



## **We are back !**

**Welcome to a 'bumper' newsletter!**

**We're back from our two months travelling, with almost back-to-back tours (England and Wales, then Viva Verdi in Italy), plus time spent in Malta in between, researching for 2020! We're tired...working hard to catch up in the office...but we're also feeling very satisfied that both tours went so well and that we had 50 happy clients spread over the two. If you wish to read a brief review of what we did..there will be links to click at the end of this newsletter.**

**We are now busy fine-tuning elements for our sold-out 'Dolce Vita' tour next May, (don't despair if you wanted to do this one, we'll probably repeat it in 2021 if you can wait!) There are two tours for 2020 for which you can now 'Reserve a Place'. A lot of people have already secured places on both tours. (details further down)**

**Finally, there are still two very appealing tours that you can join next year. Read on and be tempted!**

**To those who had to wait longer than usual for our attention whilst we were travelling, thank you for your patience. To our many new subscribers welcome to your first newsletter and we hope you enjoy reading. Finally a big thank you to all who completed our travel survey. You have helped us immensely with our future planning!We're here in the office now for the foreseeable future and ready to receive calls or emails should you wish to get in touch. We love to hear from our delightful clients!**



**HANDA 'Opera on the Harbour!'  
TWO Tours ... 6 - 10 & 10 - 14 April 2019**

Next year the annual HANDA production will make an exciting departure from opera to a musical. In the stunning harbour-side setting at Mrs Macquarie's Chair, one of the all time great musicals, Bernstein's 'West Side Story'...brim full of our favourite melodies...Maria, Tonight, Somewhere.... ..will fill the stage!

We're offering two tours next year to allow all those who wish to join us a place. Tour Two is approaching full, (flights worked better from some states) whilst Tour One has more places. Come and enjoy what promises to be a spectacular production enjoyed in tandem with our signature, very enjoyable activities and meals.

With 'real singers' in the lead roles, (ie they sing opera as well as musicals, in true 'cross-over' style), we expect great things from their portrayals of Maria and Tony. A fabulous ensemble has been assembled too and there will certainly be some breath-taking dance routines.



**KEY PEOPLE:**

**CONDUCTOR:** Guy Simpson. Most recent credits - Evita and My Fair Lady (directed by Julie Andrews) for Opera Australia, The Wizard of Oz, Dream Lover and since 1990, a long relationship with The Phantom of the Opera.

**DIRECTOR:** Francesca Zambello. Coming from America with an extensive list of credits in both Opera and Musicals.

**MARIA:** Julia Lea Goodwin. Australian soprano (she was our spirited Musetta in this year's 'La Boheme on the Harbour'.) She has sung Christine to Anthony Warlow's Phantom and other leads in opera and musicals.

**TONY:** Alexander Lewis. The English-Australian tenor whose father is well known

**Australian baritone Michael Lewis and mother Welsh soprano Patricia Price! From a Cathedral choir boy at just seven, he is now acknowledged world-wide as a great cross-over singer & performer.**

**OUR 'STAND-OUT' WEST SIDE STORY PACKAGE :**

- 4 nights at the 5-star, heritage Sir Stamford hotel at Circular Quay
  - Full buffet and cooked to order breakfast daily
  - Premium Seats at the Show (i.e. centre front of the stage)
- A 'backstage' tour on the water, before the show (this is fascinating!!)
  - Private Sydney airport transfers and transfers to/from the show
- A Lavish Dinner at the Intercontinental Hotel's famous Seafood & International buffet, with wine. (This is a few steps from our hotel! )
- A delightful 3-course dinner in our hotel's Elizabeth Room, with wine
- A private tour of the Museum of Sydney, including a special exhibition of photography from the streets of Sydney from the 30s to 60s.
- A long-lunch harbour cruise, with wine, in our private dining room

You'll love it all! (pics below...our Captain Cook cruiser!)

