zurich and the Comune of Castiglione della Pescaia.

Just as a good gardener is grateful for rain to encourage the growth of his seedlings, I too am grateful for the sponsorship which has encouraged the vigorous growth of the Accademia. I look forward to meeting old friends and supporters this summer and to welcoming new ones.

**Valerie Solti**      **Honorary President**



## About the Georg Solti Accademia di Bel Canto



Mirella Freni takes Japanese soprano Mihoko Kinoshita through her paces in a Masterclass at the 2006 Accademia. Photo – Graziano Villa

The Georg Solti Accademia di Bel Canto is a series of international masterclasses for the world's finest young singers at the start of their professional careers. Sir Georg Solti believed in the power of music to transcend political and cultural divides. Each year since 2004, the Accademia has brought together up to eighteen carefully selected singers and three répétiteurs at the start of their professional careers. For three weeks, they receive coaching from the world's greatest operatic stars. It is an intense experience providing the participants with the opportunity of a lifetime. For many it is the gateway to a successful professional singing career.

During his lifetime, Sir Georg Solti gave unstinting support to young artists who showed exceptional talent and promise. It is in this spirit that the Accademia was founded. For over thirty years Maestro Solti spent much of his free time in Castiglione della Pescaia in the Maremma region of Tuscany, where he found inspiration for his music making in the tranquility of his surroundings. Castiglione is now the home of the Accademia – the perfect setting for an artistic retreat.

The programme has been an outstanding success and has attracted support of the highest calibre from the artistic community, including **Dame Kiri Te Kanawa** and **Mirella Freni** who taught Masterclasses in 2005 and 2006. Dame Kiri has generously agreed to become Artistic Patron of the Accademia and she takes a continuing interest in its activities.

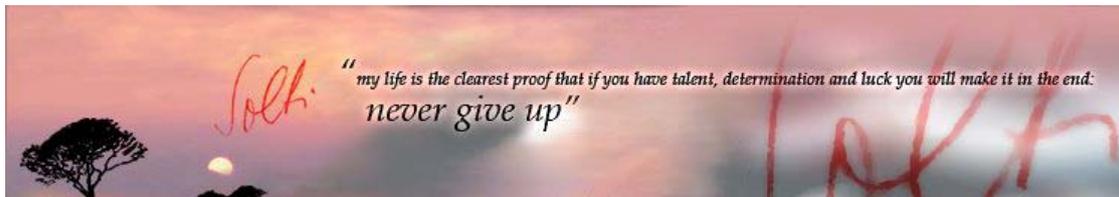
## Solti Accademia 2007 June 23 – July 9 Leo Nucci Masterclasses confirmed

Leading international baritone **Leo Nucci** will give a four-day series of Masterclasses (June 24-27) at the beginning of the 2007 Solti Accademia which takes place, as usual, in Castiglione della Pescaia. The course runs from June 23 to July 9, culminating in a public concert in Piazza Solti, Castiglione on July 7. A Sponsors' Recital in the beautiful surroundings of Castiglione's Hotel Andana is also planned - by courtesy of international hotelier Alain Ducasse and Vittorio Moretti.

The Faculty for the 2007 course is led by Artistic Director **Jonathan Papp**, an experienced vocal coach and much sought-after accompanist. He is joined by **Emanuela Ferrari**, Italian language and repertoire coach at the Royal Academy of Music in London, **Paolo Specca**, Head of the Vocal Faculty at Pescara Conservatoire, **Corradina Caporello**, Professor of Italian Diction and Language at Juilliard and Curtis Schools of Music, US and drama coach **Shirley Keane** who works extensively in the UK with young singers and composers. Fourteen students, from as far afield as Hungary, China, Mexico, South Africa and the UK have been selected to attend.



The baritone **Leo Nucci** is one of the world's leading exponents of the bel canto style. A close colleague of Georg Solti during his lifetime, Nucci has sung in all the world's leading opera houses – including regular appearances at La Scala, Milan, New York's Metropolitan Opera House and the Vienna State Opera House. He has recorded over thirty operas with such leading conductors as Von Karajan, Solti, Abbado, Maazel, Mehta, Muti and Levine. The roles with which Nucci are most closely identified are Rigoletto in Verdi's opera of the same name and Figaro in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, but his repertoire also includes leading roles right across the Italian bel canto repertoire. [www.leo-nucci.com](http://www.leo-nucci.com)



