

P R O G R A M M E

THE WAGNER BLADE SIEGFRIED

A CONCERT IN THREE ACTS

Richard Wagner

With the Rosenau Sinfonia

Conducted by Stephen Anthony Brown

**NOVEMBER 23, 2019
16:30 – 22:30**

Presented by

GAF A
ARTS COLLECTIVE

CLEARPOINT
CP



Foreword

Since 2012 GAFA Arts Collective (GAC) has brought not only a welcome Samoan voice to British arts, but also a multicultural voice – a blend of Pacific and other cultures in which participants work together, learning from each other's lived and inherited experience and, in doing so, come to better understand their own. These newly appraised cultures are critiqued in the telling and re-activated for the 21st century in the sharing. Bringing together aspects of Open Space, traditional and non-traditional opera, European and Polynesian music and dance, GAC's unique mix has created some astonishing work, from the 2012 'layered art performance' of 'GAFA A Family called Samoa' remounted in 2013 and 2016, through to Kava Girls with seasons in London and at the Edinburgh Festival 2014/2015/2016 UK Pride Tour to 2015's rugby-opera mashup 'R'Otello' complete with choir, band and full orchestra, all in the gymnasium of a youth centre in urban London, and revived for the Opera in the city Festival, 2019. Several concerts, Opera sustains the world #OSTW, to Messiah Pazifik 2017 and a new musical for children, Baba the bad Baboon 2018, The play Talune and Sunday MASSive both created to remember the victims of the 1918 flu pandemic. There are two reasons for the company's huge and varied output – the first, of course, is progenitor's Sani Muliaumaseali'i'i phenomenal drive, energy and ability to bring together the most disparate groups of people. The second is even more rare and harder to define. It is something to do with welcome. The GAC facilitates strangers and old friends to come together in order to create something new, something made of the many working together. This many includes those who have gone before, by welcoming the ancestors to be part of our work. This shows up in the form of a playful yet always-respectful recognition of our personal, familial ancestors; in the present-day incorporation of learning from our artistic elders and colleagues; as well as the more basic acknowledgement that each of us comes to the work of creation – as artist or audience – carrying the load of our lived and handed-down past. By bringing the past into the present in this way, we create a new present from which to walk together into a co - created future. It is this multifarious yet united future that GAC's work offers to everyone involved in the company's productions, on any level. By acknowledging the contribution of each person's individual skills and passions, by valuing our differences and welcoming us to bring those differences to the act of making, GAFA Arts Collective is able to create performative work that transcends the traditional – and tired – us/them dichotomy of artist and audience. This is work that is as comfortable in a warehouse as a dance space, as likely to show up at an outdoor stadium as on a main stage. It is work that puts people first, recognizing the creative spirit in all of us, and the huge range of possibilities that open up when we welcome everyone's contribution to the work we make. It is work worth making. For seven years GAC has welcomed artists and audiences alike to speak, sing, see, sway, strut – to which we can now also add collaborate, collate, design and publish. The next few years should be very interesting.

Stella Duffy OBE
Associate Artist
GAFA Arts Collective



SIEGFRIED

The Wagner Blade

CAST

SIEGFRIED: Sani Muliaumaseali'i

MIME: Christopher Lemmings

WANDERER: Ian Wilson-Pope

ALBERICH: Freddie Tong

FAFNER: David Woloszko

WALDVÖGEL: Aivale Cole

ERDA: Sarah Sweeting

BRÜNNHILDE: Gweneth Ann Rand

With the **ROSENAU SINFONIA**

ORCHESTRA by Stephen Anthony

Brown. Led by Christian Halstead

Siegfried Version with reduced wind

instruments by Alfons Abbass

Synopsis

FIRST HALF



ACT I 16:30 – 18:00

Mime's forge in the forest

Mime tries in vain to forge a sword strong enough for Siegfried to kill the dragon Fafner. Siegfried returns from the forest with a bear with which he terrifies Mime. He easily breaks the latest sword on the anvil. Mime reproaches him with ingratitude, reminding him that he has brought him up from childhood. Refusing to believe that Mime is his father, Siegfried manages to extract from him the information that his mother, Sieglinde, had died giving birth to him, leaving the fragments of his father's sword, Nothung. Siegfried demands that Mime reforge this sword and storms out, hoping he may soon be free of the dwarf.

Mime knows he cannot forge the sword, but when the Wanderer (Wotan) appears and offers to answer any three questions on pain of forfeiting his head, Mime asks him only useless questions (about the races of dwarf, giants and gods). When the Wanderer demands a reciprocal question test, Mime is able to answer the first two questions but fails on the third: who will reforge Nothung? The Wanderer tells Mime that his head is forfeit, but he leaves it to be claimed by one who knows no fear.

