All Together Now!

A Musical Celebration of the Spirit of the People of Canterbury

Isaac Theatre Royal
3 November 2010
Welcome

The majority of the country can only imagine what you, the people of Canterbury, went through in the early hours of 4 September. As the news unfolded and the pictures began to come through of the devastation that had occurred, we all knew this was different to other natural disasters in living memory of New Zealanders.

Having an earthquake of this magnitude occur in our country that directly impacted on the many friends, family and colleagues we all have in Canterbury, brought with it a level of helplessness for those of us outside the region.

As time passed and more information filtered through, so did the stories of the tremendous resilience of the local people. The level of organisation from Civil Defence and the local authorities; the responsiveness of essential service providers and support agencies; the willingness of myriad groups to pitch in; and the strong bonds between families, communities, neighbours and friends all became apparent.

With my experience of the Canterbury people – from my years at Canterbury University, then working for a local bank and, since, leading a business with such long-held and close ties to Canterbury – I am not surprised by the positive way you have all responded.

It would be easy, and would suit the modest nature of many Cantabrians, not to recognise the tremendous spirit you have demonstrated. Well, together with The Court Theatre, and the artists and musicians performing tonight, we at TelstraClear have decided that is not good enough. So, tonight's gala concert – All Together Now! – is a musical celebration of the spirit of Canterbury and its people.

I hope you enjoy the evening!

Allan L. Freeth
Chief Executive Officer
TelstraClear

A Musical Celebration of the Spirit of the People of Canterbury
Welcome

There is a spirit within the Canterbury community at this time of adversity which is remarkable and humbling. We think it is right to acknowledge and celebrate it, and there is no better way to do so than through music, song and laughter.

What is more, this tremendous spirit is infectious. We see it tonight in the efforts of the organisations, performers, technicians and supporters of the performing arts in Canterbury that have come together at short notice to make tonight’s gala concert possible.

I would like to take the opportunity to particularly thank TelstraClear CEO Alan Freeth and his team. The Court Theatre has been supported by TelstraClear for over 17 years as one of our key sponsors. The strength of this existing relationship allowed us all to move swiftly to bring together tonight’s concert. Without funding from TelstraClear, All Together Now! would not have been possible and without Alan Freeth, whose idea it was, we wouldn’t be celebrating at all.

In the spirit of celebrating the region we are drawing on the local pool of world-class actors, musicians and artists. The Canterbury theatrical and musical community has responded beyond expectations to our request to contribute to this project and they are all donating their time and talents for free. This is entirely within the spirit of the time and the event and we salute and thank them all.

There are many more groups I could thank for making All Together Now! possible. But I think it is fit that I only focus on one more: the people of Canterbury. Thank you for demonstrating such indomitable spirit. Tonight we celebrate you all.

Philip Aldridge
Chief Executive Officer
The Court Theatre
A Musical Celebration of the Spirit of the People of Canterbury
Wednesday 3 November 2010, 8pm
Isaac Theatre Royal

Master of Ceremonies: ROSS GUMBLEY
Musical Director: LUKE DI SOMMA
Featuring the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra

Part 1
“a Wonderful World”
by Bob Thiele and George David Weiss
Ali Harper, accompanied by Harry Harrison

“I Could Have Danced All Night”
Lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner, and music by Frederick Loewe
Arranged by David Selwell
Rachel Dog

“Show People” from the musical Curtains
Music by John Kander, lyrics by Fred Ebb
The National Academy of Singing and Dramatic Arts
cast of Curtains, conducted by Richard Marriott

New Zealand Army Band Marching Display
The New Zealand Army Band

“Two Ladies” from the musical Cabaret
Music by John Kander, lyrics by Fred Ebb
The Court Theatre Cast of Cabaret, conducted by Richard Marriott

“Alfie”
Jart Bacharach and Hal David
Arranged by Tom Rainey
Juliet Reynolds-Midley

The Hagley Dance Company
Choreographed by Fleur de Thier

Earthquake Medley
Arranged by Luke Di Somma, and Michael Bell
Rois Langton, Charlie Parsaga, Ali Harper and the New Zealand Army Band

Interval

Part 2
“Conquest of Paradise”
by Vangelis, arranged by Richard Marriott
The Christchurch Symphony Orchestra and the Christchurch City Choir

