

Opera Across the Tasman



St. James' Theatre

WELLINGTON – CHRISTCHURCH

14 – 20 October 2010 (7 days)

Tour leader: Sharolyn Kimmorley AM

DEAR OPERA LOVER,

Enjoy a springtime break across the Tasman and discover the thriving opera scene in New Zealand, along with stunning scenery, superb wines and glorious gardens.

This tour is timed to feature brand new productions by New Zealand's two opera companies, NBR New Zealand Opera, based in the North Island, and Southern Opera, based in Christchurch. In Wellington's historic St James' Theatre, NBR NZ Opera will present Verdi's *Macbeth*, whilst Southern Opera will perform Puccini's *Tosca* with none other than Christchurch-born Teddy Tahu Rhodes in his role debut as Scarpia.

Between Wellington and Christchurch, you will experience one of the great ferry rides of the world, combined with the TranzCoastal train. In addition, discover the boutique wine-growing region of Martinborough, the thriving arts scene in Wellington and charming Akaroa. We have also arranged private visits to two of New Zealand's great gardens, 'Richmond' and 'Otahuna Lodge'.



FOR THE PATRONS, FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF OPERA AUSTRALIA



IN ASSOCIATION WITH RENAISSANCE TOURS

Opera
Around
the
World



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Akaroa Harbour Cruise



Richmond Garden

Photo: Hamish Trouson



Interislander Ferry



Teddy Tahu Rhodes

ITINERARY

THU 14 OCT 2010 ARRIVE WELLINGTON

Arrive Wellington and check-in to the Intercontinental Hotel Wellington.

Tour arrangements begin this evening with a welcome dinner with Sharolyn Kimmorley and fellow opera lovers. (Meals included - D)

FRI 15 OCT WELLINGTON

Journey out of Wellington for a full-day tour to Wairarapa countryside, renowned for the wineries and olive groves in Martinborough, shopping and dining in Greytown, and art and gardens in Carterton. In the morning visit Richmond Garden in Carterton which is one of only four New Zealand gardens to be given a *NZ Garden of International Significance* status. Richmond Garden is the result of a vision by John and Melanie Greenwood to create a formal garden, a place to enjoy peace and tranquility. They had both been impressed by the 16th and 17th century gardens in Italy and had observed that their tranquility was achieved through the repetition of planting themes, straight lines, water and symmetry.

Continue to the charming 'wine village' of Martinborough for lunch and tastings at several award winning wineries. Return to Wellington in the late afternoon. (B,L)

SAT 16 OCT WELLINGTON

This morning's tour will introduce you to the visually stunning city of Wellington, nestled around the harbour and surrounded by rolling hills. The political and cultural capital of New Zealand, Wellington abounds with cafes, restaurants, galleries and a thriving arts scene. See the famous Beehive and Parliament Buildings, Saint Paul's Cathedral, Lady Norwood Rose Gardens and enjoy breathtaking views from the summit of Mount Victoria. Finish with a drive around the rugged and unspoilt Wellington Harbour. Afternoon at leisure – why not take a ride on the historic cable car?

Following a pre-theatre dinner, attend the NBR NZ Opera's production of Verdi's *Macbeth* at St James Theatre. The performance stars Welsh baritone Jason Howard in the title role, Italian soprano Antonia Cifrone as Lady Macbeth and New Zealand-born bass Jud Arthur as Banquo. This

compelling production from Opera North (UK) is brought to the stage by internationally acclaimed director, Tim Albery. The Wellington Vector Orchestra is conducted by Guido Ajmone-Marsan. (B, D)

SUN 17 OCT WELLINGTON - CHRISTCHURCH

Today enjoy a unique scenic experience which combines the Interislander ferry crossing between Wellington and Picton and the TranzCoastal train between Picton and Christchurch. After sailing out of the picturesque harbour of Wellington, cross Cook Strait before entering the magnificent Marlborough Sounds. Described by Wine Spectator as "one of the most beautiful ferry rides in the world" the 92 km, three hour journey between Wellington and Picton is one of New Zealand's most iconic tourist experiences, and one of the most spectacular cruises in the world.

On arrival in Picton you will have time to experience this charming small town before boarding the TranzCoastal train to Christchurch. This journey is a scenic feast of New Zealand, with the Kaikoura mountain ranges on one side of your train and the

THE NBR NEW ZEALAND OPERA

The NBR New Zealand Opera is the country's largest professional opera company. The company was formed in 2000 when the Wellington City Opera (1892-1999) and Auckland Opera (1970-2000) companies decided to merge into one organization. The company produces three fully staged operas each year during an annual season.

The NBR New Zealand Opera's repertoire has included productions of popular operas such as *La Bohème*, *Turandot* and *La Traviata* as well as works such as *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *Boris Godunov* and *Jenufa*. The scale and style of its productions has spanned a wide range from comedies like *Don Pasquale* to epic

spectacles like *Aida*. Partnerships with other arts organisations are a feature of the seasons: NZO works regularly with the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra and the Vector Wellington Orchestra.

