

PROGRAMME

THE GAFA ARTS COLLECTIVE

RingGafa

THE POWER OF LOVE OF POWER

Der Ring des Nibelungen
by Richard Wagner

Das Rheingold

OCTOBER 30 2021
19:00 - 21:40

Die Walküre

NOVEMBER 6 2021
16:00 - 22:30

Siegfried

NOVEMBER 13 2021
16:00 - 22:20

Götterdämmerung

NOVEMBER 20, 2021
16:00 - 22:30

With the Rosenau Sinfonia
Conducted by Stephen Anthony Brown

Conceived by Sani Muliaumaseali'i

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’s 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 nine 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

Whose god is it anyway?

Talofa lava and hallo all, how has life been for you? We are still in the middle of 'you know what' and as we tentatively emerge from the limitations of the pandemic, reflections abound. Perhaps the world will be better at being the world? Humanity however, has a short memory, and perhaps and most likely, our power of love of power will get the better of us? As GAFA looks to an uncertain future what is certain is there may not be one, well at least not the one any of us imagined. The pandemic has taught that everything can be gone in an instant - dreams, careers, loved ones - and in the spirit of living a fuller life we've decided to go big or go home. Our presentation of Wagners Ring Cyle, Ringafa the power of love of power is testimony to this. One of the major themes of the Nordic saga, the renunciation of love in order to gain power, is as old as humanity itself. The Ring is a cautionary tale that could speak directly to the aftermath of the pandemic. We look at these similarities of the Nordic Mythologies and those of the Moana a Kiwa, Pacific. In RinGafa, The Nordic gods share power with the gods of the Pacific. Wotan Tagaloa, Brunnhilde, Erde Nafanua, Sina ma le tuna, Rhine Maidens and Alberich. RINGafa alludes to them in movement, adornment and scenes. RinGafa can be about coming of the Europeans and their culture to the Pacific. Foreseen by Samoan warrior goddess Nafanua, - Erde, Fricka, Brunnhilde, - the papalagi / foreigners ‘broke the heavens’ bringing about the demise of Pacific deities and traditional life in the region.

Das Rheingold begins with the Assembly of Gods. Human in form A conch is heard. A missionary Speaks. Change is coming.

Die Walkuren carry the bodies of the fallen heroes of every time, including Samoa’s 1918 Pandemic.

Siegfried grapples with his identity finding himself by slaying the Taniwha/ Dragon and his oppressors leads to his true nature

It gives rise to queries as to why we are the way we are. What is left behind?

Gotterdammerung retorts that our Gods and Goddesses are swamped in a pile of nylon leis, plastic tiki, aloha shirts and rugby jerseys. Brunnhilde and her sisters are trafficked as dusky maidens, their world has gone up in flames.

RinGafa the power of love of power begins at the end. We walk forward into the past. The twilight is brought to the gods of one civilisation and replaced with the dawn of another. Once the colonial floodgates opened an insatiable love of power fuelled the snatching of territories and the promotion of foreign culture and values. The cultural climate changed forever in paradise and though most colonial powers have now sloped away, the legacy of the Western land grab continues today, but now it's the rising sea that usurps these beleaguered isles, a direct result of western folly. The sovereignty of Wagner's ring remains intact as RINGafa reveals an underbelly of fusion that respectfully gives voice to a hoard of cultural refugees improvising to survive. The Pacific Gods morph into Demigods and then into mortals, shape shifting as only deities can. This is survival. This is powerful. Power is an attitude and we examine how power is retained and what powerful to us? Today the gods may still play with our lives though with blurred values it is unclear as to who our gods and our monsters are, and indeed where our power lies. Perhaps when this cycle of who’s top dog is over, lost pantheons can once return to their former glory. Every God has their day. What we choose to make of each new day is up to us.

I suppose we do what has the most power, God given or not.

la manuia

Sani Muliaumaseali'i

Creative Director/Producer/Co-Founder



CONDUCTING THOUGHTS

Never one to do things by halves, Wagner's ring cycle has been described as a conductor's marathon. Despite the dishevelled and exhausted state that most conductors find themselves in at the end of any of his operas, don't be fooled, all conductors are elated and inspired to the very last note of this wonderful work.

