

OPERATUNITY NEWSLETTER

It is with pleasure and pride that John and I celebrate with you our 15th Anniversary Gala in November and December of this year.

From such humble beginnings we never imagined that Operatunity would grow to be something that spreads so much happiness and makes a real difference in people's everyday lives. Something that has passed us by a little is that this year in October also marks 10 years since we started our travel company. We have so many customers, who over the years have become special friends and like you Operatunity has a special place in our lives too.

John and I have never lost the passion or sense of fulfilment we get every day from seeing what Operatunity contributes to society. It may seem a small thing in the overall scheme of life but having the opportunity to give a little happiness, through quality music, camaraderie, a sense of community and also by supporting our artists of New Zealand ensures we contribute to making life a bit better for many!

Like all good birthdays, we celebrate ours over a few weeks, with our 15th Anniversary Gala, where we will be joined by some great friends and artists to showcase many of the highlights of the past 15 years. We encompass all the styles of music, some skits, jokes and Christmas music to really bring to you the best over these 15 years!

We thank you for all your support over many years and launch our 2017 concert brochure with anticipation and pride for another wondrous year.

With love and thanks,

Sue & John

Sue and John Cameron



Prize Giveaways...

To celebrate our 15th Anniversary, all our concert goers will have the chance to win a trip for two on our Sydney Sights and Sounds tour in April 2017.

To enter the competition, all you need to do is fill out a form available only at the concert and return it before the 20th of December.

To thank our season pass holders for coming to every one of our shows each year, we will be offering a special treat for 2017. Purchase a season pass before the 20th of December and you'll automatically be in the draw to win two spaces on the Art Deco Festival in February next year.

(Terms and conditions apply, see brochure for more details)

New venues for some for 2017

We stay with our 24 regions for 2017, meaning as many areas of New Zealand as possible can experience our special brand of concert. However we have a few changes. We have decided to alternate our West Coast venues with Westport and Greymouth receiving four shows each in 2017.

Due to the closure of the Masterton Town Hall we needed a new venue in the Wairapapa so we have moved to Carterton. Their fabulous new events centre will be the venue for our Mario Lanza and 15th Anniversary shows and for all concerts in 2017. (Note the 2016 Irish show will be presented at St Matthew's Anglican Church).

And finally, after much consideration, we have decided to return to a familiar venue for many in East Auckland. Taking into account the many complaints about parking and accessibility at Howick, we will be returning to St Columba Church, Botany from the beginning of 2017 with its massive car park and flat easy access!

Concert News

OUR 2017 CONCERT LAUNCH

We have a wonderful collection of concerts for 2017 with plenty of variety, fun and great musical styles for you to enjoy.

Our year opens with *Waltz of my Heart*, showcasing this famous dance with rich melodies from composers such as Strauss and Lehar as well as more recent waltzes you will know and love. We then have an Italian themed crazy reunion of our three tenors in *That's Amore*, followed by a 40's flashback with our tribute to Glen Miller and introduce for first time to our shows a fabulous Andrews Sisters act, *The Velvetines*!

We go theatrical with our musical extravaganza *From Phantom to Les Mis* and enjoy an incredible lineup of our amazing male singers in a new show entitled *It's Rainin' Men*. Next is our *Last Night of the Proms* show, featuring Ten Tenors star Cameron Barclay, filled with skits, madness and mayhem before we relive the romance and the fun in *Fabulous 50's*. To wrap up the year, we celebrate the festivities of the holiday season with *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*.

REMAINING 2016 SHOWS

We have some fantastic shows to see you through to the end of 2016. *When Irish Eyes Are Smiling* is now touring with fiddler Marian Burns, pianist and three singers. They'll be joined by Operatunity newcomer and talented Irish dancer Serena Hendry. Although she is just out of school, she is a decorated performer, having won the New Zealand Irish Dance competition last year. Make sure you catch her and the rest of the wonderful troupe at a venue near you.

In October and November, we have a special tribute to The Great Mario Lanza, with special commentary from broadcaster and world renowned Mario Lanza authority Lindsay Perigo. We congratulate Lindsay on the recent launch of his book on Mario. Finally, we have our 15th Anniversary Gala which will showcase all the songs, skits and styles that have made Operatunity so special throughout the past decade and a half with of course some Christmas songs as well.

PRICE INCREASE

We have not put up ticket prices for 4 years and cannot, much as we would love to, continue to sustain the increases in all our costs over these years!

