



## 7 Sopranos Bios NZ Tour

### Claire Candy



Claire is from Hobart, and studied at the Queensland Conservatorium completing both her Bachelor of Music in Performance and Diploma of Opera. Involved in numerous productions while studying, her highlight was performing the title role of Massenet's *Cendrillon* in the Conservatorium's 2010 production. In 2011, Claire was involved in the Developing Artist program with Opera Queensland.

She was then accepted to study a Masters of Music in vocal performance at the Guildhall school of music and drama in London. During her 2 years at Guildhall, she performed in numerous productions including *Die lustigen Weiber Von Windsor*, *Our Town* and British Youth Opera's Production of *The Bartered Bride*, 2012. Claire was also involved in opera scenes at Guildhall, and performed roles including The Governess (*Turn of the Screw*), Majenka (*The Bartered Bride*), Don Elvira (*Don Giovanni*), The Female Chorus (*The Rape of Lucretia*) and Tatiana (*Eugene Onegin*).

Claire was the soloist in a performance of Mahler's 4th symphony with the Guildhall Sinfonetta 2013, and finalist in the Guildhall Postgraduate Susan Longfield Award 2013. She has performed in Master classes with international musicians including Graham Johnson, Eugene Astid, Yvonne Kenny, Malcolm Martineau, Clive Timms, and Edith Wiens. London venues she has performed include the Wigmore Hall, Cadogan Hall, and LSO St Luke's.

#### **Do you have any connection to New Zealand?**

No connection to NZ but I love it.

#### **Have you visited the South Island of New Zealand before?**

I've been to the south island recently in Jan for a holiday with my family.

## **Deborah Rogers**



With her experience and versatility in the performance of multiple genres, Deborah has become a sought after performer on national and international stages. Originally from Brisbane, mezzo-soprano Deborah Rogers, holds graduate and post graduate degrees in Music from the University of Southern Queensland, the WA Academy of Performing Arts and is also a mentor and mindset coach supporting up and coming performing artists pursue their performing dreams.

Deborah has performed as a soloist and chorus member for state and national opera companies (Opera Australia, Opera Q and WA Opera), as a guest artist alongside the ever-charming Michael Buble (Michael Buble Tour 2008) and as a soloist for Festival events in Perth and Brisbane. She has also performed in exclusive events and concerts from as far as Dubai back down to Dubbo currently bringing her captivating performing style to stages across the globe as a soloist with ABC Recording Artists, The 7 Sopranos.

### **Do you have any connection to New Zealand?**

My connection to NZ? None other than my Reiki Teacher is from New Zealand and part Maori.

### **Have you visited the South Island of New Zealand before?**

I have never been and I can't tell you how excited I am!!!

## **Shakira Tsindos**



Mezzo-soprano Shakira Tsindos holds a Bachelor of Music with Honours from the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music and recently received the AE Floyd Memorial Scholarship.

In 2016, Shakira undertook Victorian Opera's Developing Artist program and was the recipient of the Joseph Sambrook Opera Scholarship with the Melba Opera Trust. Shakira made her principal mainstage debut in Victorian Opera's production of *Lucia di Lammermoor* as Alisa, alongside international soprano Jessica Pratt.

This year, Shakira will perform the role of Il Cuccolo in Respighi's *La bella dormente nel bosco* at the Arts Centre Melbourne with Victorian Opera and Dark MOFO Festival in Hobart. She will also perform with Opera Australia in the chorus of Szymanowski's *Król Roger*. Shakira makes her European debut with the Mediterranean Opera Studio and Festival (Sicily) in the role of Dorabella from Mozart's *Così Fan Tutte* in July.

Shakira's performance highlights include; Victorian Opera's *Dorothee* and *Madame de la Haltière (Cendrillon)*, *Mrs Mayor (The Pied Piper)*, *Mum (The Grumpiest Boy in the World)*, appearances with *The 7 Sopranos*, *Carmen (Carmen in the Caves)* performing opposite Australian tenor David Hobson, *Snow White* in Gordon Kerry's *Snow White and Other Grimm Tales*, *Edith (The Pirates of Penzance)* and *Eliza Doolittle (My Fair Lady)*.