Mime realises that this is one lesson he has failed to teach Siegfried and tries vainly to make up this omission, but Siegfried is unmoved, even by the mention of the fearsome dragon. Mime has to admit that his skill is unequal to the task of forging Nothung and Siegfried takes to the task himself, breaking all the rules of smithing, but succeeding, while Mime brews a potion he plans to administer to Siegfried when he has killed Fafner, so that he can kill him and seize the ring.

INTERVAL: 30minutes



ACT II 18:30 – 20:00

Deep in the forest, near the entrance to Fafner's cave

Alberich waits near the cave, hoping that someone will kill the dragon and give him the chance to take possession once more of the ring. The Wanderer appears and, to Alberich's surprise, professes no interest in the ring, but warns him that Mime is bringing Siegfried to kill the dragon. The Wanderer summons Fafner, who rejects Alberich's offer to protect him from Siegfried in exchange for the ring. Mime brings Siegfried to the spot, promising that here he will learn fear. Siegfried wonders about his mother and listens to the murmurs of the forest, in particular a bird, whose warbling he tries to imitate on a roughly improvised reed pipe. He gives up and blows a call on his hunting horn, which awakens Fafner. Siegfried kills the dragon; when he pulls out his sword, his hand is splashed with blood. As he sucks it clean, he finds himself able to understand the woodbird, which tells him to take the ring and Tarnhelm from the hoard.

Mime and Alberich meet and quarrel, watching with horror as Siegfried emerges with the ring and Tarnhelm. The woodbird warns Siegfried of Mime's intended treachery and when Mime offers him the drugged drink, he is able to understand Mime's thoughts and strikes him dead. The woodbird tells Siegfried of a bride awaiting him on a rock surrounded by fire and he sets off, following the bird.

Fire knife world champion Rex Tiumalu will perform the Siva ailao.

Siva by Hanalee Vaine - Aroha

ACT III 21:00 – 22:30

A wild spot at the foot of a mountain

The Wanderer summons the sleeping Erda, once more seeking the benefit of her wisdom, but she answers that she now knows nothing, suggesting first that he ask the Norns (fates) and then Brünnhilde. She is horrified to learn about Brünnhilde's punishment. The Wanderer then says that he has no need of her advice as he has decided to accept gladly the end of his power; he will leave the world to Siegfried, and Brünnhilde will perform the redeeming deed.

But when Siegfried appears, he is impatient to find yet another old man standing in his path. His youthful brashness arouses the Wanderer's anger and as Siegfried tries to go past, he interposes his spear, pointing out that the sword Siegfried carries has already been shattered by it. Believing that he has found his father's enemy, Siegfried breaks the spear with his sword.

The Wanderer withdraws, no longer able to oppose Siegfried, who climbs the mountain and passes through the ring of flame which surrounds Brünnhilde. After some hesitation he kisses her awake and she greets him ecstatically by name. At first, however, she shrinks from his embrace, reluctant to lose her divine powers, but eventually responds to his passion and they triumphantly proclaim their love.

Dedicated to the memory of Maestro David Shaw And Harry Coghill, both giants in the opera world, both left this world in 2019.

DINNER INTERVAL 60min



Siegfried Company



Stephen Anthony Brown

C O N D U C T O R

Stephen studied at Trinity College, London and then at the Benjamin Britten International Opera School at the Royal College of Music. He manages a busy international international singing career along with a busy diary of conducting and arranging.

His professional career started at seventeen when he prepared the choir and conducted orchestral rehearsals for a recording with Julie Andrews and the London Symphony Orchestra. He gained further experience as Director of Music for both the Imperial College and the University of London Opera Groups. He currently works as an associate Music Director for Surrey Opera. This Autumn he will become Musical Director of the Allegri Singers.

He has been the guest conductor for the Whitehall Orchestra, The Isle of Wight Symphony Orchestra and the Essex Symphony Orchestra as well as regularly rehearsing the Hounslow Symphony Orchestra and the Sidcup Symphony Orchestra. He was the founder and conductor of two semi-professional orchestras, The Bantock Orchestra and the highly successful Amici Orchestra. In 2010 Stephen became artistic director and chief conductor of The Rosenau Sinfonia. Future plans include a repeat of the critically acclaimed cycle of Beethoven symphonies and opera galas throughout the UK.

A specialist in British music, Stephen's transcription of the rediscovered opera 'Thelma' by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor received its premiere in 2012.

Stephen is also in demand as choir trainer and has prepared choirs for some of the world's greatest conductors including Sir Simon Rattle, Leonard Bernstein, Lorin Mazel and Richard Hickox.

