Blind Citizens NZ

Auckland Branch

2021 Audio Described Events:

***2021 Auckland Arts Festival***

“2021 Audio described Events” is for blind and low vision readers who have difficulty navigating websites or are not yet online. It is available as a Word file by email from the Auckland Branch Secretary, [mary@lansink.co.nz](file:///C:\Users\natalie.braid\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\1N6WF80Q\mary@lansink.co.nz). It's issued to Auckland Branch members in audio, braille and large print with assistance from the Auckland Branch and National Office of Blind Citizens NZ and the Community Organisation Grants Scheme. Blind and low vision readers are reminded that the Telephone Information Service of Blind Low Vision NZ announces audio described events on Menu 66. The Auckland Branch of Blind Citizens NZ also alerts listeners to events on their weekly Information Line, Menu 4 1 1 1 1.

**Audio description** is a narration service, usually provided live, that describes the visual images and actions not spoken in the dialogue. Theatregoers are issued with headsets and sit in the audience with the headphone in one ear, listening to the description along with the sound from the stage and the performers.

**Touch tours** allow blind and low vision patrons to get up close to elements of the production. The theatregoer is guided around the stage and invited to touch the set and props and sometimes meet some of the performers in costume.

**Descriptive notes** are emailed to blind and low vision members of the audience when it is not necessary or sometimes not possible to provide an audio description.

**Nicola Owen from Audio Described Aotearoa Ltd** has been providing audio description services since 2011. She was trained in the programme funded by Auckland Live that introduced professional live audio description to New Zealand. She works with audio describers trained in the initial programme and others across the country who she has trained, including describers working in Te Reo Māori. Audio Described Aotearoa offers description for theatre, musicals, ballet, dance, opera, chamber music, galleries, museums, civic events, awards ceremonies, private events, conferences, films, guided tours and more. Email [audiodescribedaotearoa@gmail.com](file:///C:\Users\natalie.braid\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\1N6WF80Q\audiodescribedaotearoa@gmail.com)

# Auckland Arts Festival

Te Ahurei Toi o Tāmaki Makaurau

## How to book and for more information

Tickets are $20 each for one individual and one companion, subject to availability, so please get in quickly. To book either phone 09 374 0320 or email [access@aaf.co.nz](file:///C:\Users\natalie.braid\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\1N6WF80Q\access@aaf.co.nz).

For more information go to the Access & inclusion resource page: <https://www.aaf.co.nz/access-inclusion>

## Te Tīmatanga

Come together at this free event and let your voices soar throughout Tāmaki Makaurau to mark the start of the Festival – three weeks of uplifting arts, culture, celebration and kotahitanga/unity. Join Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei as they lead us in launching the 2021 Festival with karakia and ceremony. Sing along with Pere Wihongi and Maaka Pohatu to Māori songs that you grew up with – “Pō Karekare Ana”, “Tūtira Mai Ngā Iwi”, “E Pāpā Waiari” and many more!

To request a braille song sheet please either phone 09 374 0320 or email [access@aaf.co.nz](file:///C:\Users\natalie.braid\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\1N6WF80Q\access@aaf.co.nz). There will be an access area for audience members who require it, including wheelchair users.

Duration: 45 minutes, no interval.

Date and venue: Thursday, 4 March, 6:00pm, Aotea Square.

## Sing to me

Inspired by the Pania of the Reef legend, this intoxicating modern romance interweaves comedy with song – and characters you'll instantly fall in love with.

Two worlds collide when mild-mannered optometrist Ata and fierce sea maiden Whetū fall in love. The result: a child of both land and sea, with Ata and Whetū navigating challenges of cross-cultural relationships, the loss of Ata's friend and differing ideas of parenthood.

Set against the backdrop of a climate in crisis, Sing to Me is a powerful reimagining of pūrākau/stories of old in the 21st century. Let it transport you to another world, a realm wonderfully crafted from the talented minds of playwright Alex Lodge, director Miriama McDowell, and a creative team including Jane Hakaraia, Te Aihe Butler and Te Ura Hoskins. Actors  utene Spooner and Emma Katene work with live musician/performer Te Aihe to evoke a modern mythical realm, brought to the mainstage by Taki Rua Productions.

DURATION 2 hours, including interval.