Despite fire-breathing dragons, a magic sword, a magic helmet, and magic fire, the real magic of this work lies in the music itself. Wagner's extraordinary use of 'Leit-motif' technique (making a theme to represent a character, a feeling, object or a place

and then playing it when they are mentioned or understood) in these works is revolutionary. With this technique he creates a whole world of gods, heroes, dwarves and giants, and in their various themes, the music itself giving them their psychological depth. Then suddenly one theme can change magically into another, for instance, notice how at the end of the first scene of *Das Rheingold*, as we cross the rainbow bridge, the circular sounding 'ring' theme magically changes into the theme to represent Valhalla (Wotan's new castle in the sky) - indelibly connecting Wotan's lust for power with his desire to possess the ring

from the start. A desire that tragically causes him to break the laws written on his spear. At the end of *Die Walküre* his 'spear' theme musically literally breaks in half. As the spear breaks an emotional torrent is released with some of the most beautiful music ever written. Perhaps (except for the 'Ride of the Valkyries') the most famous moment in the cycle comes in *Götterdämmerung* with 'Siegfried's funeral march' in which his whole life story is amazingly retold using the themes that have shaped his story. Although we will not be on winged horses, the Rosenau Sinfonia will take you on an epic ride through 'storms' and 'magic fire' in a story that

begins underwater, ending with the fall of the gods and the returning of magical gold to the bottom of the Rhein.

MAESTRO STEPHEN ANTONY BROWN
with the Rosenau Sinfonia orchestra by Stephen Anthony Brown. Led by Christian Halstead

Ring Cycle Version with reduced wind instruments by Alfons Abbass. Published by Schott music.

DAS RHEINGOLD

Saturday 30 October 2021

19:00 – 21:40

T H E R E I S N O I N T E R V A L

Time begins with the Rheingold overture that lures us into the waters of the mysterious Rhine, there, Maidens tease, love is renounced and an accursed ring takes centre stage. We wendle our way through lofty mountain-tops, the depths of Niebelung underworld, encountering gods, dwarves and giants along the way. It is a sordid and dangerous existence where there is always someone on 'the make'. A shape shifting helmet, apples of youth and a trafficked goddess all lead to the rainbow bridge, and what lies beyond the big flashy new house?

Assembly of Gods

The Gods assemble. The conch is sounded. The heavens break.

Missionary Speaks

from A Family called Samoa

by Stella Duffy

Actor: Agness Nyama, Das Rheingold

Loretta Vui, Taupou

CAST

Wotan Pauls Putnins

Loge Philip Sheffield

Fricka Andee Louise Hypolite

Freia Aivale Cole

Froh Ronald Samm

Donner Byron Jackson

Erde Rhonda Browne

Alberich Freddie Tong

Mime John Upperton

Fasolt Ian Wilson Pope

Fafner Edwin Kaye

DIE WALKÜRE

'In Die Walküre family ties are tested to the utmost. Twisted and hypocritical loyalties, incest, filial disobedience and filicide, give rise musical high points; 'Winterstürme', Brünnhilde, the Valkyrie of the title follows her heart defying her father the almighty Wotan forcing him to send his favourite child to a fiery imprisonment' Siegmund's spring awakening and love for his sister Sieglinde, The Ride of the Valkyries and the Magic Fire music.

CAST

Siegmund Tom Lowe

Sieglinde Hannah Macaulay

Brünnhilde Yannick Muriel Noah

Hundig Freddie Tong

Wotan Pauls Putnins

Fricka Andee Louise Gilchrist

DIE WALKÜREN

CAST

Gerhilde: Ana Beard Fernández, **Siegrune:** Christie Cook,
Grimgerde: Alexandra Long, **Rossweise:** Georgia Mae Bishop,
Schwerteite: Rhonda Browne, **Helmwige:** Claudia Anghel,
Ortlinde: Helen Karikari & Sarah Sweeting as **Waltraute**.

6 November 2021

16:00 - 22:00 (6 HOURS)

Act I 70 minutes
16:00 - 17:10

Talune by Sani Muliaumaseali'i

Interval 30 minutes

Headmistress: Sarah Sweeting

Act II 95 minutes
17:40 - 19:15

Colonel Logan: Alexander Corbett
Burcher

Interval 80 minutes

Act III 73 minutes
20:35 - 21:50

TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE

SIEGFRIED

In Siegfried, the opera's eponymous hero forges a mighty sword, slays Fafner the dragon, winds up in possession of the cursed Ring and frees the sleeping Brünnhilde from an infernal mountain-top banishment. You can almost feel the sparks fly in Siegfried's forging song, and the discomfort of the generation gap as Siegfried wanders from one dysfunctional conflict with Mime, into another with the Wanderer. Yet as it is with everything, the sun always seems to rise, and this is never more evident than in thrilling music when Brünnhilde awakens to greet a new day, and her hero...

CAST

Siegfried Sani Muliaumaseali'i

Mime John Upperton

Wanderer Ian Wilson Pope

Alberich Freddie Tong

Brünnhilde Yannick Muriel
Noah

Waldvögel Aivale Cole

Fafner Edwin Kay

Erde Rhonda Browne

**Saturday 13
November 2021**

16:00 - 22:20

Act I 90 minutes 16:00 - 17:30

Interval 30 minutes

Act II 90 minutes 18:00 - 19:30

Interval 80 minutes

Woodbird Tualuga & Ailao
(knife danse)

Hannalee Vaike

Act III 90 minutes
20:50 - 22:20

TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE

GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG

RINGafa the power of love, of power tragically manifests in the betrayal of Siegfried and Brünnhilde in the concluding music drama, Götterdämmerung. Both are victims of Hagen (Alberich's son) deviousness, we look on helplessly as Brünnhilde sacrifices herself signaling the twilight of the gods. The old gods are sent out in inimitable Wagnerian splendour. Devastation at its most artistic. Götterdämmerung is a music drama that brazenly envelopes us in Siegfried's Rhine music, his Funeral March, and Brünnhilde's immolation scene.