Siegfried Company

SIEGFRIED

**Sani
Muliaumaseali'i**

T E N O R

A layered art exponent, Sani studied singing at Queensland Conservatorium of Music, Australia, where he gained his BMus and Post Graduate Diploma. He has appeared opera, music theatre film and television all over the world. Sani has toured with the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, performed with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra under Kent Nagano and sung Wagner with Longborough opera, the British Bayreuth. In recent years Sani has taken up writing his inaugural piece 'A family called Samoa' was featured at the Origins Festival 2013 and represented Samoa at the 12th Festival of Pacific Arts in Guam in 2016. Other works include 'The Third Country' for the Royal Court in 2015, his play with songs 'Kava Girls' was 'Pick of the Edinburgh Fringe' 2014. R'Otello the rugby opera' 2015 'Baba the Bad baboon' 2017, a musical for younger audiences. Sani has directed, produced and curated all his work. Tenor Sani is currently appearing in Porgy and Bess and Britten's War Requiem, for the English National Opera and will tour with them the Netherlands, to the Dutch National Opera in 2019. Sani co-founded the GAC in 2012.

MIME

**Christopher
Lemmings**

T E N O R



Appearances include Caliban/Tempest and Boyar/Boris Gudonov (Covent Garden), Red Whiskers/Billy Budd (Rome), Clarence/Richard III (Geneva/Strasbourg/Venice), Goro Madama Butterfly (Bergen), Alice in Wonderland (Los Angeles) and Podestà/La Finta Giardiniera (Buxton).

Plans include Jack/Mahagonny (Parma), and Bill/Hand of Bridge (Venice).

WANDERER

**Ian
Wilson-Pope**

B A S S - B A R I T O N E



Born in south west London, Ian studied at Trinity College of Music. At TCM he studied with John Wakefield. Ian's most recent operatic roles include: Sarastro The Magic Flute; Voice of Neptune Idomeneo; Hermann Ortel Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg; Grand Inquisitor Don Carlo; Dansker/Ist Mate Billy Budd; Bertrand Tchaikovsky's Iolanta; Il Frate Don Carlo; Jim Hobson Peter Grimes; Masetto Don Giovanni; Lodovico/Montano/Araldo in Otello; Wotan, Fasolt and Donner Das Rheingold; Wotan Die Walküre; Wanderer Siegfried; Marcello La Bohème; Narbal Les Troyens; Goryanchikov Janaček's From the House of the Dead; Leporello Don Giovanni; Mr Basil The Barber of Seville; Ford Falstaff. Oratorio and concert repertoire includes Requiems by Fauré, Duruflé, Mozart and Verdi; Stanford's Songs of the Fleet; Puccini's Messa di Gloria; Maunder's Olivet to Calvary; Haydn's Nelson Mass and The Creation; Mozart's Dixit et Magnificat; Sparrow Mass and Mass in C "Coronation"; Saint-Saëns' Oratorio de Noël; Berlioz's Les Nuits d'Été; Rossini's Petite Messe Solennelle; and Handel's Messiah. Film credit as Leporello in Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows. Future plans in 2020 include Escamillo in Carmen and Bass soloist in Rossini's Petit Messe Solennelle for Project: Opera on the Isle of Wight; and Dutchman in Die Fliegende Holländer with Rose Opera.

Siegfried Company

WALDVÖGEL

Aivale Cole

S O P R A N O



New Zealand Soprano currently based in London, United Kingdom.

Cole graduated from the Australian Opera Studio with Honors and awarded the Dux Prize in 2005. She completed a Bachelor in Performance Art degree at The national Academy of Singing and Dramatic Art (NASDA) in Christchurch, New Zealand, and also has a Diploma in Performance Art (Opera) at the University.

Aivale has returned to London after performing the World Premiere Song Cycle called 'DAUGHTERS' libretto by Tammy Brennan and Music by David Chisholm and it received a rave review. Cole was busy during the London Summer performing in three productions back to back called 'The Silk Moth' and 'Treemonisha' as part of the London Grimeborn Festival. Then she went on to perform in the GAFA Arts Collective production called 'Rotello' the rugby Opera. This production sees three operas rolled into one: Otello (Verdi), Carmen (Bizet) and Tosca (Puccini). Aivale sang the role of Desdemona from the Otello section and received a great review. This production was part of the Opera City Festival, London. She excited to be singing the role of the Waldvogel for GAFA's Opera Siegfried.

BRÜNNHILDE

Gweneth Ann Rand

S O P R A N O



Gweneth Ann Rand studied at the University of Exeter, Goldsmith's College and the GSMD. She was a Vilar Young Artist at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and represented England at Cardiff Singer of the World. Her operatic roles include Aida, Senta, Leonora (Forza & Il trovatore), La Wally and Santuzza. She is noted as an exponent of the works of Messiaen.

