

**MEDIA RELEASE**

25 May 2021

**Verdi | Directed by Davide Livermore | Conducted by Andrea Battistoni****Highly acclaimed *Attila* makes triumphant return to the Sydney Opera House after 2020 shutdown****June 29 – July 10, 2021 | Joan Sutherland Theatre, Sydney Opera House****Starring | Alexander Vinogradov | Natalie Aroyan | Diego Torre | Marco Vratogna**

*“Just when you thought Opera Australia couldn’t possibly squeeze any more opulence onto the stage of the Joan Sutherland Theatre, along comes this mind-boggling production of Verdi’s opera.” – Stage Whispers*

*“Anyone who loves Verdi, and opera, cannot but be excited by the sheer verve, energy, and visual delights of the performance.” – Australian Book Review*

**Opera Australia is bringing back Verdi’s *Attila*, the Company’s first co-production with the prestigious Teatro alla Scala, which had a hugely successful premiere in 2020 but was suspended after only two performances due to the COVID pandemic. The 2021 cast includes celebrated Russian bass, Alexander Vinogradov, in the title role.**

“We had magnificent feedback when *Attila* opened last year and we’ve been getting requests to reschedule it ever since, so I’m very happy that we are able to put it back on in the Sydney Opera House with most of the original cast, and enable all of our supporters to experience such a marvellous production,” says OA Artistic Director Lyndon Terracini.

Known for his work with Opera Australia’s innovative digital productions, renowned director Davide Livermore fuses together modern and traditional staging for *Attila* with digital projections, a colossal set and even two live horses.

The incredible direction, Giò Forma’s formidable sets, D-Wok’s captivating video designs and Gianluca Falaschi’s stunning costumes combine with Verdi’s soaring music and gripping story, ensuring this production of *Attila* is nothing short of epic and one not to be missed.

Telling the story of the King of the Huns’ invasion of Italy, this revenge opera will feature a world-class cast including internationally renowned bass Alexander Vinogradov who will be making his Sydney Opera House debut in the leading role of the barbarous Attila.

Opera Australia favourites, soprano Natalie Aroyan and tenor Diego Torre will reprise their roles of the warrior princess Odabella and her fiancé Foresto respectively. After terrorising Sydney

audiences as Scarpia in *Tosca* earlier this year, Marco Vratogna will return to play the determined Roman General Ezio.

Rounding out the principal cast are Company principals Virgilio Marino as Uldino and Gennadi Dubinsky as Pope Leo I; both also reprising their 2020 characters.

One of the most outstanding young conductors in the world today, Italian Maestro Andrea Battistoni will lead the Opera Australia Orchestra, the Opera Australia Chorus and the Opera Australia Children's Chorus in Verdi's rarely performed work.

The success of this "blockbuster spectacle" (*Financial Times*, 2018) led OA to a second collaboration with Teatro alla Scala, presenting Verdi's rarely performed *Ernani* in Australia earlier this year.

**Creatives**

Conductor **Andrea Battistoni**  
 Director **Daive Livermore**  
 Revival Director **Andy Morton**  
 Set Designer **Giò Forma**  
 Costume Designer **Gianluca Falaschi**  
 Lighting Designer **Antonio Castro**  
 Digital Content Designer **D-Wok**

**Cast**

Attila **Alexander Vinogradov**  
 Odabella **Natalie Aroyan**  
 Foresto **Diego Torre**  
 Ezio **Marco Vratogna**  
 Uldino **Virgilio Marino**  
 Pope Leo I **Gennadi Dubinsky**

**Opera Australia Chorus**  
**Opera Australia Orchestra**  
**Opera Australia Actors**  
**Opera Australia Children's Chorus**

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**  
 June 29, July 1, 6, 8, 10  
**Saturday Matinee at 12.30pm**  
 July 3

**Running time**

Approximately 2 hours and 20 minutes including one interval

Performed in Italian with English surtitles

This production contains violence.

**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**

**Production Partner Qantas**

