



Pictures: Keris Bechington

Katja WEBB

The Perth opera singer shows Sandra Peterson her favourites

- Die Fledermaus score** My favourite opera is always the one I'm working on. It's nice to be working on a comic opera for a change. The music is such fun. It's light and frothy, like champagne.
- Necklace** I bought this with some of the money I won for coming second in the Opera Foundation of Australia's New York Study Scholarship award in 2006. It was held at the Sydney Opera House. I often wear it when I'm performing.
- Photo** This was taken when I was performing in the WA Opera production of *The Pearl Fishers*. It was my first big role onstage and was a big step up for me.
- Vintage scores** These belonged to the late opera singer Rita Streich and some still have her markings in them. I found them in a music shop in Cologne, Germany, and bought as many of them as I could carry.
- Programs** In 2007, while I was at the National Opera Studio in London, I did a Master Class at Covent Garden with famous mezzo-soprano Dame Felicity Joan Palmer. It was an amazing experience. The other program is from when I did a concert at St Martin-in-the-Fields. I was one of the soprano soloists in a performance of Bach's Mass in B Minor.
- Performance dress** This fits like a glove. I love wearing it and did all of my performances in it while I was at the National Opera Studio.
- Kindle** This holds thousands of books, which is great because I'm such a reader. I'm a bit of a mystery buff and have also been enjoying reading the works of P.G. Wodehouse.
- Cat** Empress will be 20 this year. She's been blind since last year, but seems to cope with it fine – as long as we don't move the furniture around.
- Locket** This has a photo of my goddaughter inside it. She was four when the photo was taken, but is about to turn nine now. The locket was a Christmas present from her mother and I wear it all the time.
- Vienna State Opera souvenirs** I had a minuscule role (four lines) in *Der Rosenkavalier* at the Vienna State Opera (Wiener Staatsoper) and it was so exciting. These are my passes to the artist's box – so I got to see all of the operas for nothing – and my backstage pass. In two weeks, I sat through six Wagner operas. I fell in love with Vienna.

* Katja Webb will play the role of Rosalinde in *Die Fledermaus* at the 20th anniversary concert of Opera in the Park on Saturday. This free event is on at the Supreme Court Gardens at 8pm.

* Katja will also appear later in the year in the WA Opera production of *Falstaff*.