Date and venue: Friday, 12 March, 6:00pm touch tour, 7:30pm performance, Rangatira, Q Theatre, 305 Queen Street, Auckland city.

## Voices at the End

A true festival coup, we present internationally renowned New Zealand composer John Psathas' immersive world premiere featuring six grand pianos and a sweeping digital audio landscape, with a Steve Reich work as icing on the cake. Taking inspiration from the poetic documentary Planetary, you'll be transported around the world with sounds and music from the Amazon jungle, outer space (literally), Japan, Armenia, Africa, the Mahabharata, Aotearoa forests, roaring multitudes, predators from the wild, cataclysmic weather events, Tibetan meditation, and more than a dozen musical genres… all in 45 minutes.

Leading New Zealand pianists Stephen De Pledge, Arts Foundation Laureate Michael Houstoun, Somi Kim, Jian Liu, Sarah Watkins and Liam Wooding form a rare combination of instrumental heft and world-class talent – so rare, in fact, that as an extra treat we also present Six Pianos by groundbreaking and award-winning US composer, Steve Reich.

Duration: 70 minutes, no interval.

Join the Touch Tour and Artist Talk before the performance. This performance is not audio described.

Date and venue: Thursday, 18 March, 6:30pm touch tour, Artist Talk from John Psathas, 8:00pm performance, Great Hall, Auckland Town Hall.

## Strasbourg 1518

A story of revolution through dance, this electrifying production explores one of history's most fascinating mass movements – the dancing plague of 1518. Living in poverty and under the rule of the patriarchy, the people of Strasbourg revolted one summer against oppression by taking to the streets. No ordinary protest, their uprising was a fever of dance on a scale never seen before – nor again – that lasted for months. Depicted as collective madness in painting and folklore, this pulsating dance-theatre work interprets events from the inside out, revisioning them not as an illness but catharsis.

Featuring the legendary Michael Parmenter and a cast of stunning New Zealand dancers, Strasbourg 1518 combines exhilarating original music and choreography into a frenzied tale of anarchy, physicality and the power of art as resistance. Recommended for ages 13+ Contains nudity, loud noises and strobe lighting.

Duration 75 minutes, no interval.

Date and venue: Saturday 20 March, 6:30pm Touch Tour, 8:00pm Performance, ASB Waterfront Theatre, 138 Halsey Street, Wynyard Quarter, Auckland CBD.

## Pūmanawa

Revel in the uniquely Aotearoa artform that is kapa haka with performances from four of our finest Māori cultural groups. Pūmanawa brings together four brilliant kapa haka who embody the idea of legacy, talent and dedication to a centuries-old way of celebration. Kapa haka is an avenue to express and showcase heritage and cultural identity through song and dance, and a way to celebrate who and where we are in the world. The concept of legacy and mātauranga tuku iho – knowledge handed down through generations – is powerful as we remember those who have come before us.

Join Te Rōpū Manutaki, Te Iti Kahurangi, Tūwhitia kia Angitu and 2019 Te Matatini winners Ngā Tūmanako as they sing and haka with full voices, fierce wairua and boundless energy. Hosted by Wī & Wā of Taringa Huruhuru.

A bilingual audio-described performance (Te Reo Māori, Te Reo Pākehā) with touch tour.

Duration: 3 hours 30 minutes, with interval.

Date and venue: Sunday, 21 March, 1:30pm touch tour, 3:00pm Performance, Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre, Aotea Centre.

# Calendar

Thursday, 4 March, 6:00pm, Te Tīmatanga, Auckland Arts Festival.

Wednesday, 10 March, 7:00pm performance, The Haka Party Incident, Auckland Theatre Company.

Friday, 12 March, 7:30pm performance, Sing to me, Auckland Arts Festival.

Saturday, 13 March, 2:00pm performance, The Haka Party Incident, Auckland Theatre Company.

Thursday, 18 March, 6:30pm touch tour, 8:00pm performance, Voices at the End, Auckland Arts Festival.

Saturday, 20 March, 6:30pm touch tour, 8:00pm Performance, Strasbourg 1518, Auckland Arts Festival.

Sunday, 21 March, 1:30pm touch tour, 3:00pm Performance, Pūmanawa, Auckland Arts Festival.