

Sophia — The Debut Concert: An inspiring night and a chance to support a young star-in-the-making

This May, St Andrew's on The Terrace will glow under the soft light of hundreds of candles, setting the stage for an unforgettable evening of music as it hosts **Sophia — The Debut Concert**. This spectacular fundraising event by Queen Margaret College will showcase the exceptional talent of soprano and 2024 graduate Sophia Gittings. Sophia has been described by celebrated opera singer, Wade Kernot, as having, "obvious talent and [being] an instrument of quality, quite unusual for someone of her age. She's one to watch!"

This debut solo concert marks the beginning of a remarkable journey for opera singer Sophia, who at just 18 years of age is poised to take her place on the world stage after receiving international acclaim.

In August, Sophia will leave our shores and take up a place at an international music school to study classical music and train to be a professional opera singer. Sophia hasn't decided where yet after receiving multiple offers from prestigious music schools in England, Scotland, USA and Australia, including scholarships from **Royal College of Music in London**, **Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester** and **Boston Conservatory at Berklee**. Sophia has the passion, skills, motivation and now, the opportunity, to become a world-class opera star.

"This fundraising concert represents more than just my solo debut," Sophia shares, "It's a way of celebrating everyone who has supported me on the incredible journey I've been on so far as I take my next big step towards becoming a professional opera singer."

Sophia – The Debut Concert will feature an eclectic programme. Sophia Gittings will perform a diverse set of musical pieces alongside exceptional supporting acts, including celebrated opera singer **Wade Kernot**, performances by Queen Margaret College's premier choir, **Voces Luces**, and performances by other talented students from the school.

Renowned conductor and accompanist **Mark Stamper**, Director of Choirs at Queen Margaret College and Founding Artistic Director of Inspirare, has expertly led the musical direction, artistic coordination, and accompaniment for Sophia – The Debut Concert.

The dual fundraising for the event both supports Sophia as she embarks on her overseas study and launches Queen Margaret College's ambitious fundraising goals for the development of a **Creative Industries Centre**. The Centre will be a vibrant hub for art, design, media, dance, drama, music, and more. It will encourage student innovation and give even more students the opportunity to hone their talents to a world-class standard like Sophia Gittings.

Sophia's inspiring journey and passion for music began at age six, when she first started singing lessons. Even at this tender age she set her sights on the dream of becoming a professional singer. Over her years at Queen Margaret College, she emerged as a pillar of the performing arts community, captivating audiences with her vocal colour, poise, and emotional depth.

"Queen Margaret College really supported me to become the best singer I could be," Sophia says, "Without that support and the belief in my dream, alongside the excellent education I received, I don't think I would have got so many international offers to study. It really set me on a path to success."

Sophia Gittings' achievements extend far beyond her alma mater. Her accolades include placing first in three classical categories at the prestigious **Lockwood New Zealand Aria Competition**, which demonstrated her mastery across a broad repertoire. Her upcoming overseas studies will not be the first time she has shown her talents internationally. Sophia toured China with the **New Zealand Secondary Students' Choir**, where she was selected to perform a solo of the classical Chinese song *Mo Li Hua (The Jasmine Flower Song)* in Shanghai. She is also a member of the **New Zealand Youth Choir** and in July she will tour with the choir to Europe, the UK and Singapore.

Reflecting on her journey, Sophia attributes her growth to exceptional mentors, rigorous training, dedication and unwavering support from her community. "I'm so grateful to everything Queen Margaret College, Wellington and the New Zealand singing community has given me. My solo concert is just the beginning. I can't wait to share it with you," says Sophia.

Event Details:

Date: 16 May 2025

Time: 7:00pm

Venue: St Andrew's on The Terrace, 30 The Terrace, Wellington

Cost: Suggested donation \$100 per person

Dress Code: Smart-casual (no denim)

Sophia – The Debut Concert is a rare opportunity to witness the debut of a future opera star while supporting her rise to global acclaim. Secure your place in Sophia's inspiring journey today. [Get more information and RSVP.](#)