CAST

Siegfried Sani Muliaumaseali'i

Brünnhilde Laura Hudson

Gunther Aleksi Koponen

Gutrune Isabella Moore

Hagen Oliver Gibbs

Alberich Freddie Tong

Waltraute Julia Mintzer

1 Norn Rhonda Browne

2 Norn Christie Cook

3 Norn Jordene Thomas

Woglinde Claudia Anghel

Wellgunde Namrata Shah

Flosshilde Georgia Mae Bishop

20 November 2021

16:00 - 22:30

Prologue and Act I

128 minutes

16:00 - 18:00

Interval 30 minutes

Act II

65 minutes

18:30 - 19:35

Interval 75 minutes

21:00 - 22:20

Act III

80 minutes

TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE

Siva. Danse.Movement.

Dedicated to the memory of l'iga Olivia Muliaumaseali'i
1942 - 2021

Stephen Anthony Brown

Stephen studied at Trinity College, London and then at the Benjamin Britten International Opera School at the Royal College of Music. His conducting career started as a teenager when he became director of the Bromley Boy Singers. He gained further experience as director of music for both Imperial College and the University of London Opera Groups. He has been the guest for the Whitehall Orchestra, the Essex Symphony Orchestra, and the Hounslow Symphony Orchestra. He is the founder and artistic director of three professional Orchestras, the Rosenau Sinfonia, The Bantock Orchestra.

Stephen is in much demand as a trainer of choruses. He is vocal consultant to the Southampton Philharmonic Chorus and regularly runs choral workshops with choral societies around the UK. He has trained choirs for performances with some of the world's greatest conductors and for recordings with artists such as Julie Andrews and the London Symphony Orchestra. He is currently the director of the Allegri Singers.

As a tenor, Stephen's career has led to roles with most of the major UK opera companies and also touring companies such as Opera Della Luna, English Touring Opera, Carl Rosa Opera and the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company. For Glyndebourne he has sung Pedro in Prokofiev's Betrothal in a Monastery, Peter Quint The Turn of the Screw and Lysander A Midsummer Night's Dream. Recent debuts include Gabriel with Alison Balsom and Trevor Pinnock at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre and the Tenor Character roles in Between Worlds by Tansy Davis for English National Opera.



Rosenau Sinfonia

Rosenau Sinfonia was set up in 2008 by its director Stephen Anthony Brown. Their recent premiere recording of Timothy Hamilton's Requiem for the Fallen under the composer's direction - with stellar soloist line up Ilona Dominic, 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.

RinGafa the power of love of power is the orchestra's sixth collaboration with Sani Muliaumaseali'i and the GAFA arts Collective. Siegfried the Wagner Blade and R'Otello the rugby opera (2019) Sunday MASSive (2018) Brahms & Verdi Requiems, Dream of Gerontius,

Messiah Pazifik (2017)

RinGafa music assistant: Adam Turner

Rosenau Sinfonia was fixed by Stephen Anthony Brown and Christian Halstead



Rehearsal Pianists

David Harrod LRAM

A self-taught pianist who studied with Ronald Stevenson, David has been accompanying classical instrumentalists and singers, cabaret and jazz singers, and musical theatre and opera for decades. An excellent sight reader David also has fluent and imaginative improviser in various genres including jazz. David has a particular interest in late romantic and early twentieth century music, and in European cabaret songs.

David was the principal repetiteur for GAFA's Siegfried 2019 and 2021, sharing Die Walkure duties with Paul Plummer.

Paul Plummer

was an organ scholar at New College, Oxford, and then became Director of Music at St Stephen's Church, Gloucester Road, London. He has accompanied many major professional groups including the BBC Singers, Monteverdi Choir and The Sixteen. Paul is a respected vocal coach, working with students and professional singers. He has worked as a repetiteur and vocal coach at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. Paul created the orchestration for Fulham operas hit production of Richard Strauss's Die Ägyptische Helena, Oct 2021. Paul prepared Götterdämmerung and Das Rheingold for GAFA.



Title of work - NGĀ MATA O TE ARIKI O TĀWHIRIMĀTEA MATARIKI
 Artist: Hanalee Vaike
 facebook & instagram - Hanalee Vaike
 Ms Vaike's work is featured in the exhibition,

Das Rheingold

WOTAN

Pauls Putnins



Pauls Putnins' has sung a wide range of operatic roles at the ENO, Glyndebourne, Scottish Opera, Garsington and Longborough, Liceu/Barcelona, Carlo Felice/Genoa, New Zealand Opera, Opera Colorado, Opéra de Nancy and Latvian National Opera among others. In concert he has appeared with the RPO, Philharmonia, Israel, Moscow and Bucharest Philharmonics. Pauls makes his debut with GAFA arts collective in this role.