### **Do you have any connection to New Zealand?**

No, I don't have a connection to New Zealand.

### **Have you visited the South Island of New Zealand before?**

I have not been to New Zealand.

## **Kyla Allan**



Newcastle born mezzo-soprano Kyla Allan completed her Bachelor of Music in Classical Vocal Performance at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAPPA) in 2011.

Kyla was awarded a Melba Opera Trust Scholarship from the Dame Nellie Melba Opera Trust 2012. That same year she started her journey with The 7 Sopranos, debuting with the group in their 'Joyeux Noel' Christmas recital. Kyla has had the opportunity to perform with The 7 Sopranos over the last five years touring both within Australia and overseas to Dubai and China.

Kyla's Opera Australia's performances include; Rosina and Aunty Bartola in Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* and Cinderella in Rossini's *La Cenerentola* with Opera Australia's NSW Schools Touring Company, Opera Australia's chorus in *La Boheme*, *King Roger*, *Tosca*, *Turandot*, *Carmen*, *The Love of Three Oranges*, *Simon Boccanegra* and *The 8<sup>th</sup> Wonder*.

Other performing highlights include; soloist for Harbour City Opera in Puccini's *Suor Angelica*, concerts for the Opera and Arts Support Group, Gloucester's 10th 'Opera in the Church' and a soloist for the Illawarra Choral Society's performance of Vivaldi's *Gloria*, a soloist in Handel's *Israel in Egypt* for UNSW and for Opera Australia in 'Carols at Parliament House', Leichhardt Espresso Chorus's performance of Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle*.

### **Do you have any connection to New Zealand?**

I do not have any connections to New Zealand.

### **Have you visited the South Island of New Zealand before?**

I have not been to New Zealand before.

## **Rachel Pines**



Soprano Rachel Pines has followed a musical journey leading from Canada, across Europe, to Australia. This season Rachel debuted as Queen of the Night and Papagena with Opera Australia's Victorian Schools Tour. She sang Mrs. Hayes in Floyd's *Susannah* with Opera New England, and Mary Sullivan in The Seven Sopranos' premiere tour of *Songs from Stage and Screen*.

She has appeared with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra singing the Queen of the Night arias. Rachel's Italian debut was Despina in *Così fan tutte* with the Trentino Music Festival 2016, her German debut as First Lady and First Spirit in *The Magic Flute* (Lyric Opera Studio Weimar), and sang Queen of the Night in *The Magic Flute* with the Queensland Conservatorium.

Other roles have included, Second Lady (*The Magic Flute*), Frankie (*Frankie and Johnny*) and Mavis (*City Workers in Love*). Rachel sang excerpts of La Musica in Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo* and Euridice in Offenbach's *Orphée aux enfers* with the Lisa Gasteen National Opera School 2016. In 2017 Rachel will sing Frasquita in *Carmen* with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra and the Lisa Gasteen National Opera School. Rachel holds a Masters of Music Studies from the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University, and received the 2016 Elizabeth Muir Memorial Prize for Postgraduate Singing.

### **Do you have any connection to New Zealand?**

I do not have any connections to New Zealand.

### **Have you visited the South Island of New Zealand before?**

I have never been to New Zealand before, and am so looking forward to going for the first time. I hear it is absolutely stunning.

## **Lotte Betts-Dean**



Australian mezzo soprano Lotte Betts-Dean's performance experience encompasses opera, oratorio, contemporary music, art song recital/chamber music, early music and non-classical collaborations. She recently graduated with Masters from the Royal Academy of Music, London, where she studied with Audrey Hyland and Catherine Benson. Lotte received her BMus in 2012 from the Conservatorium of Music at Melbourne University, completed a Fellowship at the Australian National Academy of Music in 2014, and sang several principal roles with Victorian Opera and Sydney Chamber Opera. She has studied in Milan (Accademia Teatro alla Scala), privately in New York, and at the 2016 Internationales Musikinstitut Darmstadt with Donatienne Michel-Dansac and the Vocalsolisten Stuttgart.

