

CHARITY OPERA & ORCHESTRAL CONCERT

OPERA

Sustains The World

18 SEPTEMBER 2016

Battersea Park, SW11 4NJ * 2.30 – 5.30pm

www.gafasamoa.com

A photograph of two hands, one from the left and one from the right, reaching up to form a heart shape. The hands are positioned in front of a bright, low sun, creating a silhouette effect. The background is a warm, golden sunset with blurred lights from buildings or street lamps. The overall mood is romantic and hopeful.

**Love is the most sustainable
energy resource we possess!**

It's in the music.
It's in the elements.
It's in us all.

VERDI - PUCCINI - BIZET - WAGNER - STRAUSS - PACIFIC ARTS

CREATIVE DIARY OF EVENTS

All works written and directed
by Sani Muliaumaseali'i

2017

SHARE THE WORLD TOUR
Samoa, USA, Hawaii, Australia,
Aotearoa NZ

2016

KAVA GIRLS: A play with Songs
UK Pride Tour: May - Aug 2016
Origins Festival: May - June 2015
'WORLD PREMIERE' Edinburgh
Festival: 2014

**A FAMILY CALLED SAMOA -
GUAM**
Selected to represent Samoa
12th Festival of Pacific Arts, May
'WORLD PREMIERE': 2012
Origins Festival: 2013

2015

THE THIRD COUNTRY
A moving rehearsed reading
Dimson Lodge, Battersea
December

'R'OTELLO
Rugby Opera with the
Wandsworth Symphony
Orchestra
Leigh O'hara and Andy Philip Maestri,
Caius House, Battersea

'STOPHIT'
Fun Palace against
domestic violence'
Millenium Arena, Battersea
October

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FORWARD

Since 2012 GAFA Arts Collective 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 others' 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 and this years UK Pride Tour to 2015's rugby-opera mash-up 'R'Otello' complete with choir, band and full orchestra, all in the gymnasium of a youth centre in urban London. There are two reasons for the company's huge and varied output – the first, of course, is progenitor's Sani Muliaumaseali'i 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 five 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 five years should be very interesting.

STELLA DUFFY OBE
Associate Artist
GAFA Arts Collective

ITS ALL ABOUT THE LOVE

Love is the most sustainable resource we possess. It moves and encourages, propels co-erces and keeps going. Love keeps us going. Sustaining our lives and our loves.

Opera is borne of love - as a composer myself, my love of the art form has kept me up at all hours and sleeping at odd hours or until I've done enough. Sometimes its never enough, no time to pause not even stopping in name of love. I looked at the world and saw bombs going off in the media and watched as explosions of fear proliferated rippling out side swiping the most generous of kens - I witness the closing of minds and of borders and sought solace in the art that has sustained me throughout - that sustains me today and found love. Everyone involved in this project from the singers, to the musicians, the architects, builders, designers - have all employed the inexhaustible resource of love to create love: to perfect, polish and present a new view of the world that is close to perfection.

When the GAC was chosen to select Samoa at the 12th Festival of Pacific Arts in Guam in May of this year, I experienced a heart moving performance from the Tokelau contingent about rising sea levels drowning their ancestral lands, and their ancestors burial grounds. The Tokelauans sang, they danced their message, clear through their art: OSTW sends the same message of connection, sustainability - love - through the art that is Opera. Opera is passion and we all need to be passionate about these issues.

We've invited Greenpeace, Mediciens sans Frontiers and Amnesty International to offer further avenues for us all to act on this connectivity. The repertoire and the spoken words have been curated to reinforce the message of love.

We are all here today because of our love of something: music, community, a need to be together. Sustaining the world - we seek to inspire the audience to connect to the joy of the love that is within. The participants will engage to this SUSTAINABLE LOVE, to themselves, to their neighbours, community and to the planet. Its local and its global.

Sani Muliaumaseali'i

REPERTOIRE

1. OVERTURE from La Traviata Giuseppe Verdi
Led by Maestro Andy Philip
GAFA Samoa Orchestra of the future
Words: Savili - Wind by CR Giles

2. ARIA: 'La donna e mobile' Rigoletto Giuseppe Verdi
Ben Makisi Tenor

3. ARIA: 'Sequidilla' from Carmen Georges Bizet
Louise Callinan Mezzo Soprano
Words: Ele'ele - Earth by CR Giles

DUET: 'Vien Malika, Dôme épais le jasmin' from Lakme by Delibes
Aivale Cole Soprano & Louise Callinan
Words: Mediciens sans Frontières'