**EMAIL US TO RECEIVE MORE INFORMATION - [studio@operatif.com.au](mailto:studio@operatif.com.au)**

**A Musical OPERATIF!..... in TONGA! - August '19**



**Our Musical Tour to Tonga is filling nicely so all of those joining us can look forward to a very convivial time with fellow music-lovers.**

**We're flying Virgin from Sydney and your luggage can be through-checked and linked with any domestic Virgin flight. You will get to Tonga from home and also then return from Tonga to home, in one day. Bliss!**

**We'll all stay at the Tanoa Resort, opposite the beach and an easy walk to town and the shops in the Tongan capital of Nuku'alofa. We're close to the Royal Palace too!**

**We will present a number of different concerts by a variety of performers from Australia and possibly NZ too. (We've just started talking to people and will have everyone confirmed very soon.) Concerts will be presented at the Tanoa Resort and we will also invite some local performers to come and entertain at dinner.**

**There will be local tours organised for you, including a visit to the Cultural Centre to learn all about the unique Tongan traditions, guided visits to important landmarks and local attractions, a day trip to enjoy lunch at a resort set on a pristine stretch of beach. We'll also all attend a fun night of traditional Tongan entertainment and food! This will be a relaxed holiday with some delightful music and activities to enjoy in good company. There will also be free time to just do as you please. The weather will be a comfortable..26c daily and stable.**

**INCLUDED IN OUR TOUR PACKAGE :**

- Return Virgin flights from Sydney  
(we can book domestic ones for you)**
- 10 nights at the 4 .5 star Tanoa Resort  
- Full buffet breakfast daily**
- A variety of informal concerts by Australian (and NZ) artists**
- Local History and Culture Tours, including Tongan Culture Centre  
- A special day trip with lunch at a beachside resort**
- A special night of traditional Tongan entertainment and food**
- Five delicious themed buffet dinners (plus the Tongan feast!)**

**What a wonderful winter break! You'll certainly be glad you came...**

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**- 'Reserve Your Place' -  
NOW AVAILABLE for 2020 TOURS!**

**What is this? ...**

**To explain for newcomers, to 'Reserve a Place' for a coming tour simply entails paying a \$200 fully-refundable deposit to hold your spot until we have final details and pricing for you to consider. At this point you can decide to proceed and book or withdraw and reclaim your \$200. 'Reserving a Place' gives peace of mind, ensuring you won't miss out on a tour that interests you. It works very well... In the case of Bohemian Rhapsody 2017 and Dolce Vita 2019, the tour was filled by**

**those who 'Reserved a Place' before it went on general sale. Many clients were disappointed so don't risk this being you!  
Here are two tours you can currently reserve.**

## **Southern Passion - Sicily and Malta, May 2020**



**This tour is sheer magic...two exotic islands to explore and both so different!**

**In Malta we explore the capital, Valetta, with it's colourful history of the Knights of St John, it's important WW2 roles, the Ottoman Great Seige miraculously repelled in the 1600s and more... We'll visit the 4,000 year old towns of Mdina and Rabat too. There is just so much to see but we'll also give you free time to wander the charming cobbled streets of Valetta and marvel at the gracious, warm stone buildings, to enjoy a drink in open piazzas or in the Barrakka gardens overlooking the magnificent harbour. You can easily take a cruise too or simply relax in our magnificent 5-star hotel with its stunning pool set right up against the old city wall!**

**In Sicily, a much larger island, there is even more! We'll visit the majestic cities of Palermo and Catania, enjoy the slow pace of spectacular Taormina overlooking the coastline and Etna and wander around the charming island town of old Ortigia in Siracusa. We'll explore the Baroque golden stone towns of the Noto Valley and even catch Noto's annual Infiorita when the streets are 'painted' with large murals, using flower petals instead of 'paint.'**

**Just some of the many performance treats will be a thrilling evening in the ancient Greek theatre in Siracusa, where each year they produce an classical drama, a**

**hilarious Pupi (large puppet) show and a marvellous display of Sicilian song and dance presented by family company in their own small theatre. There will be opera in Palermo, Catania or both (season schedules pending).**

**We'll experience the stark contrasts of this island from our visit to a small farm where we dine like kings on everything from cheese, to salami, to breads, vegetables, sweet cannoli and wine...a full repast and all created right there! We'll travel high up to the 'navel' of Sicily, to the small town of Enna where they say the goddess Ceres looked down from her jutting rock and blessed the crops far below. Here we'll enjoy a delicious dinner as we savour the talents of two special musicians and their traditional music.**

