



IMG *Artists*



## KIRI TE KANAWA

Kiri Te Kanawa gained legendary status almost overnight after her sensational debut as the Countess in *Le Nozze di Figaro* at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden in 1971. From then, she moved rapidly into the front rank of international opera, and has become one of the most famous sopranos in the world.

At the time of her operatic debut she was already an experienced concert and recording artist, and equally at home in front of the cameras as on stage. Continuing to develop as a recitalist, she is now a much sought-after singer in a wide variety of musical contexts.

In the genre of opera, Kiri Te Kanawa is a familiar figure in the leading opera houses of the world - Covent Garden, the Metropolitan, the Chicago Lyric Opera, Paris Opera, Sydney Opera House, the Vienna State, La Scala, San Francisco, Munich and Cologne. Her lyric soprano heroines include the three major leading roles by Richard Strauss (*Arabella*, *The Marschallin*, and the Countess in *Capriccio*); Mozart's *Fiordiligi*, *Donna Elvira*, *Pamina* and, of course, the Countess *Almaviva*; Verdi's *Violetta*, *Amelia Boccanegra*, *Desdemona*; Puccini's *Tosca*, *Mimi* and *Manon Lescaut*; Johann Strauss' *Rosalinde*, and Tchaikovsky's *Tatiana*, also Bizet's *Micaela* (or *Carmen*) and Gounod's *Marguerite*.

On the concert stage, her natural serenity and vocal beauty have joined with the world's major orchestral ensembles - Chicago Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, London Symphony and the Boston Symphony under the baton of such conductors as Claudio Abbado, Sir Colin Davis, Charles Dutoit, James Levine, Zubin Mehta, Seiji Ozawa and Sir Georg Solti.

She has appeared at venues both vast and specialised including Glyndebourne, Tanglewood, Ravinia, the arena at Verona, the Hollywood Bowl, the festivals of Aix-en-Provence and Salzburg, and the desert outback of Australia.

Kiri has released a number of distinguished recordings including the complete Don Giovanni, Le Nozze di Figaro, *Così fan Tutte*, Die Zauberflöte and Tosca, La Rondine and Manon Lescaut, plus Simon Boccanegra, Arabella, Otello, La Traviata, Der Rosenkavalier, Faust, Eugene Onegin, Carmen, Capriccio and La Bohème, along with selections of arias from French, Italian and German operas.

Outside the operatic field, her recordings are equally extensive and include: Mozart concert arias; the Strauss Four Last Songs; and the notably successful Songs of the Auvergne (top of the best-seller charts in Britain); Berlioz's *Nuits d'été*; Brahms' German Requiem; Handel's Messiah, and the Beethoven 9th and Mahler 4th Symphonies.

With versatility and poise, she joined Nelson Riddle for Blue Skies, an album of American popular songs; followed by albums of Gershwin, Porter and Kern songs and three classics of the light music stage: My Fair Lady, South Pacific, and Bernstein's only recording of West Side Story.

As well as being heard, she can also be seen on videos of Don Giovanni (dir: Joseph Losey), Le Nozze di Figaro (dir. Ponelle), Tosca (Paris Opera), Der Rosenkavalier, Die Fledermaus and Manon Lescaut (from Covent Garden), and Otello (from Covent Garden, and live from Verona), Capriccio (from San Francisco Opera) and a concert performance of My Fair Lady from the Royal Albert Hall, London.

Kiri Te Kanawa was born in New Zealand, and carries the exotic blood of native Maori aristocracy. By the time she was twenty she had won the major vocal prizes available in the South Pacific, and had also started her recording career - unusual for a prima donna in any era. After moving to London and studying at the London Opera Centre, she was engaged to sing a Flower Maiden at Covent Garden. Sir Colin Davis' attention was caught, and the young Kiri Te Kanawa was marked for Mozart's Countess, after first appearing as Carmen in Britain and New Zealand.

Since that memorable Figaro, she has mastered a large repertoire from the classics of opera to the art songs of French, German and British composers, and a great treasury of contemporary popular music.

Created a Dame Commander of the British Empire in 1982, Kiri Te Kanawa has been conferred with honorary degrees from the Universities in Oxford, Dundee, Warwick, Auckland, Waikato, Nottingham, Chicago, Durham and Cambridge. She is also an honorary fellow of Somerville College, Oxford, and Wolfson College, Cambridge, and was invested with the Order of Australia in 1990. In the 1995 Queen's Birthday Honours List, she was awarded the prestigious Order of New Zealand.

As a soloist at the wedding of HRH Prince Charles in St Paul's Cathedral, she faced one of the largest direct telecast audience of any singer in history (estimated to be over 600 million people). 1990 saw another record when, during a tour of Australia and New Zealand, her outdoor concert in the city of Auckland attracted a crowd of 140,000.

After twenty five years at the forefront of musical life, in 1994 Kiri celebrated her 50th birthday, culminating in a spectacular Birthday Concert at the Royal Albert Hall, London.

Dame Kiri released a new album "Maori Songs" (EMI Label), a tribute to her background and homeland, and also performed in Gisborne, New Zealand, to welcome the first dawn of the new Millennium. Dame Kiri was the single most featured artist throughout the 2000 TODAY live global telecast – the longest ever continuously live programme, broadcast to over 80 countries and an estimated audience of over one billion people.

Dame Kiri continues to perform in concert halls and arenas throughout the world, and will be performing the title role in Samuel Barber's "Vanessa" at the Washington Opera in October.



IMG Artists



## ROBERT REDFORD

Robert Redford has won wide acclaim for his work as an actor, producer, director, champion of independent film, and environmentalist. He won an Academy Award for best direction for his feature directing debut, the intensely emotional family drama *Ordinary People*. He was also nominated for an Academy Award for directing *Quiz Show*. As an actor, he earned an Academy Award nomination for his performance in *The Sting*. In 2002, he received an honorary Academy Award recognizing his achievements as an actor, director, producer, and the creator of the Sundance Institute. Redford also directed and produced *The Milagro Beanfield War*, *A River Runs Through It*, *The Horse Whisperer*, *The Legend Of Bagger Vance* and *Lions For Lambs* and served as executive producer and narrator of *Incident At Oglala*, a documentary about the Native American activist Leonard Peltier. Born in Santa Monica, California, Redford attended the University of Colorado but left school after two years to travel through Europe, studying art in Paris and Florence. He continued his art studies when he returned to the U.S. by enrolling at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn. At the suggestion of an instructor, Redford moved to the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, where a passion for acting superseded his interest in pictorial art. A small part on Broadway led to roles in several major live television dramas, and, in 1961, he made his feature debut in *War Hunt*. Later that year, he starred in his first Broadway show, *Sunday In New York*, which was soon followed by *Barefoot In The Park*. It was the film version of *Barefoot In The Park* that first brought him both public and industry notice. Redford went on to portray an array of characters in a spectrum of films, many from his own production company, Wildwood Enterprises. Under the Wildwood banner, Redford starred in *Downhill Racer* and *The Candidate*, and he produced and starred in *All The President's Men*. Other film roles include *Butch Cassidy And The Sundance Kid*, *Jeremiah Johnson*, *The Way We Were*, *The Three Days Of The Condor*, *Brubaker*, *The Natural*, *Out Of Africa*, *Indecent Proposal*, *Up Close And Personal*, *The Last Castle*, *Spy Game*, *The Clearing* and *An Unfinished Life*. Redford received the 1997 National Medal for the Arts from President Clinton. In December 2005, Redford accepted the Kennedy Center Honors for his

"distinguished achievement in the performing arts and in recognition of his extraordinary contributions to the life of our country."