

KIRI TE KANAWA

song quest

**TITLE: 2026 Kiri Te Kanawa Song Quest Grand Final Gala
with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra.**

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Description of the event:

The Kiri Te Kanawa Song Quest Grand Final is a classical music concert in which 6 young opera singers compete to win a share of \$95,500 in prize money and the winning title. The performance is being broadcast live on Radio New Zealand and also livestreamed via the NZSO+ channels.

The Venue

The concert will take place at the Michael Fowler Centre (111 Wakefield Street). This video shows how to access the venue, where you can find the accessible toilets and what venue signage you can expect to see.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=imj3B2ixLLw>

Here is the script of the video in writing:

The Michael Fowler Centre is located at 111 Wakefield St, across the road from the bottom of Cuba Street. The accessible pathway leads alongside the building which is to your left. This is also a good drop off point for a taxi. As you walk along, you will pass one set of automatic sliding glass doors, and then another. You can enter the building through either set of doors to find yourself in the hard floor foyer.

When you enter the building through the second set, you will find yourself in the foyer of the Michael Fowler Centre. Ahead of you is the box office, where you can buy tickets, or pick up tickets that have already been reserved or purchased. As you face the box office, to your left, across the foyer are the men's toilets. To the right are the women's toilets. There are accessible toilets in each block and the toilet blocks are accessed by going down a ramp and entering the main block. The accessible toilet is at the back of the block.

Coming back out of the women's toilets and into the foyer, you can either go up the staircase on your left to the first floor or go past the staircase to find the lift, which is exactly opposite and facing the box office. There is another staircase on the other side of the lift which also takes you up to the first floor. The lift will also take you up to the first floor. There are two doors in this lift, the first which you just came through, and a second set which is on the opposite side of the lift.

When you arrive on the first floor, the second set of doors will open for you to exit. On exiting the lift, you will find yourself in a large bar area with a wooden floor, which might be quite noisy when there are a lot of people in the space. Turning right out of the lift, going through the bar area and turning right again will bring you to several sets of doors which lead into the theatre.

Your ticket will have the door you should use printed on it. Accessible seating will use Doors 3 and 5. In this film, you are walking through Door 3, which accesses the theatre through a short corridor. You will walk down a ramp- most of the seating in the stalls of this space is accessible without using stairs. The stage is raised and the balcony seating blocks run around the whole space, so that the stage sits in the centre of the audience.

This theatre can seat up to 2209 patrons. A staff member will guide you to your seat to the right or left of the ramp you are walking down- the seats will need folding down before you can sit on them. There are assigned spaces for wheelchairs among the seats making it easier for groups to sit together.

Enjoy the show!

Getting Help From Staff

Members of Venues Wellington staff will be standing throughout the venue. Staff will typically be easy to find at the entrance doors to the auditorium. They'll be wearing a uniform like the one in the picture below.



Staff will be happy to help you with any questions you may have.

Inside the Theatre

Below is a picture of what the venue could look like with an orchestra on stage and a full audience. This photo is taken from the back of the top level of seating.



Blind and Low Vision Audience Members

- Guide dogs are welcome at the Michael Fowler Centre.
- If you need additional assistance at the venue, please seek out the friendly venue staff who are trained to help.

Hard of Hearing Audience Members

- The Michael Fowler Centre has an audio loop. The most suitable seating locations for the audio loop are Stall seating, rows O-V and Gallery seating, rows A-D (all blocks). Please advise our ticketing team when booking your seat if you would like to use the audio loop.

The Concert

Here's a guide detailing what you can expect from the full concert experience.

Arrival at the venue – When you arrive at the venue you can expect it to be a busy atmosphere in the entrance foyer. There will be people queuing for the box office or waiting to meet friends. There may be lots of different conversations happening, which may make this area noisy. The concourse spaces on levels 1 and 2 will likely be quieter than the bar and foyer areas. There are soft chairs dotted along the corridor.

There will also be show programmes for sale for the event which detail the music and finalists you can expect to hear and the order in which they will perform.

