

**MEDIA RELEASE**

9 December 2020

**Lehár** | Directed by Graeme Murphy | Conducted by Brian Castles-Onion and Paul Fitzsimon**Opera Australia kicks off 2021 in style with  
*The Merry Widow***

January 5-16, 2021 | Joan Sutherland Theatre, Sydney Opera House

Starring | Julie Lea Goodwin | Alexander Lewis | David Whitney | Stacey Alleaume



More than nine months since its last performance, Opera Australia is thrilled to be back at the Sydney Opera House, opening on January 5 with Lehár's uplifting *The Merry Widow*.

In this magnificently opulent production, all the glitz and glamour of art deco France comes alive thanks to the creative dream team of director/choreographer Graeme Murphy, set designer Michael Scott-Mitchell and costume designer Jennifer Irwin. Their vision combines spirited choreography with lavish costumes and stunning sets, creating a show to be enjoyed by all.

Following their acclaimed performances in *West Side Story* on Sydney Harbour last year, two of the country's finest performers, Julie Lea Goodwin and Alexander Lewis will lead an all-Australian cast in this dance-packed show.

The pair will reunite on the Joan Sutherland Theatre stage to play former lovers Hanna Glavari and Danilo Danilovich in this entertaining tale of a newly wealthy widow who is suddenly the hottest catch in town.

Performing alongside the duo will be David Whitney as the comic Baron Mirko Zeta and soaring soprano Stacey Alleaume as Valencienne. Joining them on stage will be an ensemble of celebrated local talent including Jane Ede, Luke Gabbedy, Richard Anderson, Benjamin Rasheed and Angela Hogan.

Conductor Brian Castles-Onion will lead the Opera Australia Orchestra and Opera Australia Chorus in their performance of Lehár's fantastic music.

With magnificent sets, brilliant choreography and fabulous costumes *The Merry Widow* is the perfect start to 2021.

PATRON-IN-CHIEF  
DR HARUHISA HANDA



HERO PARTNERS



GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



### Creatives

Conductor **Brian Castles-Onion** (Evenings),  
**Paul Fitzsimon** (Matinees)  
 Director & Choreographer **Graeme Murphy AO**  
 Creative Associate **Janet Vernon AM**  
 Revival Director & Choreographer **Shane Placentino**  
 English Translation by **Justin Fleming**  
 Set Designer **Michael Scott-Mitchell**  
 Costume Designer **Jennifer Irwin**  
 Lighting Designer **Damien Cooper**  
 Sound Designer **Tony David Cray**

### Cast

Hanna Glavari **Julie Lea Goodwin**  
 Danilo Danilovich **Alexander Lewis**  
 Baron Mirko Zeta **David Whitney**  
 Valenciienne **Stacey Alleaume**  
 Camille de Rosillon **Virgilio Marino**  
 Njegus **Benjamin Rasheed**  
 Alexis Kromov **Richard Anderson**  
 Dominik Bogdanovich **Andrew Moran**  
 Sylviane **Jane Ede**  
 Raoul de St. Brioche **Bradley Cooper**  
 Viscount Nicolas Cascada **Luke Gabbedy**  
 Olga Kromov **Angela Hogan**  
 Konrad Pritschich **Tom Hamilton**  
 Praskovia **Dominica Matthews**

### **Opera Australia Chorus**

### **Opera Australia Orchestra**

Opera Australia is committed to COVID Safe practices.  
 Please refer to the website for the Company's COVID Safe procedures:  
<https://opera.org.au/covid-safety>

### Media enquiries

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### Performance information

#### **Evenings at 7.30pm**

January 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16

#### **Saturday Matinees at 12.30pm**

January 9, 16

#### **Running time**

Approximately 2 hours and 55 minutes including two intervals

Performed in English

Please note this performance contains flashing light effects

### Bookings

Adult tickets from \$79 (fees may apply)

Opera Australia Box Office  
 (02) 9318 8200  
[www.opera.org.au](http://www.opera.org.au)

**Joan Sutherland Theatre,  
 Sydney Opera House**