“Vissi d’Arte” from Tosca
by Giacomo Puccini
Libretto by Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa
Suzanne Frair

“Worst Pies in London” and “The Ballad of Sweeney Todd” from the musical Sweeney Todd
Music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
The Showbiz Christchurch Cast of Sweeney Todd

“The Lord Bless You and Keep You”
by John Rutter, introduced by the Very Reverend Peter Beck
The Christchurch Cathedral Choir, conducted by Brian Law

“Laudamus te” from Gloria
by Francesco Pavaneli
The Christchurch Symphony Orchestra and the Christchurch City Choir, conducted by Brian Law

“Come What May” from the motion picture Moulin Rouge
by Kevin Gilbert and David Barrow
Arranged by Michael Bell
Nic Kyle and Amy Straker

“Nessun Dorma” from Turandot
by Giacomo Puccini
Libretto by Giuseppe Adami and Renato Simoni
Mark Haddow

“I Feel The Ground”
by Amy Straker
Amy Straker

“Welcome Home”
by Dave Dobson, arranged by Tom Rainey
Charlie Parsaga

Cast Bios

ROSS GUMBLEY
Ross became a trainer-actor at The Court Theatre in 1985 and was a founding member of the improvisation troupe The Court Jesters. Now, 25 years later he has appeared in over 100 productions and directed numerous plays across the country. Residing in Palmerston North throughout the late nineties he held an Associate Directorship at Centrepoint Theatre under the then Artistic Director Alison Quinlin, and anchored his own radio show Gumbley’s Better Breakfast for Classic Hits. Ross and Alison have co-written six plays, four of which have been produced at The Court. Ross’ first solo venture as a playwright, Happy Coup, premiered at The Court in 2006, the same year that he became the theatre’s Artistic Director.

LUKE DI SOMMA
Luke is based in Christchurch as a freelance musical director, composer and conductor. He recently graduated from New York University’s prestigious Tisch School of the Arts with a Master of Fine Arts from the Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Programme. A full-time scholar, he is increasingly in demand across the country and is fast establishing himself as one of New Zealand’s most exciting young musical theatre talents. Luke was Musical Director for the Showbiz Christchurch’s recent production of Sweeney Todd and wrote the score for the world premiere of Don’t Mention Casablanca at The Court Theatre. Future projects include musically directing the GGMT Emerging Talent School in Auckland and Spanakos for Showbiz Christchurch.

MARK HADDOW
Mark has appeared in a wealth of material on stage and screen throughout the country, and is one of the most recognisable faces in New Zealand. He has appeared in the feature films Meet the Feebles and King Kong, the television series Willy & Ally and a plethora of stage roles from Auckland to Invercargill. More recently Mark has juggled acting work with his role as head of the Christchurch City Council Events Team, organising events such as Summerstival, Classical Sparks and the Fan Zone for the Rugby World Cup 2011. Mark is currently headlining God of Carnage at The Court Theatre and will be appearing in The Hobbit.

RACHEL DOIG
Christchurch-born soprano Rachel Dog has demonstrated an affinity for a wide range of musical genres including opera, musical theatre, the stage and the concert platform. Rachel’s stage experiences with Showbiz include the 1994 production of Les Misérables and Maria in West Side Story. In 1998, Rachel has been involved in Obstet, was Papagena in the 1996 production of Die Zauberflöte, understudied Liu in Turandot, Becky in the Birth of an Opera, Suor Angelica, Flauto in Ariadne and Adele. Rachel is a member of the Southern Opera Chorus. She performs regularly with The Christchurch Symphony Orchestra, most recently at Classical Sparks singing Gareth Farr’s composition of Aoraki and Lake Tekapo’s The Flower Duet. Her most recent appearances are in Mark Haddow’s production of Timon of Athens for Showbiz Christchurch and the GGMT Emerging Talent School in Auckland and Spanakos for Showbiz Christchurch.