ALBERICH

Freddie Tong

B A S S - B A R I T O N E



Born in Hong Kong, Freddie went on to study at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama after gaining a degree in Economics and Statistics at University College London.

Recent operatic roles includes Don Pasquale and Sarastro for Musica Viva Hong Kong, Councilman in Mazzoli/Vavrek Breaking the Waves for Scottish Opera.

ERDA

Sarah Sweeting

M E Z Z O S O P R A N O



Sarah began her career in London's West End Theatres. Since then she has sang a variety of roles, including Venus, Ortrud and Brangaene in productions of Tannhauser, Lohengrin and Tristan and Isolde, resulting in two nominations for The Australian Green Room Awards. She has performed in the UK, Europe, Asia, Australia, New Zealand, Macau, Barbados and most recently Amneris touring China.



Clarence Whitehill
als „Wanderer“

Rosenau Sinfonia Pianists

Rosenau Sinfonia was set up in 2008 by its director Stephen Anthony Brown. It is led by violinist Mardyah Tucker. Their recent premiere recording of Timothy Hamilton's Requiem for the Fallen under the composer's direction - with stellar soloist line up Ilona Domnich, Jennifer Johnston, Nicky Spence and David Stout - for the Naxos label, has received much critical acclaim. In 2018, this was put forward for a Grammy nomination.

They began their collaboration with GAFA Arts Collective in 2017 for a performance of Messiah Pazifik.

Rosenau Sinfonia was fixed by Stephen Anthony Brown and Christian Halstead.

David Shaw, Richard Black, David Harrod,
Lyndall Dawson, Kelvin Lim



About us

WELCOME

We are London's first Samoan Arts Collective. GAFA (pronounced Nga-Fah) is a Samoan word meaning genealogy. Our work is primarily focused on Samoan Art practice and culture reflecting our ancestral roots. We seek truth, innovation and discovery.

We are a cross-cultural and disciplinary group of London-based artists.

**We are
writers and
musicians**

**We are in
collaboration to
share our skills and
our experiences in
order to create a
unique art view**

**Thank you for
your support**

**We are
professionals
and novices**

**We are
performers,
designers and
filmmakers**

Sani Muliaumaseali'i

**Creative Director & co-founder
Gafa Arts Collective (GAC)**

Thank you

**Ia e momoli atu le faafetai tele ma
le alofa mautinoa, ma le fa'aalolao
aoao, i tupuga, i matua, ma i aiga
pele mo fesosoani, fa'atonuga ma
a'oa'oga taua.**

**'Ua tasi lava oe, i lenei
fa'amoemoe'**

Peter Rice
Faautu Talapusi
Daniel Gush
Luana Asiata
Gerhard Gall
Libby Spring
Garfield Dimson
Lodge
Dance Attic
Andrew Corett
Burcher
Alex Corbett
Burcher

Berni Griffiths
St Marys Putney
Tania Bearsley
Kerryn Beeching
Charlotte Everett
Samoa Tourism
New Zealand news
UK
RNZ standing room
only
RNZ Pacific
RM Taylor Tuilaepa -
Taylor

**Raising awareness of Knife crime
in the UK**



Donate

**V'ISSI D'ARTE -
LIVING FOR ART**

Talofa lava

Thank you for attending our performance tonight, we appreciate you being here. As an independent collective, one of our aims is to produce work of high quality. Our efforts are rewarded artistically and temporally. GAFA finds it rewarding in creating work across the arts spectrum; Performers, crew, venues, rehearsal spaces, printers, costumes, musicians, caterers, designers, cleaners etc are employed by GAFA every time our art is present. In addition to these opportunities for performers of different cultural backgrounds, ages and abilities form the core of the collective. GAFA is a world in and of itself and to keep this world spinning, we need you to help us financially. The world needs art. Please give to GAFA by going to our website www.gafasamoa.com and click on the 'DONATE' button. One click can change a world.

Thank you, fa'afetai tele lava

**Siliga Sani
Muliaumaseali'i**

THE PLANETS FIRST SAMOAN WAGNERIAN

The Wagner Blade

Siegfried in concert



With Sani Muliaumaseali'i as Siegfried
Cast includes: Gweneth Ann Rand, Aivale Cole,
Christopher Lemmings, Freddie Tong, David
Wolosko, Ian Wilson-Pope, Sarah Sweeting,
Rosenau Sinfonia
Conducted by Stephen Anthony Brown

23 NOV 2019
16:00 – 19:30

**St Mary's Church,
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Putney London SW15 1SN**

www.gafasamoa.com

Raising awareness of Knife crime in the UK