



Festival Singers

Musical Director
Jonathan Berkahn

Presents

Sunday at the Opera

Music by:

**Gounod, Wagner, Puccini, Verdi,
Donizetti, Rossini, Lloyd Webber**

Featuring:

Barbara Paterson ~ soprano

Heather Easting ~ organ

Thomas Nikora ~ accompanist

& The Festival Strings

2-30 pm Sunday 18 June 2017

Waiwhetu Uniting Church

4 Trafalgar Street, Waiwhetu, Lower Hutt

www.festivalsingers.wordpress.com

Programme

Richard Wagner (1813–83)

Da zu dir der Heiland kamm
(*Die Meistersinger*)

Giuseppe Verdi (1813–1901)

Ave Maria (*Quattro Pezzi Sacri*)

Giacomo Puccini (1858–1924)

Requiem

Charles Gounod (1818–93)

Ave verum corpus

(conductor Barbara Paterson)

Agnus Dei (*Messe Sainte Cécile*)

Jules Massenet (1842–1912)

Meditation (*Thaïs*)

Édouard Batiste (1820–76)

Offertoire

Léo Delibes (1836–91)

Kyrie (*Messe Breve*)

Giuseppe Verdi

Va pensiero (*Nabucco*)

Giovanni d'Andrea

(mid-19th century)

Sinfonia in C

Gioachino Rossini (1792–1868)

(conductor Barbara Paterson)

Salve Regina

Gaetano Donizetti (1797–1848)

Requiem:

– In memoria aeterna

– Rex tremendae

Andrew Lloyd Webber (b.1948)

Pie Jesu (*Requiem*)

Pietro Mascagni (1863–1945)

Intermezzo (*Cavalleria Rusticana*)

Richard Wagner

Pilgrims' Chorus (*Tannhäuser*)

INTERVAL

About this concert

We welcome you to Waiwhetu this afternoon with a concert that explores the connection between the church service and the operatic stage. When in the 1860s and 70s Joseph Barnby introduced elaborate choral works (including Gounod's Messe Sainte Cécile – complete with harp!) at St Andrew's, Wells St and then St Anne's, Soho, the services came to be known as "the Sunday opera." Popes, theologians, and liturgists have been highly doubtful of this connection; but neither in the age of Monteverdi, nor of Mozart, nor of Hillsong have they been able to exert as much influence as they'd have liked...

In this concert we hear "pretend" church music from the operatic stage (Wagner), we hear actual church music that sounds very operatic (Donizetti, Gounod), and music by composers that sounds very un-operatic (Verdi and, again, Gounod.) Some of the pieces are old favourites. Others may surprise you, showing different sides of composers best known for their theatrical works. And some, I hope, will make you think: "Did they really used to sing that? In church?"

Soprano Soloist

Barbara Paterson

Guest Organist

Heather Easting

Festival Singers

Musical Director

Jonathan Berkahn

Accompanist

Thomas Nikora

Sopranos

Heather Garside, Rozie Gorman,
Diana Helen, Carol Inge,
Kim New, Lala Simpson,
Pam Southey, Christine Taylor

Altos

Rosemary Biss, Heather Collins,
Karen Espersen, Jan Hamil,
Adrienne Leuchars, Wendy Nelson,
Margaret Pearson, Margaret Seconi,
Irene Swadling, Rita Urry,
Megan Ward

Tenors

Michael David, Joe Fecteau,
Hajime Komatsu, Alan Spinks

Basses

Philip Garside, Ian Livingstone,
Brian Patchett

About the choir

Festival Singers of Wellington is a community choir with a 40 year history and practice of seeking to work alongside the Christian church.

This includes singing in local church services and providing music for weddings, funerals and other events.

Our public concerts include large classical works – oratorios, cantatas and masses, as well as smaller pieces from all over the world. We also choose to support local composers and expose exciting new repertoire by regularly performing New Zealand compositions.

Festival Singers:

- Has lively, fun rehearsals and workshops
- Gives performances that communicate
- Has a diverse, quality repertoire
- Celebrates New Zealand compositions
- Performs in public, and in churches
- Is friendly, with many social events.

Rehearsals are on Mondays
7.00–9.00pm at Newland Christian
Assembly, 126 Newlands Road,
Newlands, Wellington.

New singers are very welcome. To
join us please contact:

Jonathan Berkahn
(musical director)
jonathan@berkahn.net.nz
0210 241 7233

or

Heather Collins
(committee member)
hetbruce@gmail.com
04 237 4070

Our CD — on sale today



People of the Light features music which is patterned after the church year.

It includes *The Third Day* cantata, which tells the Easter story from the cross, through low Saturday, to finding the empty tomb, Jesus' appearance in the locked room and giving the great commission. The work ends with a glorious finale that proclaims, "Christ is Risen, Alleluia!"

\$25.00 each for 1 or 2 copies;
\$20.00 each for 3 or more copies