4. ARIA: 'I got plenty of nuttin' *Benson Wilson Baritone*

5. 'Summertime' Porgy & Bess George Gershwin
Aivale Cole Soprano
Words: Amnesty International

6. ORCHESTRA: 'Siegfried Idyll' from Siegfried by Richard Wagner
GAFA Samoa Orchestra of the future

7. QUARTET: Bella figlia dell' Amore' Rigoletto
Giuseppe Verdi

Marlena Devoe Soprano, Louise Callinan, Ben Makisi, Benson Wilson
Words: 'Unity' by Selina Tusitala Marsch. Theda Lehmann, Melissa Veszi, Sara Tauklonga

8. ARIA: 'Nessun Dorma'- Turandot by Giacomo Puccini,
Ben Makisi Tenor

INTERVAL

9. MOANA NUI (Pacific) Arts: Siva Samoa, Ivy Warner
Words: Fire - Afi: Sani Muliaumaseali'i

10. ARIA: Habanera
Louise Callinan

11. ARIA: Votre toast, je peux vous le rendre / Toreador song
Benson Wilson
'Carmen' Georges Bizet
The Band & GAC Singers

12. ARIA: 'O patria mia' Aida
Giuseppe Verdi,
Aivale Cole
Words: Greenpeace

13. DUET: Au fond du temple saint 'The Pearlfishers'
Georges Bizet
Ben Makisi & Benson Wilson
Words:

14. ARIA: 'O mio babbino caro' from Gianni Schicchi
by Giacomo Puccini
Marlena Devoe

15. DUET: 'Brindisi' from La Traviata
Marlena Devoe, Ben Makisi and the GAC
Words: Earth by R Ciprian

16. Morgen by Richard Strauss
Violin Solo

17. Cover Me - from 'Kava Girls' by Sani Muliaumaseali'i
Melissa Veszi Soprano, Ninotchka Tingleff Mezzo Soprano, Sani Muliaumaseali'i Tenor

MOANA NUI Arts: HAKA
Rikki James Hall

18. WAIATA: Pokarekare ana Traditional Maori:
Ben Makisi, Sara Tauklonga, Helen Karikari, Theda Lehmann, Karin Mochan
Words: Closing

PESE: Lota nu'u Traditional Samoa song
Led by Louise Callinan

19. September by American R&B band Earth, Wind & Fire. Written by Maurice White, Al McKay, and Allee Willis
Arranged by Maestro Andy Philip. Melissa Veszi, Ninotchka Tingleff & Full company



POP-UP PACIFIC OPERA HUT

The 'Pacific Opera Hut' is a reimagining of the Polynesian primitive hut, a relocatable architectural flat-pack in a South Pacific style. Designed by WHAT_architecture for GAFA Samoa, the 'Pacific Opera Hut' is a unique blend of two grass huts: the traditional closed gabled Maori 'whare' (pron. 'far-ray') has been duplicated and rotated to create the open domed Samoan 'fale' (pron. 'far-lay'). The Polynesian primitive hut has undergone digital transformation.



ITS MY FAVORITE OPERA
HOUSE, FRANKLY ITS A
POLYNESIAN LOVE-INN

Dame Kiri Te Kanawa



DESIGN TEAM: Anthony Hoete, Marco Agosti, Nicolò Cini
ARTWORK: Lisa Reihana, 'In pursuit of Venus'

ABOUT US

THE BIGGEST PACIFIC ARTS FESTIVAL ON EARTH

In May of this year The GAFA Arts Collective was chosen to be part of the delegation to represent Samoa at the 12th Festival of Pacific Arts in Guam, (FOPA) in May 2016. Held every four years since 1972, FOPA is the biggest festival of its kind in the world. It brings together thousands of artists and cultural practitioners from around the Pacific region. It was the first time ever, that Samoa allowed foreign nationals to represent her at FOPA. This rare honor afforded to the GAC made history. We performed our inaugural layered experience 'A family called Samoa' which was written to celebrate Samoa's 50th Independence celebrations.





GAC

GAFA ARTS COLLECTIVE (GAC)

SILIGA SANI MULIAUMASEALII

A layered art exponent, Sani studied singing at Queensland Conservatorium of Music, Australia, where he gained his BMus and Post Graduate Diploma. He has sung opera all over the world having toured with the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden performed with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra in Canada under Kent Nagano. In recent years Sani has taken up writing for the stage, has written a play for the Royal Court in London 'The Third Country' and his musical 'Kava Girls' was 'Pick of the Edinburgh Fringe' in 2014 and will enjoy a UK tour in the summer of 2016. His work 'R'Otello the rugby opera' saw a full symphony orchestra and an international cast. His inaugural piece 'A family called Samoa' was featured at the Origins Festival 2013 and will represent Samoa at the Festival of Pacific Arts in Guam in May 2016. Sani has directed, produced and curated all his work.

