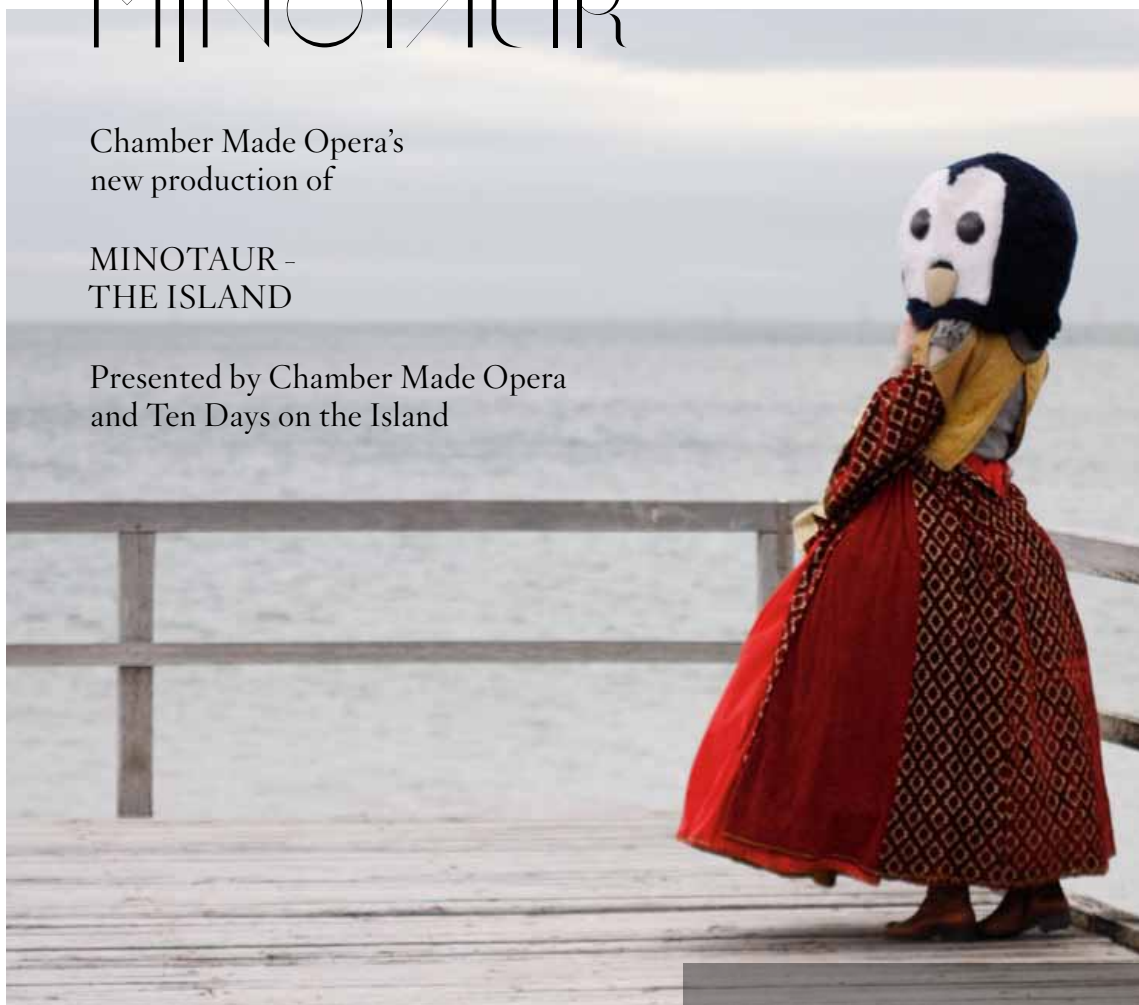


MINOTAUR

Chamber Made Opera's
new production of

MINOTAUR -
THE ISLAND

Presented by Chamber Made Opera
and Ten Days on the Island



The Company

Composer:
David Young

Writer/Director:
Margaret Cameron

Performers:
Deborah Kayser,
Caroline Lee, Hellen Sky

Double Bass:
Mark Cauvin

Percussion:
Matthias Schack-Arnott

Harpichord:
Anastasia Russell-Head

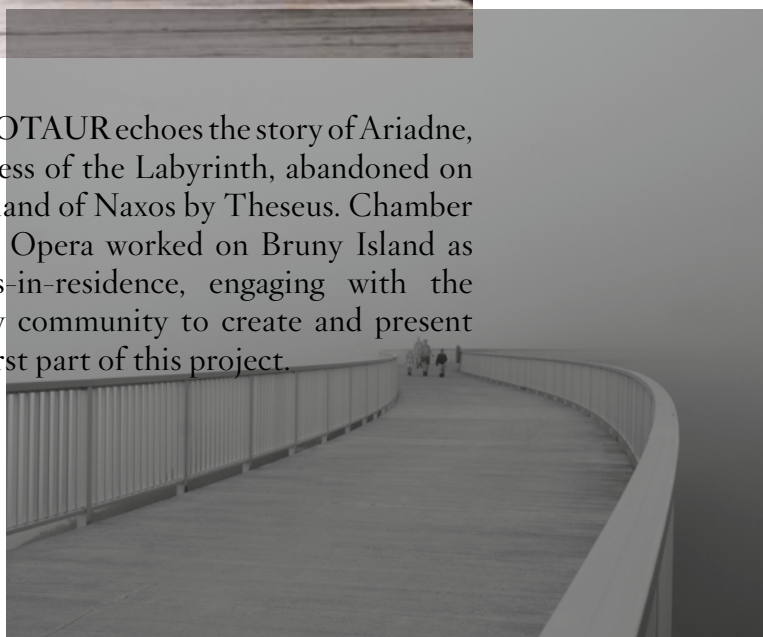
MINOTAUR -
THE ISLAND has been
co-commissioned by
Ten Days on the Island
and Dr Peta Gillingham.

Part of the New Music
Network 2011 Series.

Virtually all the music for Monteverdi's 1608 opera *L'Arianna*, one of the most influential and famous examples of early Baroque opera, has been lost. MINOTAUR sees Melbourne-based Chamber Made Opera reconstruct a contemporary chamber version in three parts, the first of which, THE ISLAND, received its world premiere at Dennes Point on Bruny Island, Tasmania.

Exploring the mythological and visual symbolism of the Minotaur, Ariadne and the labyrinthine structure of the maze,

MINOTAUR echoes the story of Ariadne, Mistress of the Labyrinth, abandoned on the island of Naxos by Theseus. Chamber Made Opera worked on Bruny Island as artists-in-residence, engaging with the Bruny community to create and present the first part of this project.



The Lost Opera

Act One
Minotaur The Island

By Margaret Cameron and David Young



Minos the King:

‘Who could run a thread through the internal spirals of a conch shell?’

Daedelus the Architect:

‘Drill a small hole in the centre of the shell and smear honey around the edge. Set an ant on the shell’s lip with a fine thread tied to its rear leg, and it will thread the shell.’





Libretto

0'

Venus Exits the Sea 2'06
 The Island Arrives 4'54
 Venus Drags the Sea
 The Endless Pace of Time

7'

A Lost Aria 3'30
 18 Pomegranates 1'24
 The Island Goes Hunting 2'06

14'

The Narrows 2'48
 The Night That Only I Can See 1'24
 Strings Without the Keys 2'48

21'

North, South, East, West 4'12
 Going Into the Area that is
 Uncivilised – A Madrigal 2'48

28'