LOGE

Philip Sheffield



Philip Sheffield's career has taken him all over the world from Buenos Aires to New York to Tokyo. Recent engagements include Peter Grimes (Oper Köln and Opéra de Monte-Carlo), A Midsummer Night's Dream (Hyogo Performing Arts Center, Japan) and Richard III (Teatro la Fenice). In the current season he performs Živný in Osud at the Janáček Brno International Festival. Philip makes his debut with GAFA arts collective in this role.

Das Rheingold

FRICKA

Andee-Louise Hypolite



Born and raised in London to West Indian parents, Andee-Louise studied at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and the National Opera Studio in London. Her repertoire includes roles from the operas and oratorios of Monteverdi, Handel, Mozart, Rossini, Bizet, Verdi and Britten. This is her first Wagnerian role. Andee-Louise makes her debut with the GAFA arts collective as Fricka.

FREIA

Aivale Cole



"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.

Recent credits include a World Premiere Song Cycle called 'DAUGHTERS' by Chisholm 'The Silk Moth' and 'Treemonisha' as part of the London Grimeborn Festival. Aivale is a founding member of the GAFA arts collective, an associate artist and has appeared in several GAFA pieces.

FROH

Ronald Samm



Ronald Samm was born and spent his early years in Trinidad. He attended the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, the Royal Northern College of Music and the National Opera Studio. He was the first black man to perform the title role of Otello in the UK and his recent work includes, Canio in Pagliacci, Conor Mac Nessa in Deirdre and the Sons of Usna for Cork Opera and the Everyman Theatre and a recording of an excerpt from British composer, Richard Thompson's The Mask in the Mirror with ENO for their recent Black Lives Matter online series.

DONNER

Byron Jackson



Born in Birmingham, of British-Jamaican heritage, Byron is a young dramatic baritone who studied at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire where he was the recipient of the St Clare Barfield Bowl for Operatic Distinction. In 2007, he made his UK operatic debut as Rangwan/Koanga (Delius) at Sadlers' Wells for Pegasus Opera and returned as Boaz/Ruth (Hagemann).

Recently, he sang Donner/Das Rheingold for Birmingham Opera Company. Longborough Festival Opera to cover the title role in Der fliegende Holländer (Wagner) and recently made his debuts with English National Opera and Dutch National Opera as Frazier/Porgy & Bess. Byron makes his debut with GAFA arts collective in this role.

Das Rheingold

ERDE

Rhonda Browne



Rhonda's dedication to her craft has already led her to attain impressive accolades, including singing with the English National Ballet at Covent Garden, and winning the Wagner Prize. Her breadth of experience playing roles as diverse as Erda in Wagner's Ring, to the Witch in Hansel & Gretel speaks of her versatility. Her distinctive contralto timbre, and engaging stagecraft have resulted in Rhonda being sought after on both the operatic stage and concert platforms internationally. Erde marks her debut with GAFA arts collective along with Schwertleite Die Walküre, First Norn, Götterdämmerung and again as Erde in Siegfried.

ALBERICH

Freddie Tong



Born in Hong Kong and trained at GSMD. Recent engagement includes Hunding (Die Walküre) for Longborough Festival Opera, Council Man (Breaking the Waves) for Adelaide International Festival. During the UK 2nd Covid lockdown, Freddie provided the voice, as the Purple Blob, for the highly acclaimed Google Webapp - Blob Opera. Freddie made his GAFA arts collective debut as Alberich in Siegfried the Wagner blade in 2019. RinGafa marks Freddie's second GAFA appearance as Alberich, adding Hunding in Die Walküre to the mix.

MIME

John Upperton



John was born in County Durham and then studied Music at Liverpool University. He makes a welcome return to the role of Mime - his first Wagnerian role. Since then he has sung Siegmund, both Siegfrieds, Tannhäuser, Lohengrin and Tristan as well as other Italian and French dramatic tenor roles. www.johnupperton.com John makes his debut with GAFA arts collective in this role.

FASOLT

Ian Wilson-Pope



Born in Roehampton, Ian studied at Trinity College of Music under John Wakefield. He performed with many large UK companies, and performed Wotan/Wanderer in Fulham Opera's Ring. Other recent roles include Ortel in Meistersingers, Fasolt in Rheingold and Dansker/1st Mate in Billy Budd. Fasolt marks Ian's third appearance with the GAFA arts collective. Ian also appears as Wanderer in "Siegfried" and dedicates his performance to the memory of the Former Ambassador of Paraguay to the UK, Mr Miguel Lopez,

Das Rheingold

FAFNER

Edwin Kaye



Edwin is an English bass who studied at the RNCM. He has previously held soloist positions with State Opera Stara Zagora and Ruse in Bulgaria, performing roles such as Colline in La Boheme or Banco in Macbeth. This year he has performed as Bluebeard in Bluebeard's Castle, Zaccaria in Nabucco and James in the premiere of Madeleine.