OSTW ARTISTS

AIVALE COLE

London based Samoan Soprano Aivale Cole was born and raised in New Zealand. Formerly a student of the late Elizabeth Connell, Miss Cole now studies with Mirella Freni. Aivale's performances on the concert platform include Verdi's Requiem, Strauss's Four Last Songs, Handel's Messiah and the world premier of The Passion according to St Mark (Richard Mills). On the operatic stage she has been seen in the title roles in Aida, Ariadne auf Naxos and Madama Butterfly and many more. Aivale is a founding member of the GAC appearing in 'A Family called Samoa' 2012, 'Pacific Voices' Chelsea Town Hall 2014, and as Mona in 'R'Otello the rugby Opera' 2015.

LOUISE CALLINAN

International Mezzo soprano Louise was the first Australian to be accepted into the Young Artist Program at the Opéra National de Paris she is also the winner of the prestigious AROP prize of Opéra National de Paris. She has sung many Orchestras including BBC Symphony, Chicago Symphony, l'Orchestre Theatre de l'Opera Luxembourg. She sang the 2nd lady in the film version of (The Magic Flute) directed by Kenneth Branagh. Louise now performs the Dramatic mezzo repertoire. Louise is a founding member featured as our star mezzo in 'Pacific Voices' Chelsea Town Hall 2014, and was most recently seen as Carmen in 'R'Otello the rugby Opera' 2015.

STELLA DUFFY OBE

Stella Duffy has written thirteen novels, forty-five short stories, and ten plays. She has directed at the Riverside, Pleasance, Soho, Oval House and the Gilded Balloon. She is an Associate Artist with Improbable and Associate Director with Shaky Isles. Stella was awarded an OBE in this years honours list.

SISTAR S'PACIFIC

Born in NZ, Rosanna's Samoan heritage has fuelled her artistic practice. She is an innovator of the contemporary Pasifika art scene and long-standing member of art collective the Pacific Sisters, Sistar S'pacific aka Rosanna Raymond embodies the cutting edge.

MARLENA DEVOE

Winner of the Joan Sutherland and Richard Bonyne Bel Canto Award, New Zealand born Samoan soprano Marlena Devoe is a graduate of the Wales International Academy of Voice, where she studied with Dennis O'Neill and Nuccia Focile. She studied at the University of Auckland, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts



Guam



Curcubuet Eurovision Entry



Guam



Guam



Kava Girls



Nafanua Entrance



GUAM

Gafa Arts Collective (GAC)

in Italian and German and attended the Georg Solti Accademia di Bel Canto in 2013. Recent operatic engagements have included debuts with Clonter Opera as Violetta La Traviata and Opera Project as Gilda Rigoletto in 2016, Lyric Opera Productions Dublin as Mimi La Bohème, Singapore Lyric Opera as Lauretta Gianni Schicchi in 2015 and at the 2014 Verbier Festival as Adina L'elisir d'amore. OSTW marks Marlenas debut with the Gafa Arts Collective.

BEN MAKISI

Benjamin Fifita Makisi was born in Wellington, NZ and is of Tongan and Samoan descent. He has performed alongside Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Dame Malvina Major, Sir Donald McIntyre and the Late Sir Howard Morrison. He sang for the State funeral of Sir Edmund Hillary which had a global audience. Ben made his debut with the GAC in 2013 in Pacific Voices, Chelsea Town Hall. Benjamin is now based in the United Kingdom and is currently a Guest Entertainer on Carnival UK Cruises travelling around the world.

BENSON WILSON

New Zealand born Samoan Benson Wilson, baritone, completed his BMus (Hons) at the end of 2014 at the University of Auckland. This year Benson won the prestigious 2016 Lexus Song Quest, past winners include Aivale Cole and Dame Kiri te Kanawa. Benson makes his debut with the Gafa Arts Collective with OSTW, and in Sept will take his place in a Guildhall Artists Master's program at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

ANDY PHILIP

Since studying music (MMus) at Goldsmiths, Andy's diverse performance career has ranged from the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra to Australian X-Factor, from the Royal Festival Hall to The Big Chill. Compositional work has been premiered at the ICA and Edinburgh Festival and he is currently resident guitarist on the Olivier award winning

show Wicked. The talented Andy has worked with the GAC since 2014, arranging the scores for Kava Girls, R'Otello and OSTW.

