

## Opera in Giardino

Tauranga-born, Auckland based soprano **Anna Simmons** graduated from Waikato University with a Bachelor of Music with First Class Honours in 2016, where she was also a Sir Edmund Hilary Scholar. She has been a member of the Freemasons New Zealand Opera Chorus since 2015 and has appeared in *Tosca*, *The Mikado*, *Carmen*, *Candide*, *L'Elisir d'Amore*, *Aida* and *La Boheme*. She has appeared as a soloist with various choral societies around the country as well as premiering two works by Janet Jennings one of which being critically acclaimed opera *Flowing Water* (Mary Jane). Anna has enjoyed successes at many regional vocal competitions including first prizes in the Dame Malvina Major Foundation Christchurch Aria (2019), Richard Carey Senior Programme (Tauranga, 2017) and Norah Howell Award (Hamilton, 2017). Anna has attended the New Zealand Opera School from 2017-2020. Anna is a Dame Malvina Major Foundation Studio Artist with New Zealand Opera for the 2019/2020 season and is grateful for the Foundation's support.

Christchurch-born, Auckland-based baritone **Angus Simmons**, graduated from University of Canterbury with a Bachelor of Music with First Class Honours in 2017. Angus has been a member of the Freemasons New Zealand Opera (NZO) Chorus since 2014, performing in *La bohème*, *Madame Butterfly*, *La Traviata*, *The Mikado*, *Carmen* and *Le Damnation de Faust*, *Tosca*, *Candide*, *The Elixir of Love* and *The Barber of Seville*. He has toured nationally as part of NZO's *Opera in Schools* programme in productions of *The Elixir of Love* (Belcore) and *The Barber of Seville* (Figaro). Angus was a 2019 Dame Malvina Major Foundation Emerging Artist with New Zealand Opera. In September 2020, Angus will be moving to Dresden, Germany to pursue his operatic career in Europe. This will include working with coaches at the Semperoper Dresden, as well as studying in Treviso, Italy with renown voice teacher Sherman Lowe. Before he leaves he has many concert engagements both with New Zealand Opera and choirs around the country. These include *Schumann Requiem*, *Faure Requiem*, *Mass of the Children* and *Dvorak's Mass in D*. The past three years, Angus has attended the New Zealand Opera School in Whanganui and taken part in masterclasses, including one taken by Jordan de Souza (Erste Kappelmeister, Komische Oper Berlin). Angus is extremely grateful for the support shown by The Opera Foundation and Dame Malvina Major Foundation.

**David Kelly** is Principal Repetiteur for New Zealand Opera, and performs regularly with the Auckland Philharmonia and Auckland Chamber orchestras, and is an accompanist and coach at the New Zealand Opera School. He performs with flutist Luca Manghi on the critically applauded recital disc *Quays* (Atoll Records, ACD 882), and is a member of the Donizetti Trio, which previously undertook a national tour in 2014 and 2019 for Chamber Music New Zealand. He studied with Diedre Irons and Maurice Till, and trained at the Australian Opera Studio in Perth, Western Australia.