



SOLTI TE KANAWA
ACCADEMIA DI BEL CANTO

Newsletter

ISSUE 3 - WINTER 2010

As we finish our seventh season, I am delighted to report on the hugely successful activities of the Solti Te Kanawa Accademia and the Solti Peretti Repetiteurs Course .

This year we have been particularly happy to acknowledge an enormously generous three-year grant from the Rolex Institute, given for the excellent work the Accademia is carrying out in training singers from all over the world. This grant came out of the close relationship Rolex has enjoyed with Dame Kiri for more than 30 years – she was in fact Rolex’s first brand ambassador in the arts. The grant also honours the company’s long-standing friendship with Lady Solti. The association of the Rolex Institute and the Accademia is highly prestigious, and it will be of immeasurable help as we face the challenges ahead.

Our programmes continue to rise in quality, to expand in scope and to receive international acclaim for their development of young talent – as the headline of an article on the Accademia in the *Daily Telegraph* succinctly put it, ‘Opera’s future starts here’. Yet none of what we achieve would be possible without the generous support and hard work of Lady Solti and Dame Kiri Te



Kanawa, the Peretti Foundation, the Royal Academy of Music, the Comune di Castiglione and Grosseto Chamber of Commerce, Vittorio Moretti and Alain Ducasse at L’Andana hotel and restaurant and several private individuals, especially Geraldine and John Whittaker. Our renewed and heartfelt thanks, and we look forward to welcoming you all back next summer.

Candice Wood

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Executive Director of the Solti Te Kanawa and Solti Peretti Accademia

Solti Te Kanawa Accademia

An outstanding group of students rose to the challenges presented by our three-week course in Castiglione della Pescaia (27 June - 18 July), led by yet another magnificent set of coaches. After a first week of preparation taught by our matchless core faculty – the Accademia’s Artistic Director Jonathan Papp, Italian diction and language coach Corradina Caporello and repetiteur Terrence Dennis – the celebrated conductor and bel canto scholar Richard Bonyngé, husband of the late Dame Joan Sutherland, gave a week of master classes.

These proved extremely useful and happy for all concerned – Maestro Bonyngé said that he had never enjoyed master classes so much, and we were delighted when he enthusiastically agreed to return to us to teach on the Solti

Peretti Repetiteurs Course next April. He also attended our concert in Geneva on 22 September – an event which he enjoyed so much that he said he would happily have walked to it!



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After Maestro Bonyngé's departure, our Principal Vocal Coach Paolo Speca arrived, along with our next guest, the young stage director Alexander Zeldin. His work on the dramatic aspects of Italian opera galvanised the students and resulted in a crisply directed and thoroughly entertaining frame for the final public concert, held in the Piazza Solti in Castiglione on 16 July.



With the welcome addition of a hundred extra seats and a portable loo, this annual event was yet again a complete delight which has established itself as a highlight of Castiglione's cultural calendar. We were particularly pleased to be joined by so many of our sponsors.

The following evening's more intimate concert at L'Andana, was an equally happy occasion, despite opposition from an army of cicadas! Graced by beautiful weather and an appreciative audience, the singers were surrounded by a beautiful landscape of palm trees, olive groves and a setting sun. Following an aria from each student, all the performers joined in the glorious chorus from Act 2 of Puccini's *La Rondine* to bring the programme a tear-jerking and magical climax. For their hospitality and a fine dinner

afterwards, we must once again thank Vittorio Moretti and Alain Ducasse,

We are all grateful to Dame Kiri who has inspired everyone on the team with her talent, skill and understanding of the complexities of forming a young voice.

We would also like to give a heartfelt thanks to Castiglione's L'Approdo Hotel, where the students and many of the staff are so comfortably accommodated, and to Pepi Ferrari and Roberta Biondi for their special help with language coaching. Without this network of support and partnerships, the Accademia could not function.

New Zealand soprano

Joanna Foote

I could not have dreamed of a more wonderful team of experts in bel canto or a more idyllic setting in which to work. I don't think I can express what a huge luxury it was for me to have three weeks of completely funded study, or even to hint at the amazing skills, tools and information that I have gained and that I am sure to use for my entire career and life.