Edwin makes his debut with the GAFA arts collective as Fafner.

WOGLINDE

Donna Bateman



Donna Bateman is an award-winning Soprano who has been honored as an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music. She sang her first major role, Marzelline, in Birmingham Opera Company's award-winning production of Fidelio and continues to perform with Opera Companies in the UK and abroad.

Future and recent highlights include Lady Magnesia in Passion, Poison and Petrification by Hagemann, Melanto in Il ritorno d'Ulisse in patria for The Grange Festival and Lulu in American Lulu for The Young Vic, Scottish Opera and Bregenz Festspiele co-production. Donna makes her debut with the GAFA arts collective in this role.

WELLGUNDE

Simone Ibbett-Brown



Simone is a mezzo-soprano whose recent highlights include Grace, Opera Mums (BBC Four); Mami Wata (Royal Opera House, Pegasus Opera); Passepartout, Around the World in 80 Days (West Green House Opera); and cover Annie, Porgy and Bess (Theater an der Wien). She's also an award-winning opera-maker. simoneibbettbrown.com / wearehera.co.uk RinGafa is Simone's second appearance with the GAFA arts Collective debuting with us as Carmen in R'Otello the rugby opera, 2019.

FLOSSHILDE

Christie Cook



New Zealand born Mezzo Soprano, Christie Cook, studied at the University of Otago, and the Wales International Academy of Voice. She has sung numerous solo roles in the UK & abroad, is a member of the Monteverdi Choir, and an ABRSM examiner. Christie makes her debut with the GAFA arts collective in RinGafa.

Die Walküre

SIEGMUND

Tom Lowe



Tom Studied for his bachelors at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and in 2009 completed his masters degree at the Royal Academy of Music Opera School gaining a distinction. Since graduating roles have included: Don Jose – Carmen, Naraboth – Salome, Tamino – Magic Flute, Pinkerton – Madame Butterfly and Stuermann – Flying Dutchmann. In concert Tom has sung throughout europe and beyond highlights include The Chinese New Year concert in Bangkok with the Bangkok Symphony Orchestra and the 10th anniversary celebrations for the Moscow Bear handball team. Aside from singing Tom has in stage combat with BADC and apeared in Mission Impossible Rogue Nation. Siegmund marks Tom's third appearance with the GAFA arts collective.

SIEGLINDE

Hannah Macaulay



Originally from Solihull, soprano, Hannah Macaulay, received her MA from the Wales International Academy of Voice. She continues her studies with Michael Harper. Operatic highlights include Amelia (Simon Boccanegra), Desdemona (Otello) and Woglinde (Das Rheingold) for Fulham Opera; First Lady (Magic Flute) and cover Mimi (La Boheme) for Flat Pack Music; and chorus for Longborough Festival Opera's Der Fliegende Holländer.

Hannah makes her GAFA arts collective debut in this role.

BRÜNNHILDE

Yannick-Muriel Noah



Madagascar-born Canadian soprano Yannick-Muriel Noah exudes sumptuous lyricism and dramatic intensity. She performs in Germany, Austria, Spain, the UK, Ireland, the U.S., Canada, Australia and South Korea as lead soprano in Aida, Tosca, Madama Butterfly, Fidelio, Ariadne auf Naxos, Rusalka, Věc Makropulos, Peter Grimes, and Jonathan Dove's Marx in London. Ms Noah makes her GAFA arts collective debut as Brünnhilde in Die Walküre and in Siegfried.

HUNDIG

Freddie Tong



Born in Hong Kong and trained at GSMD. Recent engagement includes Hunding (Die Walküre) for Longborough Festival Opera, Council Man (Breaking the Waves) for Adelaide International Festival. During the UK 2nd Covid lockdown, Freddie provided the voice, as the Purple Blob, for the highly acclaimed Google Webapp - Blob Opera. Freddie made his GAFA arts collective debut as Alberich in Siegfried the Wagner blade in 2019. RinGafa marks Freddie's second GAFA appearance as Alberich, adding Hundig in Die Walküre to the mix.



Die Walküre

WOTAN

Paul Putnins



GERHILDE

Ana Beard Fernández



Ana is a multi-disciplinary soprano with Spanish-Mancunian roots. She holds a Master of Performance with Distinction from the Royal College of Music and this summer has performed Witch (Humperdinck: Hansel and Gretel) Galatea (Handel: Acis and Galatea), and Lili Boulanger's Clairières dans le Ciel. For more information, please visit www.anabeardfernandez.co.uk Ana makes her GAFA arts collective debut in this role.

