

A melange of interesting notes and the promise of things to come

*An Evening with
Miriam Allan*



* "...a powerful and sweet seraphic voice..."

Tickets phone 4954 8781

Miriam Allan appears courtesy of Pinchgut Opera

Tickets at MacLean's Booksellers Hamilton,
Music Solutions Warners Bay, through
Stickytickets, or on our website or by phoning
4954 8781

An evening with Miriam Allan

Miriam did her tertiary education at Newcastle University and had performed as guest artist with the Song Company and the Australian Chamber Orchestra prior to finishing her undergraduate degree. She had also recorded a disc of Scarlatti Cantatas with harpsichordist Rosalind Halton while continuing to study.

An abiding interest in teaching has continued throughout Miriam's working life, beginning with assistant work and then the running of the Conservatorium Children's Choir.

Brought up in the sphere of English Choral tradition, that interest in teaching led her to work with the trebles of Westminster Abbey where she gives individual lessons to the choristers and also assists in preparation for major events such as the recent royal wedding.

While in Australia, Miriam will give classes at Sydney and Newcastle Conservatoriums, the Canberra School of Music and the University of Western Australia, as well as individual coachings on baroque and early classical repertoire.

Join us for a special night to hear Miriam sing and talk about her performances in Europe, America and the UK with conductors such as Sir John Elliot Gardiner, Bruno Weill, Emmanuelle Haim, Paul Agnew and William Christie, and groups such as Les Arts Florissants, L'Arpeggiata, The Monteverdi Choir, and The Sixteen.

Paul Bevan (ABC Radio) will compere the evening and Miriam will be accompanied by her father, Chris Allan, in performances of favourite songs. The evening will also feature some of the recordings that Miriam has made, with works by Mozart, Purcell, Handel and Bach.

Supper following the performance is included in your ticket price. There is limited room in this venue, so don't delay to purchase your tickets. Ring today on 4954 8781.

More Poulenc!

Encyclopaedia Britannica says that "[Poulenc's] songs are considered among the best composed during the 20th century." He wrote more than 150 songs for piano and voice which remain popular to concert audiences. You'll be treated to several of these songs at *Poulenc et amis*.

Jennifer Barnes will sing *Les Chemins de l'amour*, a torch song composed near the end of WWII for one of Paris' famous night club singers, Yvonne Printemps. People fall in love with this song – and you will too.

Christopher Allan will sing *Le bestiaire*, a cycle of melodies on poems by Guillaume Apollinaire. You'll meet the Dromedary, the Tibetan Goat, the Grasshopper, the Dolphin, the Crayfish and the Carp.

Poulenc counted great singers as collaborators, friends, and lovers, and left us a substantial legacy of French Artsongs. These are just a sample. We hope you'll be left wanting more!

Who is Pinchgut Opera?

Miriam Allan is able to join us courtesy of Pinchgut Opera. For those who are not familiar with the history of this organisation, it's worth repeating. Here's how it started, in the words of the founders:

"We set up Pinchgut Opera to offer Sydney audiences a different experience of opera. One day in early 2000 we were talking, over coffee, about music. Someone wondered if there was a different way of doing opera... By the second cup of coffee we had agreed to set up an opera company.

"We had no strategic plan, just a rough budget for the first production. No government grants, just confidence that we would find enough people who wanted to help us.

"We wanted to give audiences the chance to hear Australia's young singers and musicians, many of whom live overseas but are happy to return here to perform."

That they have succeeded is obvious – a new opera every year, two this year.

Miriam Allan is one of the young Australian singers participating in this success, appearing in Pinchgut's productions of Purcell's *The Fairy Queen* (2003), Rameau's *Dardanus* (2005) and Vivaldi's *Griselda* (2011). This year it's Cavalli's *Giasone*. This production will be the Australian premiere.

The opera is at once bawdy and beautiful. The plot is quite complicated, and a bit naughty.

Miriam Allan plays Queen Isifile, Queen of Lemnos, counter tenor David Hansen is Giasone, which is a bonus.

Limelight magazine has this to say about Hansen: "The collective gasp and double take from the audience; the frisson of revelation when a 'grown man who sings like a turbo-charged choirboy' (as *The New York Times* describes it) first opens his mouth and a stream of notes soars startlingly heavenward."

At the City Recital Hall, Angel Place, December 5, 7, 8, 9