



[Home](#) [News](#) [Opinion](#) [Videos](#) [Blogs](#) [Features](#) [Family Notices](#) [Classifieds](#) [Photos](#) [Events](#) [Clubs](#) [Advertising](#) [Contact](#)

[Sport](#) [Focus on the Land](#) [Entertainment](#)

Gisborne soprano under the spotlight in London opera

Thursday, February 09, 2012

A GISBORNE singer is this month getting to perform in an opera she says was the first she ever saw, and that to this day remains her personal favourite.

Lyric soprano Claire Egan has spent the decade since she left [Gisborne honing](#) her skills, training in Australia and Wales before her 2010 move to London.

With the support of famous senior singer Dame Kiri Te Kanwa — also from Gisborne — she has continued her studies both in Britain and overseas.

And last night she began performing the lead role in The Merry Opera Company's month-long run of La Traviata, which is being staged at London venue Upstairs at the Gatehouse.

Describing Egan's journey from small-town singer to metropolitan leading lady, London-based news service New Zealand News UK said hers was "a real fairytale story".

Portraying the role of the tragic heroine Violetta was "a dream come true", Egan (pictured) told the [news organisation](#).

"It is a big role, emotionally and vocally," she said before her debut last night. "I look forward to exploring it and having the opportunity to perform it in this excitingly fresh and current adaptation."

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