MARK HADDOW
Since graduating from Toi Whakaari, Ali has enjoyed a varied career working in theatre, television and radio. Some highlights include: Guys and Dolls, The Sound of Music, South Pacific, My Fair Lady, Sweeney Todd, Tell Me On a Sunday, I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change and Evita, as well as radio host on Wellington’s Classic Hits Breakfast Show. Ali received the Chapman Tripp Acroso of the Year award in December 2008 for her performances in the one-woman play Bombshells. This year Ali has performed with the CSO in the concerts Broadway Babies, A Rodgers and Hammerstein Tribute, and From Bernstein to Sondheim and at The Court Theatre in On The Rock and Zos Ali. He is the resident singer for five seasons of Dancing with the Stars and has her own album Something So Right.
NIC KYLIE
Nic began his professional theatre life studying at NASA and for a degree in performing arts. While at NASA Nic made appearances in numerous productions including "Into the Woods" and "Macbeth". After graduating he has appeared in "The Producers", "The Cape", "The History Boys", "Rapunzel", "La Boheme", "Perfect" and "New Zealand""s most recent "Anything Goes". Other shows include "Les Misérables", "Jesus Christ Superstar", "Blood Brothers", "Oliver!" and "A Midsummer Night"s Dream". Nic has also performed in various works in Christchurch"s "Starry Nights" as a soloist in Christmas in the Park and "New Zealand"s Premier of "Miss Saigon". Most recently Nic appeared in the production of "The Sound of Music" in the Peach Theatre Company"s Auckland season of "Sweeney Todd".

CHARLIE PANAPA
Charlie Panapa has been presenting on New Zealand's longest running and most popular kids TV show "What Now" for the past five years. Though he works in television, his first passion has always been the stage. Charlie graduated from NASA in 2002 and has since performed in stage productions and operas around the country. He was also a member of the New Zealand Secondary Students' Choir and the National Youth Choir representing New Zealand in choral competitions overseas.

SUZANNE PRAIN
Dunedin born soprano Suzanne PRAIN has been collaboratively as one of New Zealand's finest sopranos. Since 1984, she has performed many roles with New Zealand Opera companies including Marguerite in "Faust", Mimi in "La Boheme", Gilda in "Rigoletto", Marie in "Daughter of the Regiment", Desdemona in "Otello", Cio-Cio San in "Madama Butterfly", Micaela in "Carmen", Despina in "Così Fan Tutti", Liu in "Turandot", Hansel in "Hansel and Gretel" and Leila in "The Pearl Fishers". Suzanne has made highly acclaimed performances in Australia, including a short notice debut of "Madama Butterfly" at the Sydney Opera House, "The Country" in "The Marriage of Figaro" and Mimi in "La Boheme". Suzanne has decided to mark her retirement from the stage with her portrayal of Tosca next year with "Tosca Opera".

AMY STRAKER
Amy Straker came to Christchurch in 2003 to study at NASA. After graduating three years later, she became "The Court Theatre"^s acting intern. Since then, Amy has been involved in numerous productions throughout the country. Highlights include: "Doubt, Flagoon and Frosty", "Guys and Dolls", "Jane Eyre", "Homeland" and "Glorious". Amy is delighted to be back for "The Court"^s summer musical, "Cabaret".

CATHEDRAL CHOIR
The Christchurch Cathedral Choir is the only men-and-boys choir in New Zealand and one of only two in the Southern Hemisphere with its own choir school, The Cathedral Grammar School, to which all choristers receive scholarships. The 18 boys range in age from eight to 13. They sing five services and ten rehearsals each week during term time, as well as a range of functions, concerts and recitals. The ten men consist of four lay clerks (professional singers), and six Godley Scholars, receiving scholarships which cover tertiary education costs. In 2008 the Choir undertook a very successful tour of the USA and UK, singing at many of the great Cathedrals and culminating in a week as resident choir at Westminster Abbey. Another tour is being planned for 2012.

CHRISTCHURCH CITY CHOIR
Since its formation in 1991, with the merger of two long-standing choirs, the Christchurch City Choir has performed works from the established repertoire as well as contemporary works. The Choir regularly performs with the Christchurch Arts Festival in the Christchurch Town Hall. Highlight performances have included Carl Orff's "Carmina Burana" in the 2005 Festival and Missa Gaia, Mozart's "Requiem", Beethoven's Missa Solemnis and Symphony No. 9, Rachmaninoff's Vespers, and Elga's "Beethoven's Feast". Less well-known works performed include Benjamin Britten's "St Matthew" and "Spring Symphony". The last four years of the programming have seen regular collaboration with the NZNO; concerts are regular performances to the Choir's musical mix, with jazz, Broadway programmes and concerts for choir, organ and brass.