British baritone

Julien Debreuil

An extraordinary experience – hard work and very tiring, but also thoroughly rewarding. The teachers accept nothing but the very best from each singer, forcing one to raise one's game in every session. Every ounce of information I have gained will become an important part of my rehearsals and performances to come for many years.

South African soprano

Runette Botha

The master classes with Maestro Bonyngé were marvellous experiences – I've never seen anyone convey so much information and emotion through the tiniest movement of their wrist and I think he helped us all take huge strides in our art. When Dame Kiri started to demonstrate, we were awestruck! I think everybody in the room felt as if a gift had blessed us. To work for an artist of her calibre has been life-changing.

Lithuanian mezzo-soprano

Egle Sidlauskaitė

Thank you with all my heart for the carefully planned each moment of our days, for your interest and help for all of us young performers. I am full of joy to have had the chance to be with you – it was a unique experience

British soprano

Keiza Bienek

A wonderful variety of professors, each one of whom gave me new tools to apply to my singing and strived to help me achieve the best sound and interpretation I could. Alexander Zeldin's work was informed, organised and to the point – his input immediately improved my performance.

Ukrainian baritone

Iurii Samoiloʋ

My level of English is not high enough to tell you all what I feel, but I hope you will understand. The course was very intensive and sometimes I was very tired. But that's the way it must be – music is not the job, it's life, and you must work hard for high results!! Thank you all. In Kiev, I'm missing everybody so much.



Solti Peretti Repetiteurs Course

As far as we know, the Solti Peretti Repetiteurs Course is the only course of its kind in the world, focused on the development of various skills, including playing with an awareness of the orchestral score, singing the various singers' parts, conducting, playing and delivery of secco recitative and preparation of singers on both a one-to-one and ensemble basis.



This sort of work is not only of great value in itself, but also serves as a seedbed for a future generation of opera conductors.

For this second year of its existence, participants aged between 17 and 25 came from Spain, Korea and various British conservatoires and universities

including the Royal Academy of Music, Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Britten-Pears School, the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and the University of Cambridge. Coaching was led by Jonathan Papp, with Harriet Lawson, Pamela Bullock, Audrey Hyland and Roberta Biondi.

The course took place in Castiglione della Pescaia from 29 August to 5 September, just as the summer season was winding down and the crowds of holiday-makers were thinning out. Nevertheless, we attracted a capacity audience for the final concert in the boatyard, Il Cantiere Navale. The five-piano arrangement of the overture to Wagner's *Tannhäuser*, played by our repetiteurs, was a highlight of the programme – not least as the evening marked the anniversary of Sir Georg Solti's death, and the sound of music with which he had been so closely

associated made us all think of him, and how thrilled he would have been at the existence of a course in his memory, embodying so much that he believed in.

After the concert, thanks to Sarah and Robert da Ponte, we celebrated with a wonderful dinner on the boat shed terrace overlooking the sea, bringing the course to an appropriately festive conclusion.

We are delighted that next April the Solti Peretti Repetiteurs Course will for the first time take place in La Posta Vecchia, a magnificent hotel in Ladispoli, housed in a palazzo formerly owned by J Paul Getty. This wonderful venue offers us



many new opportunities, and our residency there comes to us thanks to La Posta Vecchia's owner, our board member Roberto Scio.

We would like to thank the Peretti Foundation, especially Elsa Peretti and Stefano Palumbo, whose sponsorship makes the SPMC possible. As this new chapter in our work opens, we hope that they will be joined by other benefactors.

Feedback...

Maite Aguirre

Working with Jonathan, Pamela and Audrey, with and through their ears, has broadened my mind and the way I listen to music and the voice.

Mark Austin

Perhaps the most important breakthrough for me was the discovery of how to coach an experienced singer constructively in a piece they know well but which I don't know at all. The beautiful town, the breathtaking views and delicious food were an added bonus!