FRICKA

Andee-Louise Gilchrist



SIEGRUNE

Christie Cook



Die Walküre

GRIMGERDE

Alexandra Long



Alexandra Long completed her studies at Trinity Laban. She currently studies with Neil Baker and has coaching with Gidon Saks.

Previous roles include Zia Principessa in Suor Angelica, Fenana in Nabucco, Amneris in Aida, and most recently Judith in Bluebeard’s Castle with Gothic Opera for which Alexandra received warm critical acclaim. Alexandra makes her GAFA arts collective debut in this role.

ROSSWEISE

Georgia Mae Bishop



Georgia Mae Bishop; Opera Prelude young artist and covers Forester’s wife, Cunning Little Vixen (ENO). Previously Young Artist (Institute of Young Dramatic Voices), Flosshilde RhineGold (Birmingham Opera Company), Mistress Quickly (cover) Falstaff (Garsington Opera), Ulrica, un ballo in maschera (Opera Holland Park), La Prieure Dialogues des Carmélites, Zita Gianni Schicchi (Guildhall). Georgia Mae makes her GAFA arts collective debut in this role.

SCHWERTELEITE

Rhonda Browne



ORTINDE

Helen Karikari



Ghanaian Soprano Helen Karikari study includes Opera studies (BA (Hons) at Rose Bruford College and the Bela Bartok School of Musicianship. Previous studies – Sustainability Postgraduate cert. (MA), the University of Cambridge. She has sung with Opera de Bauge, France, Chineke Chorus, Royal Festival Hall, Opera at Home, The Reform Club, Hampstead Garden Opera, West London Opera, Ensemble Orquesta, OperaFesta, OperaWorkout and Gafa Arts Collective. Recordings: Black Panther film sound track – Soprano 1 - Marvel Studios, Walt Disney Pictures. Conducted by John Aston Thomas. Recital engagements include Kensington Palace, Iris Axon Concert Series 2017 & 2018 and Forbes House, London. RinGafa marks Helen’s third appearance with the GAFA arts Collective.

Die Walküre

WALTRAUTE

Sarah Sweeting



Sarah has performed in over 40 roles of musicals and opera in the UK, France, Germany, Spain, Ireland, Asia, Barbados, Australia, New Zealand and China, including seasons in London's West End Theatres. She returns to Australia in 2021 to sing Fricka in Die Walkure for Melbourne Opera, culminating in a Ring Cycle in 2023.

Waltraute marks Sarah's fourth appearance with the GAFA arts collective.

HELMWIGE

Claudia Anghel



Claudia Anghel was born in the Republic of Moldova in a musician family. She started singing and giving concerts with an orchestra when she was only 5. At age 6, she started music school where she studied violin. After the College, she continued her studies at the National University of Music Bucharest, where she had the opportunity to work with the internationally renowned teachers and singers Sorina Munteanu and Corneliu Fanatean. Helmwig marks Claudia's second appearance with the GAFA arts collective.

Siegfried

SIEGFRIED

Sani Muliaumaseali'i

Sani Muliaumaseali'i is a Aotearoa NZ born Samoa Layered Art Exponent. Taking inspiration from his Samoa heritage, the London based theatre maker writes, composes, produces, directs, choreographs and performs globally. Sani has appeared in Opera and most forms of music theatre, film, radio and television. A tenor, he studied singing at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, Australia under Harry Coghill and Anna Sweeny. Sani has toured with the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, performed with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra under Kent Nagano (Walter) and sung Wagner (Froh) with Longborough opera, the British Bayreuth. Recent credits, (2020)Porgy & Bess (Mingo) Theatre an Der Wien, the Olivier award winning production of Porgy and Bess and Britten's War Requiem (2018) for the English National Opera and Dutch National Opera in 2019. He sang Otello, (VERDI) in his piece R'Otello the rugby opera (2019) at the London Opera in the City Festival. Sani became the FIRST Samoan to sing Siegfried (WAGNER) St Marys Putney, with the Rosenau Sinfonia, Stephen Anthony Brown (c) 2019. Sani co - founded the GAFA arts Collective in London, 2011, he is the creative director & producer. His inaugural piece 'A family called Samoa' (2012) was featured at the 12th Festival of Pacific Arts Guam, FOPA 2016. Sani has and art work based in Captain cooks Voyages at the National Maritime Museum and has consented that his sound work Tupaia's Helm to be featured at the Himboldt Museum. Other works include the play 'Talune' in remembrance of the Samoan victims of the flu pandemic of 1918. 'The Third Country' for the Royal Court 2015, his play with songs 'Kava Girls' 2014, and Baba the Bad baboon' 2017, a climate change musical for younger audiences and audio book have original soundtracks written by Sani, that can be found at www.gafasamoa.com.

**DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF P'IGA
OLIVIA MULIAUMASEALI'I 1942 - 2021**

Siegfried

MIME

John Upperton



John was born in County Durham and then studied Music at Liverpool University. He makes a welcome return to the role of Mime - his first Wagnerian role. Since then he has sung Siegmund, both Siegfrieds, Tannhäuser, Lohengrin and Tristan as well as other Italian and French dramatic tenor roles. www.johnupperton.com John makes his debut with GAFA arts collective in this role.

WANDERER

Ian Wilson-Pope



Born in Roehampton, Ian studied at Trinity College of Music under John Wakefield. He performed with many large UK companies, and performed Wotan/Wanderer in Fulham Opera's Ring. Other recent roles include Ortel in Meistersingers, Fasolt in Rheingold and Dansker/1st Mate in Billy Budd. Fasolt marks Ian's third appearance with the GAFA arts collective. Ian also appears as Wanderer in "Siegfried" and dedicates his performance to the memory of the Former Ambassador of Paraguay to the UK, Mr Miguel Lopez,

ALBERICH

Freddie Tong



Born in Hong Kong and trained at GSMD. Recent engagement includes Hunding (Die Walküre) for Longborough Festival Opera, Council Man (Breaking the Waves) for Adelaide International Festival. During the UK 2nd Covid lockdown, Freddie provided the voice, as the Purple Blob, for the highly acclaimed Google Webapp - Blob Opera. Freddie made his GAFA arts collective debut as Alberich in Siegfried the Wagner blade in 2019. RinGafa marks Freddie's second GAFA appearance as Alberich, adding Hunding in Die Walküre to the mix.

BRÜNNHILDE

Yannick-Muriel Noah



Madagascar-born Canadian soprano Yannick-Muriel Noah exudes sumptuous lyricism and dramatic intensity. She performs in Germany, Austria, Spain, the UK, Ireland, the U.S., Canada, Australia and South Korea as lead soprano in Aida, Tosca, Madama Butterfly, Fidelio, Ariadne auf Naxos, Rusalka, Věc Makropulos, Peter Grimes, and Jonathan Dove's Marx in London. Ms Noah makes her GAFA arts collective debut as Brünnhilde in Die Walküre and in Siegfried.

Siegfried

WALDVÖGEL

Aivale Cole



"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.

Recent credits include a World Premiere Song Cycle called 'DAUGHTERS' by Chisholm 'The Silk Moth' and 'Treemonisha' as part of the London Grimeborn Festival. Aivale is a founding member of the GAFA arts collective, an associate artist and has appeared in several GAFA pieces.

FAFNER

Edwin Kaye



Edwin is an English bass who studied at the RNCM. He has previously held soloist positions with State Opera Stara Zagora and Ruse in Bulgaria, performing roles such as Colline in La Boheme or Banco in Macbeth. This year he has performed as Bluebeard in Bluebeard's Castle, Zaccaria in Nabucco and James in the premiere of Madeleine.

Edwin makes his debut with the GAFA arts collective as Fafner.

ERDE

Rhonda Browne



ODIN Warfather by Ian Wilson Pope

Götterdämmerung

SIEGFRIED

Sani Muliaumaseali'i



BRÜNNHILDE

Laura Hudson



Laura originally worked as a Chemical Process Engineer before winning a major scholarship to RNCM leading to singing the Immolation Scene for Sir Mark Elder & RNCM Orchestra. She went on to become a Goodall Scholar for London Wagner Society.

Wagner roles include: Sieglinde, Guttrune, 3rd Norn, Helmwig, Brünnhilde (Die Walküre, Siegfried). Other roles: Aida, Lady Macbeth, Amelia (Ballo in Maschera), Tosca, Manon Lescaut, Maddalena (Andrea Chenier) and Norma. Laura makes her debut with the GAFA arts collective in RinGafa.

GUNTHER

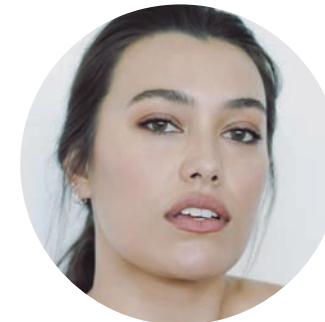
Aleksi Koponen



Aleksi Koponen trained with Neil Baker in London. Recent engagements include Fasolt, Donner (Das Rheingold) Ibn-Hakia (Iolanta), Masetto (Don Giovanni), Papageno (The Magic Flute) and Morales (Carmen). He created the role of Pozzo for Will Gardner's new commission 'You Don't Know What Our Twilights Can Do'. Alex makes his debut with the GAFA arts collective in RinGafa.

GUTRUNE

Isabella Moore



Award-winning New Zealand born Sāmoan soprano Isabella Moore has won many prestigious singing competitions within Oceania. She has been a soloist with the Auckland Philharmonic Orchestra, the Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra and the San Diego Symphony.