Part of the company's mission is to foster talent and this is achieved through The NBR New Zealand Opera Internships, comprising the PwC Dame Malvina Major Young and Emerging Artists and The NBR New Zealand Opera Resident Artists.

For further information, visit www.nzopera.com



NBR NZ Opera's production of Verdi's *Macbeth*

Tour Leader: Sharolyn Kimmorley AM

After studying at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, Sharolyn Kimmorley joined the Music Staff of The Australian Opera in 1975. In 1985 she became Principal Repetiteur for The Australian Opera and in 1987 was appointed Head of Music Staff. From 1994 to 1999 she was the company's Artistic Administrator, following which she was Opera Australia's Director of Music Administration until June 2003.

Sharolyn Kimmorley is regarded as one of Australia's finest vocal coaches and accompanists. She regularly accompanies the major singing competitions and in 1983 was invited by Tito Gobbi to be the accompanist for the Concorso Internazionale per Cantanti at Bassano del Grappa and coach for the Studio dell'opera Italiana at Asolo. In 2001 she was a jury member for the first China (Guangdong) International Singing Competition

Sharolyn has been guest vocal coach at the Australian National University, Australian Opera Studio, West Australian Opera, Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, Auckland University, Southern Opera (Christchurch), London's Guildhall School of Music and The Cardiff International Vocal Academy.

In January 2009 Sharolyn became a member of the Order of Australia in recognition of her service to the performing arts as an operatic accompanist, through the tuition and mentoring of young and emerging artists, and to the community.

In 2010, Sharolyn will perform *Winterreise* with American bass-baritone Ryan McKinny for the Sydney Festival and will appear in recital with Barbara Bonney, Yvonne Kenny, Teddy Tahu Rhodes and David Hobson.



Christchurch

Photo: David Wall



Otahuna Lodge

rugged Pacific Ocean coastline on the other. On arrival in Christchurch, transfer to your hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

MON 18 OCT CHRISTCHURCH

Journey out of Christchurch for a full day tour to Akaroa, colonized by the French after the English declared sovereignty over New Zealand in 1840. Nestled in the heart of an ancient volcano, Akaroa retains its French influence everywhere.

On arrival, board a 60 feet catamaran for a morning cruise of Akaroa Harbour. During the two-hour cruise you will encounter wildlife plus the many sea caves and volcanic cliffs. Also stop at Lucas Bay to visit a salmon farm. The highlight of the trip is undoubtedly the sighting of one of the world's smallest and rarest dolphins, the Hector Dolphin also known as the New Zealand Dolphin.

After the cruise, there will be free time for lunch on your own and to explore Akaroa with its colonial architecture, galleries, craft stores, and cafés. On the return drive, visit Otahuna Lodge, built in 1895 for Sir Heaton Rhodes, a high-profile pioneer of

Canterbury, and his wife Jessie. Otahuna Lodge is a grand Queen Anne-style homestead set in spectacular 110-year old gardens laid out by A. E. Lowe who trained at Kew Gardens, London. Following a tour of the gardens, enjoy afternoon tea at the homestead, today an exclusive country estate offering luxury accommodation for just 10 guests. (B, Morning and afternoon teas)

TUE 19 OCT CHRISTCHURCH

Join your local guide for a morning introduction to Christchurch, the South Island's largest city. Named after Christ Church, a college at the University of Oxford, Christchurch has been recognised as 'the Garden City' since 1993, thanks to its many beautiful public parks and private gardens. Part of Hagley Park, the Christchurch Botanic Gardens alongside the Avon River contain the finest collection of exotic and indigenous plants to be found anywhere in New Zealand. See also the Christchurch Cathedral, an outstanding example of Gothic Revival architecture, the beautiful Neo-Gothic Arts Centre and scenic Lyttelton Harbour.

Afternoon at leisure to visit the International Antarctic Center, see native kiwis at the Willowbank Wildlife Reserve, take a ride on a historic Christchurch tram, ride the Christchurch Gondola or take a leisurely journey down the Avon River in a punt.

Evening performance (6.30 pm) of Puccini's *Tosca* by Southern Opera, featuring exciting New Zealand soprano Suzanne Prain in the title role, Mexican tenor Rafael Rojas as Cavaradossi and Teddy Tahu Rhodes in his role debut as Scarpia. This new production is directed by Raymond Hawthorne and conducted by Tecwyn Evans.

Following the performance, celebrate the conclusion of the tour with a special farewell dinner. (B,D)

WED 20 OCT DEPART CHRISTCHURCH

Tour arrangements conclude after breakfast.

SOUTHERN OPERA

Southern Opera was founded in early 2007, just months after its predecessor, Canterbury Opera went into liquidation following a 20-year history. With Canterbury audiences used to twice-yearly seasons of opera, it was inevitable that Southern Opera had to be born.

The need to provide the local opera audience with regular access and enjoyment of the art and the desire to provide work for the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra, South Island singers, local arts practitioners including set builders, repetiteurs, designers and directors, were all driving factors in the decision to establish a new opera company.

