



TOSC NOTES

The Newsletter of TOSC Artists passionate to bring fine music to you.



NEXT SUNDAY!

Diamonds in the Snow

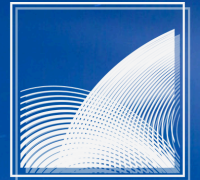
THE LATEST FROM TOSC NOTES:

- Door Prize at Diamonds
- Tosca Diamonds
- Tribute to Kaija Saariaho
- Getting to Diamonds
- Diamonds in the Snow - July

DIAMONDS IN THE SNOW

JULY 16 AT 3 PM

<https://www.ticketebo.com.au/diamondsinthesnow>



THE
OPERA
AND
SONG
COLLECTIVE

Sounds of Scandinavia for Voice,
Flute and Piano

Music by Draeger, Grieg, Kuula,
Maier, Sibelius and more



The Unitarian Church
15 Francis Street
Darlinghurst



Leah Thomas



Jill Sullivan



Tonya Lemoh



Christine Draeger

A Special Audience Treat



Let our afternoon of Scandinavian musical gems, *Diamonds in the Snow*, be just the start of a month of Scandinavian delights. The Scandinavian Film Festival at Palace Cinemas commences a mere two days after *Diamonds in the Snow*.

As a special treat for the audience at *Diamonds in the Snow*, we will be offering a door prize of a double pass to the Opening Night of the Scandinavian Film Festival – Palace Norton July 18 at 6:30pm. This includes a pre-film reception before the screening of the Norwegian film - *Let the River Flow*.

<https://scandinavianfilmfestival.com/>



SAXO
SCANDINAVIAN
FILM FESTIVAL

Presented by

PALACE 

GO NORTH. JUL - AUG 2023

Tosca Diamonds



Part of my role with TOSC is to look after the interval catering.

For ‘Opera Queens’ and ‘If Music be the Food of Love’ I provided shortbread as a sweet offering to accompany the wine and soft drinks that we offer at interval. As both of these concerts incorporated British themes and more particularly Scottish connections through Mary Queen of Scots and of course Lady M from the Scottish play, Scottish shortbread was an appropriate choice. However, as our upcoming concert, ‘Diamonds in the Snow’, features an entirely Scandinavian repertoire I felt it was necessary to investigate a Scandinavian cookie to compliment the musical gems being performed by Leah, Jill, Christine and Tonya.

So, I googled Scandinavian cookies. I was delighted and amused to find a link to Tosca Diamonds. Seemingly a perfect choice for a concert by TOSC entitled ‘Diamonds in the Snow’. Well worth a trial bake and taste test, which they passed.

But why are they called Tosca Diamonds?

Diamonds is easy, they are cut into a four sided diamond, multi-faceted diamond shapes not being practical in baking.

Tosca, is also as it seems, they are indeed most probably called after Puccini’s Tosca. As detailed by Isabelle from the website Swedish Spoon, following the premiere of Tosca in Stockholm in 1904, the Swedish newspapers carried numerous reports and performance reviews about Tosca both locally and abroad throughout the early part of the century. By the 30’s and 40’s newspaper ads mentioned toscatärta and recipes for toscakaka were being published.

It consists of a butter cake with a topping of an almond caramelised glaze. This glaze came to be known as Toscasats or Toscamassa or simply a Tosca glaze.

Tosca was not just synonymous with a cake or glaze, but among others, a 1930's successful race horse – Tosca, the classic cologne 4711 had variants of 4711 Tosca as well as 4711 Rheingold for the Wagnerians, and fabrics such as Tosca tulle and crepe Tosca were mentioned in the society pages.

So, the Tosca Diamonds we will be offering to the audience at 'Diamonds in the Snow' combine elements of a Tosca cake with the traditional Scandinavian almond cookie. They have a short biscuit base with a caramelised almond topping. Come along and taste them for yourself, while enjoying an afternoon of Scandinavian gems for voice, flute and piano.

If you wish to try them yourself, you can find the recipes at <https://www.midwestliving.com/holidays/christmas/11-scandinavian-christmas-cookie-recipes> (no 6 on the page.)

<http://swedishspoon.com/swedish-almond-caramel-cake>

Sandra Oldis
Executive Assistant
The Opera and Song Collective



A Tribute to Kaija Saariaho



The name Saariaho may not be widely known to Australian audiences ..yet. But after her recent death at age 70 from brain cancer, the musical world has been forced to a reckoning and a realisation of the significance of the Finnish composer's work.

As recently as 2019, in the BBC Music Magazine survey of the greatest living composers, Saariaho was ranked No 1 by 150 of her peers.

"Kaija Saariaho is one of the monumental composers of our time. There are so many wonderful things that can be said about her music, especially her great pieces for larger forces – many of which are personal favorites. In addition I feel that the powerful presence of her music over the years has been particularly important as a role model for younger generations, not least for younger women in music that find inspiration and encouragement in such a compelling composer. This multifaceted influence will, without doubt, carry on shape the music of the future" explains Iceland-based composer Anna Thorvaldsdottir Saariaho's significance in the magazine.

Saariaho made Met history in 2016 with the company premiere of her *L'Amour de Loin*, which was, at the time, the first opera by a female composer to be presented on the Met stage in more than a century. Her most recent opera, *Innocence*, premiered at the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence in July 2021 and earned Saariaho a Victoires de la Musique Classique award. *Innocence* will have its Met premiere as part of the 2025–26 season.

OUR VENUE - THE UNITARIAN CHURCH GETTING THERE.