**We aim to rub shoulders with royalty (their schedules permitting), with two gracious properties sometimes opened specially for tours hosted by the owners. In contrast, we'll enjoy a hilarious boat ride with a character larger than life..who loves nothing more than to sail around his coastline, showing his passengers a fine time!**

**From churches and villas filled with glittering mosaics to large puppets with haunting faces, from fabulous seafood to delicate marzipan fruits, from palaces to rustic small farms...Sicily is a place brim full of energy, warmth and surprises...and one you will NEVER forget... We guarantee it!**

**CALL US ON 1300 308 385 TO Reserve Your Place !**

## **Viva Verdi ! Verdi Festival & La Scala - October 2020**

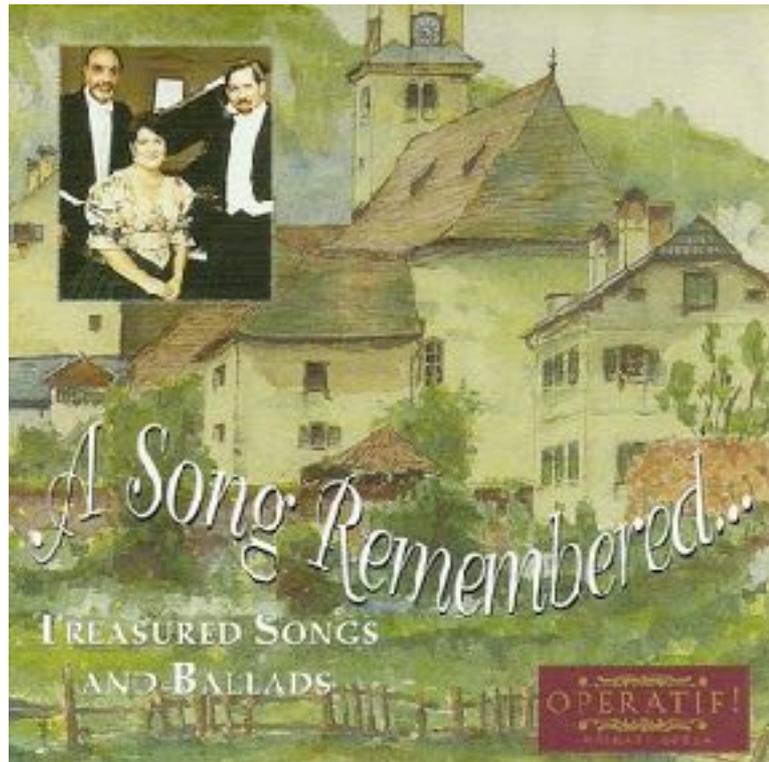
**This will be our third tour based around the now internationally-acclaimed Festival Verdi in Parma. It's really such a potent, enjoyable and memorable tour, we're yielding to requests from those who've missed the last two.**

**We're very proud to have developed wonderful relationships with staff at Festival Verdi and also at La Scala in Milan, where our tour culminates. We can confidently say at the outset that you will enjoy excellent seats, despite the demands upon them from all over the world!**

**Aside from a wonderful collection of Verdi operas to be enjoyed (2020 schedule is some way off yet), we take you on a journey to special places in Verdi's life, enabling you to better understand the man and his music. He was born just outside Parma in Emilia Romagna, a region which also gave us Pavarotti, Toscanini, Renata Tebaldi and Carlo Bergonzi among others. We visit Verdi's homes and other places of significance, tour Pavarotti's country estate and much more. Our tour finishes at Verdi's Casa di Riposo, the retirement home for musicians he established in Milan and where he is laid to rest.**

**We have excellent hotels, right in the heart of everything, we have brilliant guides, we have many very unique experiences such as a tour and lunch at a very welcoming, family-owned balsamic vinegar farm. Fabulous restaurants are a given**

**in this region of world-famous cuisine...so we know we can guarantee another magical tour for the lucky people who come!**



**DO YOU HAVE OUR CD of best-loved songs from yesteryear ?**

**"A Song Remembered" can be mailed to you for just \$20 (including postage) or \$25 (outside Australia.)**

**OPERATIF - Music Lovers Tours**

**Ph 1300 308 385 [musicloverstours.com.au](http://musicloverstours.com.au)**

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