Dædelus Left Alone 3'30
 Peek-A-Boo 2'06
 Ariadne's Thread 1'24

35'

The Subterranean Architecture 2'06
 The Ant and The Shell 4'54

42'

Dying in Battle 2'48
 Coda on the Pier 4'12

49'

Minotaur is a place – the island of Minotaur.

Lost—there is a story but that is not our opera.

The music is:

- tense
- just out of reach
- fracturing and breaking into bits
- travelling through corridors

The objects are the island, and are moved around the space like flotsam from a shipwreck that is washed ashore.

Over time, the work becomes finer, turning to a single thread of listening.

—

Venus is alone. Drenched, she says:

'I have nothing. I have no special knowledge. I am bare.
 The wind is skinny. [Lost and searching] I am only me.
 HERE I AM. Washed up. [Voiceless] Shivering again...
 On the shores of Minotaur—the worst place I can
 imagine. Yet even if I were to die—I would return.'

'Pure high voices

As yet untouched by the bull.' (Agamemnon)

'From these salty waters of blood I bear the beautiful.
 And with the lunar tides
 Their shell-lips open to satisfy the island—
 Losing breath to all the memory frothed up here
 On the narrow shores of Minotaur—
 There is a story that is not our opera.'



CHAMBER
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OPERA

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Joël Murray,
General Manager

Caroline Lee,
Assistant to the Artistic Director

Margaret Cameron,
Resident Director

Brett Kelly,
Resident Conductor

Margie Mackay,
Production

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Artistic Associate

Sophie Travers,
Strategic Consultant

Sally Goldner,
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Artistic Associate & Education

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Everyone at the Jetty Café
Elizabeth Walsh
Everyone at Ten Days on the Island
Kate Mills
Melanie Burge
Rosemary Joy
Una Hobday

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Photo by Daisy Noyes

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DAISY NOYES photography

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