You will need to make your way either to the lift or to the bottom of one of the set of stairs. A staff member will ask to check your ticket before you can go up to level 1 of the venue.

When you reach level 1, there will be a large open bar area. You can buy drinks or snacks here if you would like to.

The doors to the auditorium will be behind you. If the doors are open, you can go into the theatre and find your seat when you are ready. If the doors are not yet open, you can wait in the bar or foyer until it's time to go inside.

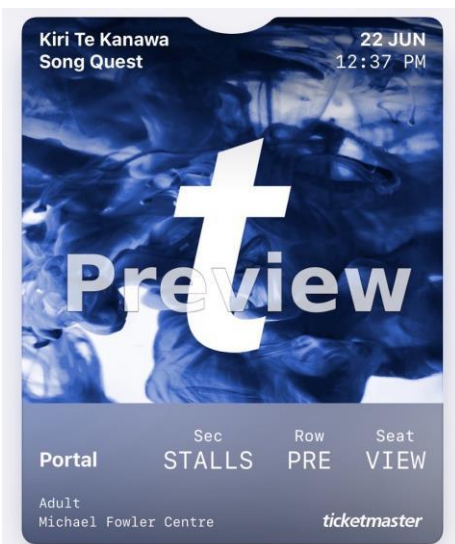
10 minutes before the start of the performance there will be an announcement over the venue public address system letting everyone know that the performance will soon begin and asking people to take their seats. This announcement will be repeated at

5 and 3 minutes prior to the start of the concert. Each announcement will start with a short sequence of rings on an electronic bell in order to get the audience's attention.

Entering the Auditorium – Your ticket will have a door number on it. This is the door you need to enter through to reach your seat the quickest.

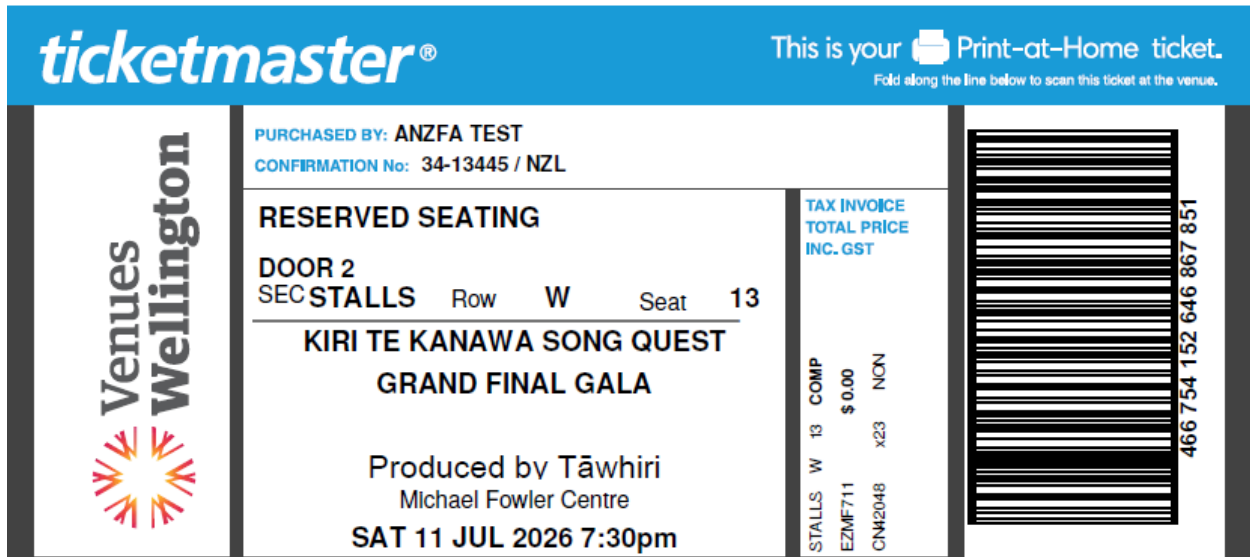
There are three different types of tickets depending on how you booked.