## *Georg Solti Accademia di Bel Canto*

### *Calendar 2007*

April 24	<b>London</b> , Italian Embassy <b>Concert</b> by 2006 Alumni hosted His Excellency, the Italian Ambassador.
May 5	<b>Brussels</b> , Theatre of the Chateau de Chimay Concert to celebrate the restoration of the theatre with Accademia Solti Alumni: Eliana Pretorian-soprano (2005), Seungwook Seong-baritone (2005), Jesus Leon-tenor (2006).
May 9	<b>Rome</b> , Peretti Foundation Concert by Accademia Solti Alumni: Mihoko Kinoshita-soprano (2006), Eliana Pretorian-soprano (2005), Seungwook Seong-baritone (2005)
June 23 – July 9	<b>Castiglione della Pescaia, Tuscany</b> <b>2007 Solti Accademia di Bel Canto</b>
June 24 – 28	<b>Masterclasses</b> by <b>Leo Nucci</b>
June 30	<b>Castiglione della Pescaia</b> <b>Gala Evening</b> at Hotel L'Andana in the presence of the guest tutors and patrons, hosted by Alain Ducasse and Vittorio Moretti.
July 7	<b>Castiglione Della Pescaia, Piazza Solti</b> <b>Concert recital</b> by 2007 Alumni
Autumn (date/details tba)	<b>London</b> Solti 10 <sup>th</sup> anniversary memorial concert Solti Accademia past alumni 2004 - 2007

### *Future Plans*

#### **Masterclasses announced for 2008, 2009 Plans for Winter Accademia 2008**

Masterclasses for the next three years have been announced for the Summer Accademia in Castiglione. 2008 sees the formidable duo of **Federica Von Stade** and **Dame Kiri Te Kanawa** working together; and it is hoped that **Dame Joan Sutherland** and **Sir Richard Bonyng** will share their experience with students in 2009.

As response to Accademia's outstanding success, plans are in hand to create a separate annual course for répétiteurs to be launched in Dubai in the winter of 2008. Maestro Solti and

many of his colleagues started their careers as répétiteurs. **Jonathan Papp**, Artistic Director of the Accademia and pianist to Dame Kiri

Te Kanawa, will lead the course. Professors from London's Covent Garden, Milan's La Scala, and New York's Metropolitan Opera and Chicago's Lyric Opera will constitute the teaching faculty.

Six talented young pianists will be invited to attend the **Dubai Accademia Solti**, and will work principally on the Italian operatic repertoire with six singers from the Accademia's Summer Programme. The last three days of the seminar will be dedicated to recitals and a final Gala Evening in the presence of Lady Solti and invited guests.



## ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

### 2006 Accademia



**Jesus Leon, tenor**

Mexican tenor **Jesus Leon** and Japanese soprano **Mihoko Kinoshita** were two of the fourteen students who travelled many miles to attend the Solti Accademia di bel canto in 2006.

**Jesus Leon** trained at the Opera Institute at Boston University and UCLA Opera Studio and is currently an inaugural member of the **Domingo-Thornton Young Artist Program at Los Angeles Opera**.

Jesus received a scholarship from the Solti Foundation to attend the Accademia. Writing warmly about his experiences at the 2006 Accademia, Jesus says:

*"It has made a big change in my musical career. I was able to work in great detail and had wonderful classes in Italian diction, musical preparation and acting along with private coaching, voice lessons and master classes.*

*"We had one purpose and that was to make bel canto. Thanks to the support of the Accademia Solti and its generous sponsors, together we are making a new world of wonderful artists.*

*"Viva l'opera and Solti!"*

Jesus's operatic roles include Almoviva, Ferrando, Nemorino, Rinuccio, Don Ottavio and Alfredo. He has performed with the Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, New Opera Festival di Roma and the

Festival Euromediterraneo. He will cover the role of Ferrando in *Così fan tutte* at **Santa Fe Opera** in the summer of 2007. He is represented by Gudrun Rohrbach, Personal Artists Management: [grohrbach@arcor.de](mailto:grohrbach@arcor.de)

For soprano **Mihoko Kinoshita**, the three weeks at the Solti Accademia in the company of fellow singers, coaches and the great Mirella Freni proved *"an unforgettable experience"*.

Mihoko, from Kagoshima in Japan, studied at Musashino Academy of Music but travelled to Italy to pursue her singing studies in 2001. Since then she has won numerous prizes including first place at the Santa Margherita and the Bevangna International Vocal Competitions (2002), and second place in the Verdi International Vocal competition (2005).

Her roles include Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni*, Cio-Cio San in *Madame Butterfly*, Mimi in *La Bohème* and Violetta in *La Traviata*. She has worked with conductors **Seiji Osawa** and **Lorin Maazel** amongst others, and has appeared at theatres in Europe and Japan, including the Sofia National Opera Theatre, Bulgaria and the Tokyo National Opera Theatre.