Kerem Hasan

An enthralling experience. The opportunity to work with very high quality singers provided a unique learning ground and I feel I have gained a lot.

Christopher White

I had a fantastic time and it was great to be focused on rather than being ignored, as we pianists usually are! I learned a huge amount and gained confidence that I was generally on the right lines both in terms of my artistic judgment and also career-wise.

Alumni - Names to Watch:

Repetiteurs



JAMES BAILLIEU (2006, 2007 and 2009) A prize winner at the 2009 Wigmore Hall Song Competition, he has over the past year recorded for Radio 3 with Allan Clayton and given recitals with singers including Thomas Allen, Katherine Broderick and Jacques Imbrailo. He was selected for the 2010 Young Concert Artists Trust, and in December will give a recital with Mark Padmore. In 2011 he will appear at the Wigmore Hall, Bridgewater Hall and Spitalfields Festival.



ROBERT HOUSSART (2009). Worked as assistant conductor at Opera North, English National Opera and for Sir Mark Elder at the Halle. Made his debut conducting Ligeti's *Le Grand Macabre* at the Adelaide Festival and a new production of Rufus Wainwright's *Prima Donna* at Sadler's Wells. This autumn he has conducted Jonathan Dove's *The Adventures of Pinocchio* for Opera North and a new community work for the Royal Opera in Purfleet.

Singers



GARETH MALONE (2004) has changed career path. No longer active as a singer, he has become the UK's most celebrated choirmaster, enjoying extraordinary success with his inspirational BBC television series *The Choir*, *Gareth goes to Glyndebourne* and *Gareth Malone's Extraordinary School for Boys*. He is now writing a guide to classical music for publication by Harper Collins.



STEPHANIE CORLEY (2005) won highly enthusiastic reviews for her moving portrayal of Desdemona in Graham Vick's award-winning production of Verdi's *Otello* for Birmingham Opera Company, and this autumn is singing the title-role in a new production of *The Merry Widow* for Opera North. Next year she makes her debut with Netherlands' Nationale Reisopera as Musetta in *La Boheme*.



MEETA RAVAL (2006) Has just finished a year at the National Opera Studio. She will now be going up to Scottish Opera to start rehearsals for Tom Allen's production of *Figaro* where she will be covering the Countess. Following *Figaro* she will be at ENO as 1st flower Maiden in group 2 in *Parsifal* and after that Woglinda in Opera North's *Gotterdammerung*.

Forthcoming events

2010

26-28 November

A weekend of bel canto with members of the Solti Te Kanawa Accademia at La Posta Vecchia. www.lapostavecchia.com

8 December

Members of the Solti Te Kanawa Accademia join with Dame Kiri Te Kanawa and Jose Carreras for a concert at London's Royal Albert Hall in aid of the José Carreras International Leukaemia Foundation.

2011

25-26 January

Auditions for the Solti Te Kanawa Accademia, Royal Academy of Music, London W1.

9-17 April

Solti Peretti Repetiteurs Master Classes, La Posta Vecchia, Ladispoli.

26 June – 17 July

Solti Te Kanawa Accademia, Castiglione della Pescaia.

Both the Solti Te Kanawa and Solti Peretti masterclasses now managed by the newly established Swiss-based foundation the Georg Solti Accademia, whose mission statement can be read underneath.

Fondation Georg Solti Accademia

L'intention des fondateurs, qui s'inspirent de la vie, des œuvres et des conceptions artistiques de Sir Georg Solti, est de continuer dans la tradition de Sir Georg Solti de contribuer à former des jeunes talents dans le domaine du théâtre lyrique.

La fondation a donc pour but d'organiser tout genre d'opportunité de formation au bénéfice de jeunes artistes et le soutien de projets dans l'enseignement et la formation dans le domaine du théâtre lyrique. A cette fin la fondation recueille des fonds de donateurs qui permettent le financement des activités.

Dans le cadre des buts fixés, la fondation œuvre en Suisse et à l'étranger.

La fondation n'a pas de but lucratif et ne vise aucun profit.



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