If you booked online your ticket would be loaded in your Ticketmaster Mobile App on your smartphone and will look like this:

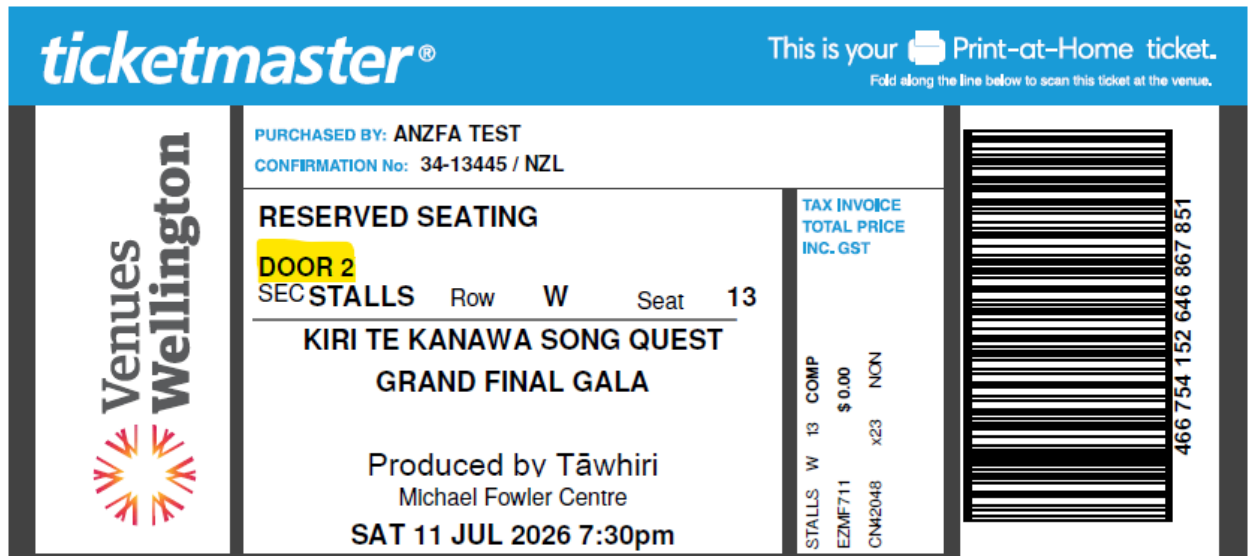


If you booked your ticket at an outlet or through us, your ticket will look like the one below – it may be a printed ticket or will be on the top of a pdf. If you received your ticket by email you do not need to print it out and you can show it for scanning on your smartphone. If you cannot find your ticket, come and see our

Ticketing Team at the desk in the entrance foyer and they will help you.



The photo below shows where you can find your door number on pdf or printed tickets. On tickets in the MobileApp it shows the section you will be seated in. Stalls are found on Level 1 and Blocks 21-31 are on Level 2.



You can show your ticket to a staff member and ask for help finding your door if you need to.

If you have booked an accessible seat you will enter through Door 3 or 5.

If your ticket says “STALLS” below the door number, the door you will enter through will be on the same level as the bar.

ticketmaster® This is your Print-at-Home ticket.
Fold along the line below to scan this ticket at the venue.

Venues Wellington

PURCHASED BY: ANZFA TEST
CONFIRMATION No: 34-13445 / NZL

RESERVED SEATING

DOOR 2
SEC **STALLS** Row W Seat 13

**KIRI TE KANAWA SONG QUEST
GRAND FINAL GALA**

Produced by Tāwhiri
Michael Fowler Centre
SAT 11 JUL 2026 7:30pm

TAX INVOICE
TOTAL PRICE
INC. GST

STALLS W 13 COMP
EZMF711 \$0.00
CN42048 x23 NON


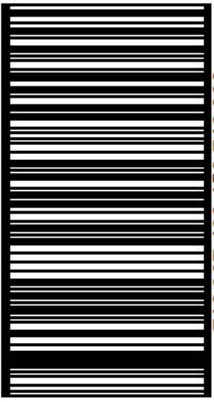
466 754 152 646 867 851

If your ticket says “BLK” below the door number, you will need to go up one more level to the Gallery level. You can do this by going up one more flight of stairs, which you will find next to the stairs you came up to get to the bar, or you can head back to the lift to go up to Floor 2 to find your door.

ticketmaster®

This is your  Print-at-Home ticket.