Concert highlights in the UK include Aldeburgh Festival, Oxford Lieder Festival, Dartington Festival and Light Night Leeds, as well as a masterclass with Sir Thomas Allen at the Academy. Other recent engagements include performances at St John's Smith Square, Colston Hall Bristol, Wigmore Hall alongside Mark Padmore, Norfolk Festival, Handel House Museum, St James' Palace and Dartington Festival. She will appear with contemporary music group ensemble x.y at St-Martin-In-The-Fields and Waterloo Festival. Other upcoming appearances include recitals at the Buxton, Cheltenham, Llandeilo Fawr and Port Fairy Music Festivals, and an Australian tour with the Australian Chamber Orchestra.

### **Do you have any connection to New Zealand?**

I have no connection to NZ.

### **Have you visited the South Island of New Zealand before?**

I have never been there before.

## **Clarissa Spata**



Clarissa Spata is a versatile soprano who specialises in both operatic and music theatre repertoire. Winner of the Opera Foundation Australia's Lady Fairfax New York Award, The royal Overseas League Bursary Award and The Dame Joan Sutherland Encouragement Award, Clarissa has not only performed principal roles with Opera Australia's touring division, but constantly performs her crossover solo, tri and duo shows on luxury cruise liners to audiences around the world.

Clarissa has performed with The 7 Sopranos since 2010 and has recorded both solo and ensemble pieces on their self titled album *The 7 Sopranos* with ABC Classic and the latest album release *Popcorn, Songs from Stage and Screen*.

**Do you have any connection to New Zealand?**

No, not yet.

**Have you visited the South Island of New Zealand before?**

Yes, Dunedin several times whilst singing on cruises.

## **Glenn Amer – Music Director and Pianist**



Glenn Amer studied for 5 years at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. An invitation to London was received, at the tender age of thirteen, to participate in the studios of Geoffrey Parsons (piano) and Erich Vietheer (voice). Glenn was on staff at the Australian Institute of Music in Sydney as both voice teacher and vocal coach from 1997 to 2004 and, concurrently, guest coach for the National Academy of Music (based in Melbourne).

Glenn has been working with singers since his first concert at the age of eleven. He cannot remember how many singers he has played for, but for many years was the exclusive accompanist to Rita Hunter CBE and Horst Hoffmann. Glenn's first love was opera and he has worked as a pianist and conductor with Opera Queensland, Pacific Opera and Opera Australia.

He is musical director for The Seven Sopranos and their debut album for ABC Classics. Glenn is also the Musical Director for Tarita Botsman's *The Seven Sopranos* and in 2014 joined Opera Australia as a pianist/conductor.

In his 'spare' (non-operatic) time, he can be found touring the world presenting his one-man show where he is described as having "the fingers of Liberace and the voice of Mario Lanza"!

### **Do you have any connection to New Zealand?**

Not apart from the fact that I like it.

### **Have you visited the South Island of New Zealand before?**

About 30 times over the past twenty years, mixed between land tours, judging singing competitions, headlining on cruises starting and ending in New Zealand as well as stops on longer cruise itineraries.



## **Tarita Botsman – Founder & Creative Director**



With a distinguished background as an opera singer, Tarita Botsman is also a stage director. Tarita runs her own small music company who has engaged more than 400 opera singers and musicians from all over Australia over the past 15 years and her company has independently toured both regionally and internationally.

Tarita made her professional operatic debut in Australia at the tender age of 22 for Opera Queensland. After extensive study in Italy, the UK and Australia, she then went on to perform over twenty roles for companies in Australia, Germany and the UK. She has also performed as an actress for all of the major theatre companies in Australia.

Tarita has been involved with directing corporate events and concerts since 2002 worldwide. She was the founding member of the group The 7 Sopranos. The group released their first self-titled album “The 7 Sopranos” with ABC Classics and she self produced their recent album “Popcorn.”

Tarita directs events, opera, concerts and theatre. Tarita also recently written and directed the new show *Songs from Stage and Screen* and is currently working on a new opera set to tour Australia and the US with LA Production Company Two Friends Productions.

### **Do you have any connection to New Zealand?**

I have no connection to New Zealand.

### **Have you visited the South Island of New Zealand before?**

I have performed in concerts in Dunedin and Christchurch.