Therefore we have made the difficult decision to increase prices from the beginning of 2017.

The season ticket is still the most cost effective way to see our show. The season ticket works out to be \$28.50 per show in 2017, meaning an increase per show of \$2. For all other ticket prices the increase will also be just \$2 per show. I am sure you will agree that the increase is not even the price of a cup of coffee nowadays and still realises great value for money for a professional show including lunch!

RAT PACK DVD & CD

We have, for a long time, had people request a DVD of our daytime shows to relive those fun, wonderful moments.

For the first time ever we are delighted to present DVDs and CDs of our Tribute to the Rat Pack, our highly acclaimed recent show! \$25 each - available through our office or at the next show.



Travel News

CURRENT TRIPS

John and his best friend Chris Easterbrook have nearly completed a trip of a lifetime as they escort our tour to South America and the Galápagos Islands, while I am in Scandinavia with a great bunch of travellers!

John met Chris, who was the best man at our wedding, some 50 years ago at Kings Prep in Auckland, where they jointly formed the first Naturalists Club there. Their love of nature and especially animals established a firm friendship which they have enjoyed for so many years.

When I first met John he had 8 fish tanks! It was matter of 'love me, love my fish!' When the girls were growing up, we had 3 cats, 1 large Newfoundland dog, 2 rabbits, 2 turtles, a number of birds, numerous fish tanks - it was like a zoo! And speaking of zoos, Chris was head zookeeper of the Galapagos tortoises for years.

Their favourite programme is anything featuring David Attenborough, and in fact John does a mean impersonation of him as well.

Love, Bon voyage, safe travels and we hope it is a trip of a lifetime for you all!



2017 TRAVEL

With our 2017 launch selling so quickly, our Travel Department is keen to offer even more amazing experiences in the New Year. We are therefore excited to announce another trip to top off a fantastic year of travel in 2017.

New Italy Opera tour

From 27 June to 25 July 2017, Sue and John will whisk a lucky group away on our Italy Opera tour. With the announcement that incredible tenor Placido Domingo will sing a gala concert at Verona Arena it seemed possibly the last opportunity we may have to experience the talent and charisma of this great talent.

Of course, we will also experience other unforgettable music with a total of 7 operas and opera concerts during our time in this beautiful country.

This includes Rigoletto and Aida in the Verona Arena, La Sonnambula in the newly restored La Fenice Opera House and chamber opera versions of La Boheme and Madame Butterfly!

This trip is available to book now so get in touch with our travel team to find out more or visit www.operatunity.co.nz/travel to download a full brochure.



Travel News

SUMMARY OF TRIPS

All trips are selling incredibly well with all trips for 2016 sold out apart from Nelson, Tasman and Marlborough which has 8 spaces available.

For 2017, space available as follows:

Art Deco (Feb):

SOLD OUT - waiting list available

Port Douglas Three Tenors (July/August)

Spaces available

Sydney Spectacular Opera and Shows (April)

14 spaces available

Winter Wonderland (August)

Spaces available

Music for Romantics Fijian Cruise (May)

Spaces available

East USA /Canada in the Fall (Sept/Oct)

SOLD OUT - waiting list available

The Essence and Elegance of France (May/June)

Already half sold

Be WOWed in Wellington (Sept)

Spaces available

**Western Australia, Adelaide
& Indian Pacific Rail (June/July)**

Already half sold

Southern Lakes and Fiords

Classical Journey (Oct)

Spaces available

Italy Opera Tour (June/July)

NEW TRIP ADDED - Spaces available

Norfolk Music Festival (Oct/Nov)

Spaces available

The Music and Magic of Ireland (July/August)

11 spaces available

FEATURED TRIPS

Spotlight on Fiji:

Join concert pianist Stephen de Pledge, violinist Jessica Hindin and four fine singers:

Bonnie, Sue, Kalauni Pouvalu and Amanda Atlas on this intimate and relaxing tour of the beautiful Fiji.

We take over the Fijian Princess to explore idyllic bays and beaches while enjoying the local culture and plenty of wonderful music.



Spotlight on Sydney:

Experience some unforgettable shows on our wonderful trip. We'll be seeing Carmen on a spectacular multi-million dollar floating stage, reminiscent of the great European outdoor arenas like Verona, as well as two other exciting shows. Indulge in beautiful sights, fascinating heritage and fabulous food on this great getaway.



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