

## Kiri Te Kanawa Sings Verdi & Puccini Arias (2005)

Written by bluesever

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01. *Tu Che Le Vanita Conoscesti* From *Don Carlo* 02. *Timor Di Me - D'amor Sull'ali Rosee* From *Il Trovatore* [play](#) 03. *E Strano - Ah, Fors' E Lui* From *La Traviata* 04. *Se Come Voi Piccina Io Fossi* From *Le Villi* [play](#) 05. *Vissi D'arte* From *Tosca* 06. *Chi Il Bel Sogno Di Doretta* From *La Rondine* 07. *Quando Me'n Vo' Soletta Per La Via* From Act I of *La Boheme* 08. *In Quelle Trine Morbide* From *Manon Lescaut* 09. *O Mio Babbino Caro* From *Gianni Schicchi* 10. *Un Bel Di Vedremo* From *Madama Butterfly*

Kiri Te Kanawa - soprano, Laurence Dale – tenor, London Philharmonic Orchestra, John Pritchard – conductor Bonus Tracks

11. *G. Puccini: La Rondine (The Swallow) (Ore dolci e divine)* 6:04

Kiri Te Kanawa (Soprano), Gillian Knight (Soprano), Lillian Watson (Soprano), Linda Finnie (Mezzo-Soprano) London Symphony Orchestra Lorin Maazel

12. *W.A. Mozart: Don Giovanni (Ah! Fuggi il traditor)* 1:08

Kiri Te Kanawa (Soprano), Orchestra of the Théâtre National de L'opéra Lorin Maazel

13. *W.A. Mozart: Don Giovanni (In quali eccessi ... Mi tradí quell' alma ingrata)* 6:48

Kiri Te Kanawa (Soprano), Orchestra of the Théâtre National de L'opéra Lorin Maazel

14. *E. Humperdinck: Hänsel und Gretel (Der kleine Sandmann bin ich)* 3:00

Ileana Cotrubas (Soprano), Kiri Te Kanawa (Soprano), Frederica Von Stade (Mezzo-Soprano) Gürzenich Orchestra of Cologne

15. *M. Duruflé: Requiem (Pie Jesu)* 3:29

Siegmund Nimsgern (Baritone), Kiri Te Kanawa (Soprano) New Philharmonia Orchestra Andrew Davis

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,

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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's 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 – the Chicago Symphony, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the 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, Eugène 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's 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.

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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's 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 Cambridge, Oxford, Dundee, Durham, Nottingham, Sunderland, Warwick, Auckland, Waikato and Chicago. 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. Kiri is an Honorary Member of the Royal Academy of Music. As a soloist at the wedding of HRH Prince Charles in St Paul's Cathedral, she faced one of the largest direct telecast audiences 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 continuous, live programme, broadcast to over eighty countries and an estimated audience of over one billion people. Dame Kiri continues to perform in concert halls and arenas throughout the world. 2002 saw her performing at the Gala concert on 1st June, at Buckingham Palace, in celebration of the Queen's Jubilee, and playing the title role in Vanessa at The Washington Opera (a role she will be repeating in Los Angeles at the end of this year). Recent highlights include the Gala Concert on 28th February 2004 in Auckland, to launch The Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation, a charity which aims to give support and financial aid to dedicated New Zealand singers and musicians.

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