Fold along the line below to scan this ticket at the venue.

	PURCHASED BY: ANZFA TEST2 CONFIRMATION No: 34-13447 / NZL	 712 397 430 150 746 992
	RESERVED SEATING DOOR 23 SEC BLK23 Row G Seat 1 KIRI TE KANAWA SONG QUEST GRAND FINAL GALA Produced by Tāwhiri Michael Fowler Centre SAT 11 JUL 2026 7:30pm	

There will be venue hosts standing next to each door to help you find your seat.

The Concert begins – Once the audience is settled into their seats, there may be a change of lighting to make the space darker. An announcement welcoming the audience will be made either as a pre-recorded announcement or by someone speaking from the stage.

The concert will be presented in a standard classical concert format meaning the musicians and performers will be on the stage and the audience will be seated in the auditorium.

As an audience member, the expectation is that you will try to be quiet and stay seated throughout the performance, so that other audience members can watch and listen without being distracted. If you do need to get up, or you need help from a staff member, please try to move carefully but promptly to the aisle to avoid standing in front of other people. Staff members will be standing at the back of the hall near the doors in which you entered.

The first half of the concert - This concert has an MC, a person who will enter the stage and introduce each performer before they enter the stage. There will be moments of darkness during the introductions.

Each of the six singers will perform one song on the stage accompanied by a pianist. Full details of the music they are singing and in which order is available in the programme. There will be applause from the audience after each performance. You can show the performer you enjoyed their performance by clapping if you want to. Following the last singer the MC will announce the interval and the lights in the auditorium will get brighter. You may wish to bring ear plugs if you are sensitive to noise. Audience members may get excited and cheer or whistle.

The Interval – The interval is a break where people can go to the bathroom, get a drink, chat to their friends or check their phone if they want to. You do not have to stay seated or be quiet during the interval, but you can stay in your seat if you want to.

The interval is scheduled to last for 20 minutes though there can sometimes be delays if people are late back to their seats.

During the interval members of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra will make their way on to the stage to start their preparations for the performance in the second half. You may hear musicians checking their instruments are in tune and there will be noise from members of the audience.

The end of the interval will be signaled by the bells and announcements in the foyer. When you hear the announcements, go back to your seat so that you are ready when the performance starts. The lights in the auditorium will dim when the performance is about to start again.

The second half of the concert – The Orchestra will now be on stage. The MC will welcome the audience back to the space, and then introduce the conductor. The audience will welcome the conductor with applause. He will invite the orchestra to tune as a group. The 6 singers will be introduced, one after the other, by the MC to each sing one Aria, which is a solo song. This process will then repeat with each singer performing a second Aria. Each performance will be followed by applause. The order of works can be followed in the programme.

The adjudication period – The MC will explain when the performances are complete. The Orchestra will perform for around 20 minutes while the Head Judge decides who has won the competition.

The Prizegiving – The MC will invite various people to the stage to announce the prize winners of the competition and award bouquets of flowers. The orchestra will remain on stage. They will announce the overall winner, and there will be lots of applause. You may wish to bring ear plugs if you are sensitive to noise. Audience members may get excited and cheer or whistle.

Encore – The winner of the competition will be invited to sing an encore piece accompanied by the Orchestra. After this the MC will thank everybody for coming and the audience will start to leave through the doors they entered. The bar will be closed and, aside from people who are attending an invite only post-show function in the bar area, people will leave the venue quite promptly. You can make your way back downstairs via the same stairs or lift you came up on.