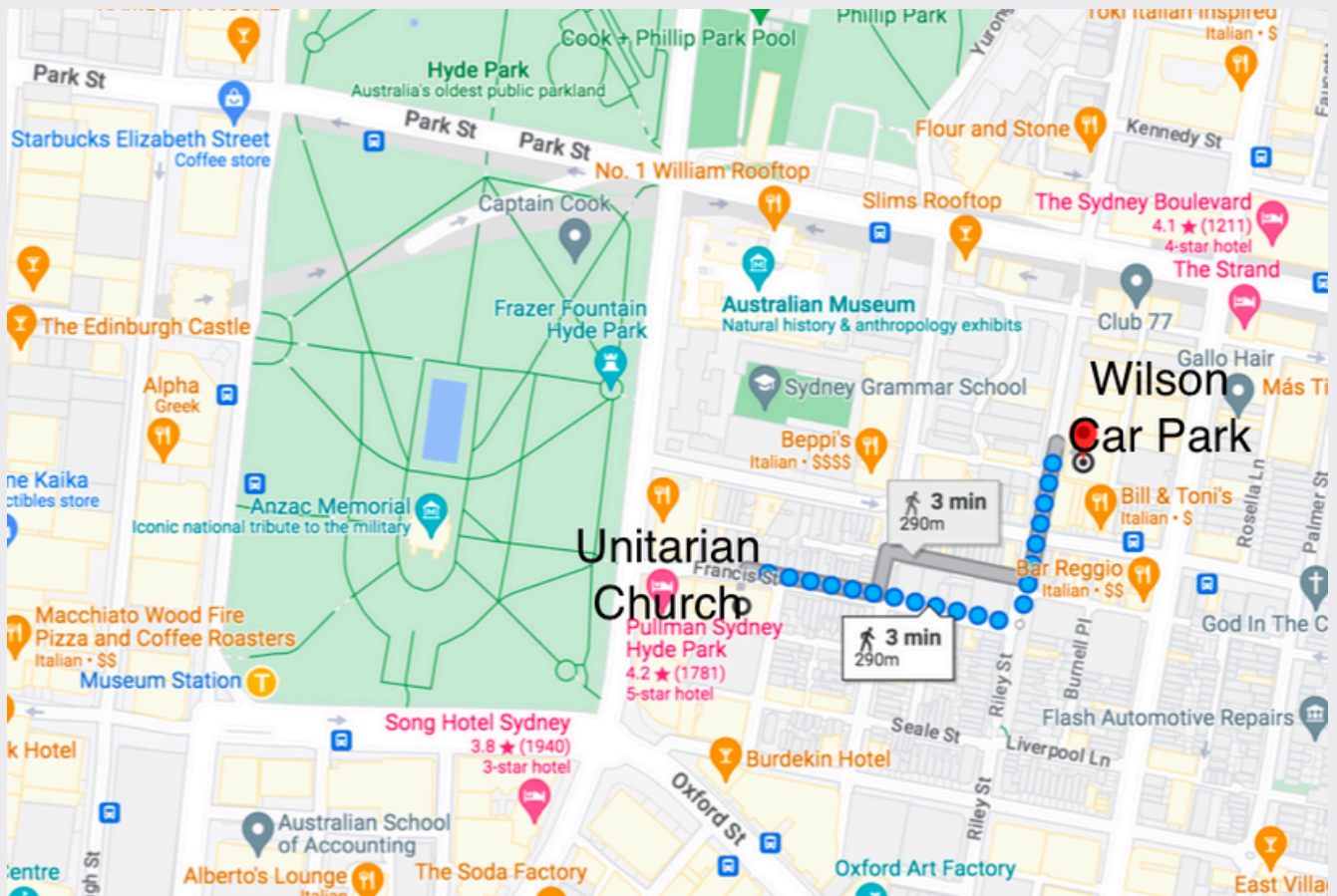
For those of you planning to attend our upcoming concert next Sunday, it is just a 5 minute walk across Hyde park from Museum Station.

If you wish to drive, please be advised that parking in the surrounding area is metered with a 2 hour limit.

We would therefore advise parking in the nearby Wilson Parking Station at 70 Riley St, Darlinghurst. It is only a 3 minute walk from The Unitarian Church.

If pre-booked it is a flat rate of \$10. www.wilsonparking.com.au

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DIAMONDS IN THE SNOW

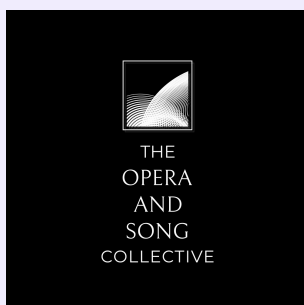
I'm pretty proud of this programme. The repertoire ranges from the familiar Greig piano solos to delightful Merikanto duets likely known to all children in Finland through to passionate, lyrical, haunting and patriotic songs by Sibelius, Kuula, Alenaes and Nielsen. We also have marvellous instrument music by Elfrida Andrée, Amanda Meier, our own Christine Draeger.

We are extremely honoured and proud to share with you, Changing Light, music of Kaija Saariaho in Diamonds in the Snow that will be performed by Leah Thomas (soprano) and Christine Draeger (flute).

I'd love to see you there. Just love this music!

Jill Sullivan - Artistic Director of The Opera and Song Collective.

Diamonds in the Snow is a joint venture of
TOSC Artists and Endangered Productions



<https://www.ticketebo.com.au/diamondsinthesnow>