In December 2006 she returned to Tokyo to sing in Beethoven's Ninth Symphony at the NHK New Year Opera Concert, which was also televised nationwide. Future engagements include Amelia in *Ballo in Maschera* in Tokyo (autumn 2007) and her Japanese debut as Violetta in *La Traviata* at the new **National Theatre of Japan** (2008). Further information appears on her website: [www.mihoko-kinoshita.com](http://www.mihoko-kinoshita.com)



**Mihoko Kinoshita - soprano**



## ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

### 2005 Accademia



Eliana Pretorian, soprano

The Romanian soprano **Eliana Pretorian** attended the 2005 Solti Accademia where she found Dame Kiri Te Kanawa's masterclasses to be a 'joyful experience'. She finishes her studies at the Royal College of Music in July 2007 after six years and already has a bulging diary of engagements for the coming year. In February she sang the role of Adina in **Opera South's** production of *L'Elisir d'amore* in Haslemere, Surrey – an opera which she will revisit later this year with **Glyndebourne Touring Opera**, singing the part of Gianetta and covering the role of Adina. She's also booked to appear in **Garsington Opera's** *Ariadne auf Naxos* (Naiad) in June, and in July she sings Despina in *Così*

*fan tutte* at the **Longborough Festival**.

Eliana plans audition for major opera companies in the US and Europe in 2007-2008 and hopes to combine future opera performances with Leider and operatic recitals.

After winning the first prize in the Romanian National Singing Competition in two successive years (1999, 2000) Eliana was awarded a full scholarship to the Royal College of Music in London. In 2005 she was the youngest finalist in the Kathleen Ferrier Competition and won a place at the Benjamin Britten International Opera School at the Royal College of Music.

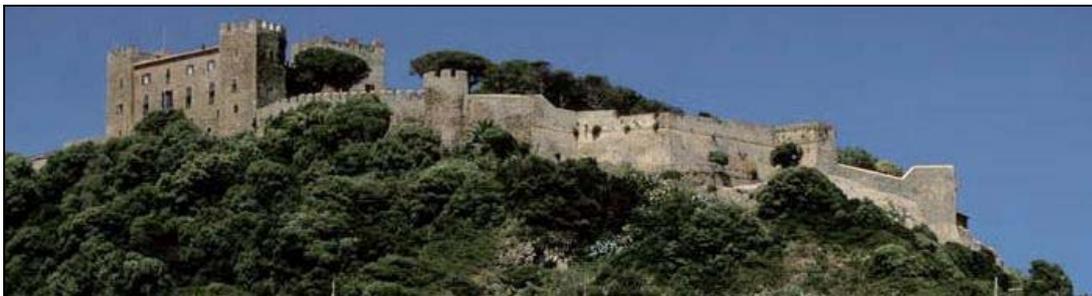
Recent reviews:

*"best of all, the Romanian soprano Eliana Pretorian's effortlessly stylish and intensely Mozartian Zerlina"*

- Hilary Finch, **The Times** September 06  
(*Don Giovanni* - British Youth Opera)

*"Eliana Pretorian, doubling as Amor and the priapic Valletto, gave two dazzling performances: bringing the text to life, singing with style, colour, and vivacity, and moving with the panache and control of a trained dancer. Were I looking to cast a professional production of Poppea, I'd snap her up in a heartbeat"*

- Anna Picard, Independent on Sunday  
December 06 (*L'incoronazione di Poppea*, Britten Theatre, London)



Castiglione della Pescaia



**ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS** (continued)



Seungwook Seong, baritone

Korean baritone **Seungwook Seong** also attended the 2005 Solti Accademia and, like many of his fellow students, looks back on the experience with pleasure – and nostalgia.

*"It was the best summer school of my life – I really miss that place and that moment,"* he writes.

Participation in Dame Kiri Te Kanawa's Masterclasses in Castiglione led to some important opportunities for him: in February 2006, he performed at a Gala Concert with Dame Kiri and Frederica von Stade in New Zealand and later that year he sang at the Hampton Court Palace Festival with Dame Kiri.

Seungwook began his musical training at Yon Sei University in Seoul where he graduated with a first-class degree. In December 2001 he won a prestigious entrance scholarship to Royal Academy Opera and continued his studies at the National Opera Studio. He is the recipient of many awards and prizes including the Opera Rara Bel Canto Prize.

He is currently studying at Cardiff International Academy of Voice (Principal: Dennis O'Neill),. Previous professional engagements have included concerts and oratorio in Korea and appearances for Holland Park Opera (Yamadori in *Madam Butterfly*). In April 2007 he will sing the title role in role *Don Giovanni* at the **Amersham Opera Festival**.



Ana James, soprano

New Zealand soprano **Ana James** participated in the first Solti Accademia in 2004 and already has a thriving professional career. She is currently on the Jette Parker Young Artists programme at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. After her contract in London ends in July 2007 future plans include returning to the Royal Opera, her debuts with Glyndebourne Touring Opera and New Zealand Opera, and recitals in Tokyo amongst other venues.

She writes: *"I had a wonderful time at the Solti Accademia working daily with Jonathan Papp (with whom I try to work as much as possible now), Paolo Specca., and the marvellous Italian coach Emanuele Ferrari. It was such a relaxed and beautiful atmosphere. I really enjoyed myself!"*

[www.imgartists.com](http://www.imgartists.com)

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For further information about the **Georg Solti Accademia di Bel Canto** go to [www.accademiasolti.com](http://www.accademiasolti.com)  
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