



PRESS RELEASE

OPERATUNITY TO SEE JANE

The winner of Channel 4's Operatunity, soprano Jane Gilchrist, appears at Cheltenham Town Hall this coming week as a guest at the annual WI Carol Concerts.

In 2002, Jane took up the Operatunity Challenge and won the chance to star as Gilda in Verdi's Rigoletto at the Coliseum in London. She shared the role with co-winner, Denise Leigh, after they had seen off the competition from 2500 other hopefuls. It was an amazing moment for Jane : *"This was one of the highlights of my life. You can't describe how it feels to sing in front of a packed house of over 2000 people with a TV audience of 2 million watching at home. It was astounding."*

Jane was brought up in Somerset and spent many years singing with the Clevedon Gilbert and Sullivan Society. At the age of 21 she auditioned for the Welsh National Opera, who were impressed with her voice, but told her to go to college and train in grand opera. Unfortunately, she wasn't able to afford this and it looked like her dreams of becoming an opera singer would be dashed. Operatunity was to change all that, and since then Jane hasn't looked back, with an impressive list of top performances and recordings to her name.

The WI is delighted to welcome Jane back to Cheltenham, as a guest at their Carol Concerts, for a second time, by popular demand. You can see her in two performances, at 2.30pm and 7.15pm, at Cheltenham Town Hall on Wednesday 6th December. Tickets are £6, available by calling 01452 523966 or on the door. Also appearing will be the Newent Community School Senior Jazz Band and the Gloucestershire WI choir, conducted by Ian Fox.

Information for editors:

If you would like to send a reporter or photographer to the Carol Concert, please contact :

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