

NZOPERA



The Turn of the Screw

AUDITION INFORMATION FOR THE
CHILDREN'S ROLES OF FLORA AND MILES
AND APPLICATION FORM

NZO PERA

THE OPERA

One of the greatest operas of the 20th Century, *The Turn of the Screw* is a chamber opera with a cast of six and an orchestra of thirteen. It was composed by the British composer Benjamin Britten with text by Myfanwy Piper, and premiered in Venice in 1954.

It is a chilling ghost story, saturated with menace. A young governess arrives at a remote country house to care for two children with only written instructions from their guardian, who advises not to disturb him. Before long a tapestry is woven of obsession, sexual awakening and the destruction of childhood. The story relies on implication, allowing the audience to project their own fears onto the narrative.

This is a brand new New Zealand Opera production directed by NZO's award-winning General Director Thomas de Mallet Burgess, conducted by rising kiwi star Holly Mathieson. Set and costumes will be designed by Tracy Grant Lord and lighting by Matthew Marshall. Featuring Orchestra Wellington and the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra.

CONTENT

The Turn of the Screw is a haunting psychological drama. In this opera we know that something terrible has happened but we aren't ever quite sure what that was. The opera includes mature themes and content, both occurring on stage, and implied.

Parents/guardians, please ensure that before your child auditions for this production that you and your child are both fully aware of the content. You will be best able to judge whether your child is mature enough to cope with the subject matter and your consent is required prior to your child auditioning.

Before auditioning we recommend familiarising yourselves with the plot of the opera - there are some excellent excerpts on YouTube, in particular the recent Seattle Opera production.

New Zealand Opera commits to supporting all cast, including the children, through the creative process and providing the necessary support to create a safe, supportive working environment. This includes but is not limited to complying to all [New Zealand Actor's Equity Child Actor Guidelines](#).

THE CHARACTERS

Flora (Supporting Principal): Female, Soprano

Age 14+ to play 11-12 years old. A young, seemingly innocent and playful girl, with macabre curiosities. Pure, classical voice of soloist quality with substantial volume. We are auditioning for a principal and an understudy.

Miles (Supporting Principal): Male, Boy Soprano

Age 10+ to play 12-14 years old. After being expelled from school, an innocent looking young boy reveals that he has a troubled past. Voice must be unbroken and of soloist quality with substantial volume. We are auditioning for a principal and an understudy.

Both roles require advanced vocal training, steady tone, clear pitch, and ability to project the voice in a large theatre. Previous on-stage experience a plus.

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TIMELINE

20 January 2019	6.00pm - Closing date for video auditions
29 January 2019	Finalists announced
16/17 February 2019	Workshop for finalists with the Director (will take place in Auckland)
25 February 2019	All auditionees notified of outcome, children's cast announced
March to August 2019	Coaching commences for children's roles
2 September 2019	Rehearsals commence in the NZO studio, Parnell, Auckland.
22 September 2019	Cast & crew travel to Wellington
23 September 2019	Production rehearsals begin in Wellington
3 - 5 October 2019	Wellington season
6 October 2019	Cast & crew travel to Auckland, production rehearsals recommence
18 - 23 October 2019	Auckland season

FURTHER DETAILS

Full attendance is required at all rehearsals. A rehearsal schedule will be issued at least eight weeks in advance of the rehearsal period detailing the daily schedule. Permission must be sought from your child's school Principal for any absence from school, however efforts will be made not to schedule children for weekday rehearsals wherever possible, except when touring outside of the child's home city.

Coaching will be provided to the successful children to help them prepare for their roles.

While there is no charge for applying, auditioning or attending the finalists workshop, any expenses incurred by the applicant in applying for or auditioning remain the responsibility of the applicant.

Materials submitted to NZO will be held on file. The selection committee's decision is final and no further correspondence shall be entered into. Information correct at time of printing.

This is a fully professional production and all roles including children are paid. Auditionees must have New Zealand working rights.

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants should complete and return the enclosed application form along with a video recording and the documents specified.

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Date:

AUDITION FORM

Please complete and return the following:

Child's full name:

Mailing address:

Date of birth:

Home phone:

Parent/guardian name(s):

Parent/guardian mobile phone(s):

Parent/guardian email:

Current singing teacher:

School (2019):

Role auditioning for:

Audition piece:

If selected, my child is available to attend the finalists workshop, 16-17 February 2019

Yes

No

I have read the character description and plot outline of *The Turn of the Screw*, I acknowledge the subject matter of the opera and if successful I give permission for my child to perform in this production.

Yes

No

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My child is available for the entire production period and seasons in Wellington and Auckland

Yes

No

Please detail any availability issues you may have for the 2019 year:

Parent/guardian's signature:

Date:

AUDITION FORM ATTACHMENTS

Please ensure you include the following with your application form:

- Photograph**
One head-and-shoulders photograph of the auditionee, taken within the last six months.
- Curriculum Vitae**
Current curriculum vitae including details on schooling, vocal training and performance experience to date as applicable.
- Audiovisual recording**
All auditionees are required to submit an unmodified audiovisual recording of themselves singing one of the selected extracts from *The Turn of the Screw*, this can be acapella or accompanied.

Chose one of the following selections:
Miles and Flora: Scene Two 11/1/1 - 12/1/5
Miles: 67/2/1 - 68/1/4
Flora: 174/3/4 - 179/1/4

The recording must be uploaded to either YouTube or Vimeo and a link provided via email.

[Click here](#) to download sheet music selections.

CONTACT

Return application form and supporting paperwork by email or post to:

Glenn Meade, Chorus Manager

New Zealand Opera

glenn@nzopera.co.nz

09 379 4020

P O Box 6478, Wellesley Street, Auckland 1141, New Zealand

Further information can also be found at www.nzopera.co.nz