



Håkan Hågegard in tuition with Jonathan Evers, bass baritone from Hamilton.

One of the features of this year's NZ Opera School at Whanganui in January was the attendance of internationally renowned Swedish operatic baritone Håkan Hågegard. He was there as the voice tutor at the annual school for New Zealand's emerging opera stars for which the Foundation has been a supporter for some years.

Mr Hågegard has performed in all the world's major opera houses and holds a Professorship in Vocal Studies at the Norwegian Academy of Music in Oslo, Norway. His Masonic connection was established playing the role of Papageno in Ingmar Bergman's 1975 acclaimed film version of Mozart's Masonic opera 'Die Zauberflöte' (The Magic Flute), regarded as one of the finest opera films ever made.

Magic Flute connection adds extra masonic flavour to Whanganui Opera School

As has become the custom during the two weeks the opera school is in town, an evening for Whanganui Freemasons and their wives and friends was held at which, this year, Professor Hagegard was the special guest and speaker. Arranged with local Freemasons by Opera School founder and Executive Chairman W Bro Donald Trott, the evening was a resounding success. Professor Hågegard spoke at length, using film clips, about his experience making the Bergman film and his understanding of the Masonic and other influences embedded in this Mozart masterpiece.

The two-week school provides intensive vocal, language and acting training with tutors of international standing for competitively selected students who are looking to make careers in opera. Public performances are also scheduled around Whanganui City culminating in the finale, this year the Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation 'Great Opera Moments' at the Royal Wanganui Opera House.

NZ Opera will perform 'The Magic Flute' in their 2016 programme in Wellington May 28 - June 4 and Auckland June 16 - 26

Buy tickets at www.nzopera.com

NORTH EAST SOUTH & WEST



McCahon House Trust

A donation has been made by the Foundation to the McCahon House Trust. The Trust is the body responsible for the conservation of the work of New Zealand's greatest painter Colin McCahon. The house where he lived and worked in French Bay in Titirangi, Auckland, in the fifties is now a museum. Alongside it, a purpose-built studio and accommodation is used by the winners of contemporary artists' residencies to research and develop new work each year. The site has received thousands of visitors since it was restored and opened to the public in 2006.

Writers Festival success spurs our support

The success of our venture into the Auckland Writers Festival last year has prompted us to again put our weight behind the Schools Programme in 2016.

Record attendances and halls full of enthusiastic teenagers came from every direction in the Auckland area last year to fill the Aotea Centre and Town Hall venues to hear international and local writers talk about their art and explain their methods. To meet the demand the Festival has expanded the schools days this year with extra sessions and workshops. The Festival itself takes place on 10th-15th May. As an added advantage our 'Gold Partner' status for the Schools Programme part of the Festival is given considerable exposure through the event's printed programme and media publicity. A Freemasons-branded item is included in the give-away pack for all student attendees.

The Festival is very appreciative of our support. They write in the programme - 'The Auckland Writers Festival is delighted to deliver its Schools Programme with the generous support of the Freemasons Foundation. Through this programme we hope to inspire young writers and readers and celebrate the wonderful world of story with them'. For more details - www.writersfestival.co.nz



Telling the New Zealand story

The Foundation has agreed to help them with their 'Books in School Libraries Programme' already well-established with Teachers Associations and School Libraries. In this new issue of key history titles, 3,000 books will be placed in 480 school libraries for the benefit of nearly 300,000 students. Amongst the six history books, selected by history teachers as 'must-haves', are 'The Treaty of Waitangi' by Claudia Orange, the standard guide and definitive history; and 'Encircled Lands; Te Urewera 1820-1921' by Judith Binney.

The Books in School Libraries programme makes a positive contribution to New Zealand schools at a time when school libraries are often working with constrained budgets.

With the publisher we share the vision about the significance of knowledge of New Zealand, and its place in the education of young New Zealanders, giving them a fuller understanding of their country, its past and its future. We are happy to contribute to the 'Books in School Libraries' programme.

NORTH EAST SOUTH & WEST

Huntington's Up-date

We are helping the University of Auckland's Centre for Brain Research to bring top researchers from the Harvard Medical School to New Zealand. Professors James Gusella and Marcy MacDonald, collaborators with our Professor Faull and his team working on the Huntington's mission, are expected in March to update our researchers, clinicians and patients on the latest scientific advances and the search for treatments. A free public lecture will be held. Watch our website for details - www.freemasonsfoundation.org.nz

NZ Opera at St Thomas'

The Foundation's annual gala of operatic hits performed by the young resident artists of NZ Opera will take place this year on Thursday 21st April at St Thomas' Church in Kohimarama.

A full house last year and a review in 'Metro' who dubbed it 'huge fun', will surely see another sell out. So watch for the usual email notice to Lodges coming soon. Or you can book direct from the Foundation - contact details above.



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