

## Guest Artists

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**KIRI TE KANAWA**  
Soprano

Born in Gisborne, New Zealand, of a Maori father and European mother, Kiri Te Kanawa began her music studies at Auckland in 1958, remaining there until 1966. While in Australia she participated in many competitions and won numerous prizes, including second place in the Sydney Sun Aria Competition, and first place in the Melbourne Sun Aria Competition; the latter resulted in a New Zealand Arts Council grant for four years of study at the London Opera Centre. There she appeared in many opera productions, including Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, Donizetti's *Anna Bolena*, Poulenc's *The Dialogues of the Carmelites* and Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*.

In the summer of 1969 she returned to New Zealand to sing in Bizet's *Carmen* with the New Zealand Opera Company; her performance was enthusiastically acclaimed by both critics and audiences, and the production played to sold-out houses throughout the season. She also made a concert and recital tour of New Zealand and represented her country at Expo '70 in Japan.

During the 1970-71 season Miss Te Kanawa made her debut at Covent Garden as Xenia in Moussorgsky's *Boris Godunov*, and also was heard as the first Flower Maiden in Wagner's *Parsifal*. That summer she made her United States debut with the Santa Fe Opera as the Countess in Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*.

In December, 1971, Miss Te Kanawa's performance as the Countess in *The Marriage of Figaro* created a sensation at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, provoking Andrew Porter to exclaim "Such a Countess as I have never heard before, not at Covent Garden nor in Salzburg or Vienna." Thus, at the age of 26, Miss Te Kanawa embarked on a career

that has since taken her to the San Francisco Opera, the Metropolitan Opera, Paris Opera and the Glyndebourne Festival, to name but a few.

This season she has appeared with Claudio Abbado and the Vienna Philharmonic in Vienna, Ghent and at the Berlin Festival; at the Houston Grand Opera in Richard Strauss' *Arabella*; and as Rosalinda in Covent Garden's new production of Johann Strauss' *Die Fledermaus*. Following her appearances with the Chicago Symphony, she is scheduled to sing Donna Elvira in Cologne's Mozart festival production of *Don Giovanni*.

Miss Te Kanawa's recent recordings include Bizet's *Carmen* with the London Philharmonic under the direction of Sir Georg Solti, released by London Records. ■