CHRISTCHURCH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Chief Conductor and Artistic Director: Tom Woods Conductor Laureate: Sir William Southgate Conductor: Master: John van de Breg
The Christchurch Symphony Orchestra (CSO), an iconic art form in the South Island, performs in over forty concerts a year including performances for the Royal New Zealand Ballet, Southern Opera, Christchurch City Council events, the National Concerto Competition and the International Adam Cello Festival and Competition. The CSO subscription season presents a wide range of classical, pops and contemporary musical styles through its four series: Lamb and Hayward Masterworks Series, Allied Insurance Proms Series, Cathedral Series and CSO Presents. Through its Outreach and Education programme, CSO works to enrich and educate communities, including primary and secondary schools throughout the entire South Island, reaching over 25,000 young people.

THE THEATRE COURT
The Court Theatre is New Zealand's foremost theatre company, offering entertainment of the highest quality all year round. The TelstraClear season in Court One is a mix of local and international comedies, dramas and classics, as well as the spectacular summer musical. The Forge presents edgier, contemporary works and honies to New Zealand's longest running improv comedy show Scared Scriptless. The Court also provides school holidays entertainment for children. As well as presenting world-class productions, the Court fosters the next generation of artists with drama classes, script development, workshops and tertiary training. With up to 100 staff employed at any one time and over twenty different productions a year, The Court is the largest and busiest theatre in the country.

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HAGLEY DANCE COMPANY —
CHOREOGRAPHED BY FLEUR DE THIER
The Hagley Dance Company is a contemporary dance group led by nationally-recognised choreographer Fleur de Thier. The company has five dancers completing the one-year course based at Hagley Community College. Graduates from the course often continue on to tertiary dance programmes in the North Island or overseas. This year, the group has performed in various venues across Christchurch including the James Hay Theatre.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SINGING AND DRAMATIC ART
CPIT is proud to offer students high quality performance training for the theatre at the National Academy of Singing and Dramatic Art. NASDA is dedicated to excellence in music theatre training and aims to produce fully integrated performers capable of employment throughout the performing arts industry. The successful performer in today’s industry needs to be versatile and dynamic, with an ability to act, sing and dance. 

CURTAIN: written by Rupert Holmes, with Music by John Kander and lyrics by Fred Ebb, was due to open on September 4th in the Nasda Theatre. Directed by Stephanie McKellar-Smith, with musical direction by Richard Marrett, Show People, from Curtains will be performed this evening by the talented graduating class of NASDA 2010.

NEW ZEALAND ARMY BAND
The New Zealand Army Band is one of the country’s most diverse musical entertainment establishments. As soldiers/musicians they hold a unique position in the New Zealand Army where their duties include performing at State and ceremonial occasions. The New Zealand Army Band’s performances are as varied as their invitations to feature as guests at arts’ festivals, international sports fixtures, school and public concerts. The New Zealand Army Band has earned international recognition and reputation as one of the finest marching bands in the world. While essentially a traditional Brass Band, the complete rhythm section incorporated into the ranks enables the band to broaden its repertoire to keep up with the most modern music; whilst also allowing the freedom to perform as a number of smaller ensembles. The band’s smaller ensembles include swing, dance and R&B bands; as well as brass and extended quintets, and a jazz combo.

SHOWBIZ CHRISTCHURCH
Showbiz Christchurch has been entertaining and inspiring local audiences with their international standard stage musicals since 1938. They are honoured to be a significant contributor to a vibrant arts environment in Christchurch and an active partner with many community and arts organisations. Their success is achieved by staging top shows, developing local talent, supporting other arts groups with studio facilities and resources, together with operating from a sound and efficient organisational base. Showbiz Christchurch is proud to be performing in this gala concert as we come together to celebrate and applaud our community spirit.

Production Team
Production Manager
Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Managers
Lighting Designer
Flyman
Chief Electrician
Lighting Crew
Followspot Operators
Sound Assistants
Stagehand

FOR THE COURT THEATRE
CEO
Front of House Manager
Ticketing

FOR THE ISAAC THEATRE ROYAL
House Technician

THANKS TO
Rise and Shine Distributors, Hirequip

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Classic Hits
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