Southern Opera is committed to presenting a world-class mainstream opera production once a year. In 2009 this was Mozart's *The Magic Flute* which enjoyed a six-performance season in September/October in Christchurch.

In addition, the company will present one smaller work each year. In May of 2010 this will be Verdi's *Aida* which will be performed in Christchurch on one night only as a full concert presentation.

For further information, visit www.southernopera.co.nz



Photo: Perrin Hopkins

Southern Opera's production of *The Magic Flute*



Oriental Bay – Wellington

Photo: Rob Suisted



Richmond Garden



Akaroa Harbour Cruise

Hotels Tour Prices

TOUR CODE: OA101014

YOUR HOTELS***:**

Wellington – Inter.Continental
Christchurch – Heritage Hotel

DEPOSIT: \$500 per person

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: 3 September 2010

TOUR PRICES:

Per person, twin-share	\$2,450
Single supplement	\$600

TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- 6 nights accommodation including breakfast (B = breakfast)
- Many other meals as per itinerary, including special welcome and farewell dinners (L = lunch, D = dinner)
- Cat. 1 tickets for two performances
- Deluxe air-conditioned transportation and comprehensive sightseeing including entrance fees as per itinerary.
- Interislander ferry and TranzCoastal ticket
- Hotel portorage; tips and gratuities to local guides and drivers.

NOT INCLUDED:

- Flights to/from New Zealand (please contact Renaissance Tours for assistance).
- Drinks with meals (except welcome and farewell dinners)
- Transfers on arrival and departure.
- Items of a personal nature (e.g. drinks, telephone calls, taxis, laundry etc.).
- Travel insurance.

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

How to Book:

Complete, sign and return the Booking Form available from Renaissance Tours with your deposit of \$500 per person. Upon receipt of your Booking Form and deposit, you will receive confirmation of your place from Renaissance Tours.

Deposit / Final Payments

Deposit (at time of booking) \$500
Your deposit is used to purchase your performance tickets and for hotel deposits and is non-refundable in the event of your cancellation. Your final payment is due 45 days for domestic tours. Failure to make your final payment by the due date may result in cancellation of your booking and loss of deposit.

Payment by cash, cheque, American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa is accepted. A 3% service charge applies for payment by American Express and Diners Club.

We reserve the right to charge a late payment fee in the event of late booking and/or payment to cover additional communication and other expenses.

Cancellation & Refunds

a) **Cancellation by You** - Cancellation charges will be applied as shown below, calculated from the day written notification is received by Renaissance Tours. In addition to cancellation fees for tours operated by Renaissance Tours as shown below, airlines, hotels and other third parties may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

45 days or more	Forfeit of deposit*
44 – 31 days	50% of tour cost
30 – 15 days	75% of tour cost
Less than 15 days	100% of tour cost

*Includes any flight deposit paid.

The above cancellation charges include applicable GST.

In addition to the above cancellation charges, the full insurance premium together with any existing administration fees is also payable in the event of a cancellation by the Client. If the reason for cancellation is covered by the insurance policy, you may be able to reclaim these charges.

b) **Cancellation by Us** - We reserve the right to cancel a tour for any reason (such as failure to reach minimum tour participant numbers). Except for force majeure or the Client's failure to pay the final balance, we will not cancel a tour less than 45 days before departure. Unless the Client fails to pay the final balance, we will return all monies paid, excluding payment for travel insurance and administration fees.

No further compensation will be paid in the event of cancellation by Renaissance Tours. A full refund of monies paid for tour costs will be the full extent of our liability. Airlines may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

Passports, Visas and Vaccinations

It is your responsibility to be in possession of a passport valid for 6 months after the date of your return to Australia. You are also responsible for obtaining all necessary visas, inoculations and preventative medicines as may be required for the duration of the tour. Information about these matters or related items is given in good faith but without responsibility on the part of Renaissance Tours.

Travel Insurance

It is highly recommended that you are covered by travel insurance. You can make your own arrangements or your travel insurance can be arranged by Renaissance Tours. In either case all participants must provide the following information no later than 45 days prior to commencement of travel:

- a copy of your travel insurance policy (or details of master policy)
- the emergency telephone number of your insurance company
- next of kin emergency contact.

Fitness and Participation

While our tours do not require a special level of fitness, for the overall benefit of the group, all tour members must possess a moderate level of mobility, including the ability to:

- negotiate airports and railway stations without wheelchair assistance
- use combined shower/bath facilities (it is impossible to guarantee walk-in shower facilities)
- undertake walking tour of 2-3 hours duration, including using stairs, walking over cobblestones and other uneven surfaces
- stand for long periods in museums and other sites
- embark / disembark coaches, trains and other methods of transportation without assistance
- handle your own luggage

If you (or we) have any doubts about your ability to participate in your chosen tour, you may be required to have a doctor's appraisal. This would require a doctor to read the itinerary of your chosen tour and provide you with a written confirmation of your ability to participate.

Terms & Conditions

You can find the full terms & conditions on the Renaissance Tours booking form. They can also be found at www.renaissancetours.com.au or we would be happy to post you a copy on request.

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