RIKI JAMES-HALL

A Maori, born in Rotorua, New Zealand, currently living in London. Blessed to have been brought up amongst Maori culture, Riki has had the privilege of being able to share his culture all over the world through Kapa haka performances and running team building seminars for people of all ages.

SELINA TUSITALA MARSH

A Pasifika poet-scholar of Samoan, Tuvaluan, English and French descent. Selina is the 2016 Commonwealth Poet Her award-winning poetry collection, Fast Talking PI (Auckland University Press, 2009), won the New Zealand Book Jesse Mackay Best First Book Award and its titular poem took on cult status in schools and community groups. Her second poetry collection, Dark Sparring was published in 2013 (Auckland University Press) to critical acclaim with the NZ Listener calling her a poet at the 'vanguard of contemporary Pacific Literature' and 'one of the most important poetic voices of her generation' (2013).

C.R. GILES

Originally hailing from Kota Kinabalu, Borneo, C.R. Giles is a London based writer and performer. She has enjoyed a wide-ranging performance career from Hollywood (Alexander dir. Oliver Stone, Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire dir. Mike Newell) to the West End stage (Wicked and The Lion King). Her acclaimed debut dramatisation, The Also-Ran (directed by Jason Lawson) premiered at the 2015 Edinburgh Fringe

LUANA ASIATA

Born in NZ and of Samoan descent, Luana has led an exciting career as a versatile and innovative graphic/web designer having worked in Sydney, Auckland and currently in London.

She studied at Elam School of Fine Arts and has swapped her paintbrush for a mouse and has never looked back.

MELISSA VESZI

Melissa Veszi was accepted to the prestigious Grant MacEwan Theatre Arts Program, where she studied drama, and musical theatre and graduated with honours. ! Melissa Veszi has traveled Canada, gracing equity stages in over a dozen musical theatre shows. She has gone on to play, Rosie in Bye Bye Birdie, Belle in Beauty and The Beast as well as understudy the role of Deena Jones in Dreamgirls. Melissa made her debut with GAC in as Salma in Kava Girls for UK Pride Tour 2016.

NINOTCHKA TINGLEFF

Performer Ninotchka Tingleff has been with the Gafa Arts Collective since 2014. She created the role Debra Taylor in Kava Girls which has seen iterations at the Edinburgh Festival, Origins Festival and The Wandsworth Fringe. A talented maker of fine cuisine Ninotchka is the creator of 'Garbos Travelling Tearooms'

GAC: Theda Lehmann *Soprano* Helen Karikari *Soprano* Sara Taukolonga *Mezzo Soprano* Karin Mochan *Mezzo* Ivy Warner *Samoan Movement maker*

ORCHESTRA: 1st Violins: Debs White, Harriet Davis, Emma Shackleton, Jamie Faulkner. 2nd Violins: Ruth Funnell, Julian Trafford, Roisin Walters. **Violas:** Katie Wilkinson, Charles Waterman. **Cello:** Nick Squires, Hannah Thomas. **Double Bass & Bass Guitar:** Phil Donnelly. **Flute:** Rebecca Larson. **Oboe:** Nicky Holland. **Clarinet / Alto saxophone:** Paul Saunders. **Bassoon:** Michael Grant. **French Horns:** Marcus Bates, Joe Solomons. **Percussion & Kit:** Oli Blake. **Guitar:** Dan Thomas, Tim Rose

HOSTED BY: Sani Muliaumaseali'i

THANKYOU!

TO OUR PARTNERS. TO OUR FAMILIES. TO OUR FRIENDS: GAC THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND LOVE ON OSTW, AND IN LIFE!

THE OSTW MAKERS

Executive Producer: Peter Rice
Creative Director: Sani Muliaumaseali'i
Team Logic: Robert Ciprian
Assistant Producer: Cathy Mathos

Anthony Hoete, Olly Hill, Will Burn, Marco Agosti, Nicolo Cini, Chiara Picciolo, Lyndall Dawson, Caroline Rovina, Juan Bedoyoroja, Will Boyd, Luana Asiata, Robert Trew, Shireen Nathoo, Dimson Lodge, Dance attic, Lesley Cox, Tagata Pasifika TVNZ, Battersea Back Clinic, Riaz Punja, Geoffrey Cox, Marion Muliaumaseali'i, Suzz Bell, Co-op Battersea, Ivy Warner, Nathalie Ford, The Butcher and Grill, Jamie Bell, Lianne Unasa, Nicky Holland, Jonathan Lyness *Opera Orchestrations*, Kenneth Roberts *Smallscores*

A huge faafetai and thank you to all the wonderful volunteers!

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