Her opera work includes, Suor Angelica in Puccini's Suor Angelica, Giulietta in Offenbach's The Tales of Hoffmann, Gulnara in Verdi's Il corsaro, Desdemona in Verdi's Otello and Hine-nui-te-pō in Celeste Oram's, He Pūtōrino Mākutū.

In March, she represented Aotearoa for the Queen's Commonwealth Observance Day Celebration at Westminster Abbey that was broadcast on BBC One. Isabella makes her debut with the GAFA arts collective in RinGafa.

Götterdämmerung

HAGEN

Oliver Gibbs



Oliver sang Hagen (and Alberich in Das Rheingold) in Fulham Opera's Ring Cycle in 2014 as well as Hunding in concert. He has also performed many of the leading Verdi Baritone roles (Macbeth, Simon Boccanegra, Rigoletto) with a variety of companies around the UK. He is a member of the Extra Chorus at the ROH. Oliver makes his debut with the GAFA arts collective in RinGafa.

ALBERICH

Freddie Tong



Born in Hong Kong and trained at GSMD. Recent engagement includes Hunding (Die Walküre) for Longborough Festival Opera, Council Man (Breaking the Waves) for Adelaide International Festival. During the UK 2nd Covid lockdown, Freddie provided the voice, as the Purple Blob, for the highly acclaimed Google Webapp - Blob Opera. Freddie made his GAFA arts collective debut as Alberich in Siegfried the Wagner blade in 2019. RinGafa marks Freddie's second GAFA appearance as Alberich, adding Hunding in Die Walküre to the mix.

WALTRAUTE

Julia Mintzer



Julia Mintzer made UK debuts onstage as Carmen (Welsh National Opera) and offstage with Off West End Nominations for her productions of Bluebeard's Castle and Der Vampyr. She's sung with Washington National Opera, Semperoper Dresden, Glimmerglass Festival, and directed at Venice Biennale, Helsinki Festival, and Toronto Museum of Contemporary Art. She's a member of ROH's Mentorship Programme as a director. Julia makes her debut with the GAFA arts collective in RinGafa.

3 NORN

Jordene Thomas



Jordene has worked with Grange park, Royal Danish, Birmingham Opera, Royal Shakesphere, Almeida theatre, Royal opera House, Opera North and Pegasus Opera. Her Operatic roles include, Serena (Porgy and Bess), Michaela (Carmen) Violetta (La traviata), Lady Macbeth (Macbeth) and title roles of Treemonisha and Lakme.

"Her voice is stop what you're doing right now and listen captivating"
Evening standard

Jordene makes her debut with the GAFA arts collective in RinGafa.

Götterdämmerung

1 NORN

Rhonda Browne



WELLGUNDE

Nami Shah



Namrata grew up in a musical family in Kenya where she sung Hindustani classical at home and Western classical voice in school. Her operatic adventures started at university and since then she has been part of various concerts, shows and operas in the UK, Europe, and Kenya. Currently, she is balancing raising a little family in London and singing.

Namrata marks her second appearance with the GAFA arts collective in RinGafa.

2 NORN

Christie Cook



HELMWIGE

Claudia Anghel



Götterdämmerung

FLOSSHILDE

Georgia Mae Bishop



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
professionals
and novices

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
performers,
designers and
filmmakers

Sani Muliaumaseali'i

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

Fa'afetai 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
Luana Asiata
Dimson Lodge
Dance Attic
Andrew Corett Burcher
Alex Corbett Burcher
Berni Griffiths
Caroline Philip
Sara Fogarty
KEA international
Louise Parkin
Mary Strang
Tepapa Foundation
Simon Millward
Victoria Bevan
Premier Comms
Mark Eynon
Rod Taylor
Kyle Macdonald
Daniel Faitaua & TVNZ
Grace Teuila Taylor

St Marys Putney
Samoa Tourism
Rod Taylor
Ana Lavekau
New Zealand news UK
RNZ Pacific
RM Taylor Tuilaepa - Taylor

Katrina Talei Iggelsden
Tina Bailey
Beats of Polynesia
Robert Trew
Battersea Back Clinic
New Zealand House
New Zealand Societyx
Beuatiful Samoa
Sulu Daunivalu
London Pacific Fashion Week



Donate

Our GAFA- Arts -Ecosystem initiative is by supporting a GAFA presentation you're not only helping GAFA artists and musicians you've seen today, but also our society.

An event such as this shares its fruits with

- venues and associated staff (to accommodate artists/audiences)
- public transport (to carry the artists/audience)
- hospitality (to feed the artists/audience)
- photographers, printers, designers etc ...an eco-system,

The numbers go into the several hundreds. Should you decide to donate to the GAFA- Arts -Ecosystem you'd creating opportunities for many.

A small amount can go a long way. Please donate at the www.gafa-arts-collective.com or at our box office.

Ia manuia ma fa'afetai

Sani Muliaumaseali'i and the GAFA arts collective.



Corporate Risk