

MEDIA RELEASE

6 October 2021

Opera Australia launches premiere-filled 2022 Melbourne season



Opera Australia (OA) today announced soprano Stacey Alleaume will make her in-theatre debut as Violetta in Elijah Moshinsky's celebrated production of *La Traviata*, a highlight of the Company's 2022 Melbourne season.

The 2022 program will also feature the Australian premiere of Olivier Py's production of Richard Wagner's *Lohengrin* and a one-night only concert by arguably the greatest bass alive today, Ferruccio Furlanetto, along with a highly anticipated blockbuster musical.

OA Artistic Director Lyndon Terracini is looking forward to returning to Melbourne with a world-class season including some of the finest talent from Australia and abroad.

"After the challenging time we've all had but particularly Victorians, I am thrilled that we can return to Arts Centre Melbourne and present such fantastic productions for local audiences. Stacey Alleaume is truly becoming a shining star on opera stages all over the world, recently experiencing fantastic success in Austria and booking more international appearances for 2022, so it is important that she makes her in-theatre debut as Violetta in the town where she was born and bred.

"The magnificent calibre and variety of this season's shows and performers hold appeal for everyone from opera fans to musical theatre buffs to arts newcomers. We at OA thank Victorians for their continued support and we look forward to bringing many more top quality productions to Melbourne audiences for years to come," said Terracini.

Following her "*heartrendingly triumphant performance as Violetta*" (Bachtrack) in Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour this year, soprano **Stacey Alleaume** will make her in-theatre debut as Violetta in *La Traviata* on the State Theatre stage. Audiences are invited to witness Stacey's "*extraordinary*" performance; "*her voice was powerful, limber and expressive, scaling Verdi's romantic score with total assurance and clear conviction*" (Sunday Telegraph). Renowned Italian maestro Renato Palumbo travels to Melbourne to conduct.

The Australian premiere of director Olivier Py's acclaimed co-production with Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie of Wagner's epic opera *Lohengrin* will also take place in the State Theatre. Set in the ruins of Berlin during the aftermath of World War II, a cast of international powerhouse singers **Emily Magee**, **Elena Gabouri**, **Roberto Aronica**, **Marco Vratogna** and **Daniel Sumegi** tell this romantic tale of mythical proportions. Scheduled with Melbourne's extensive Wagner fan base in mind, *Lohengrin* features beautiful music Wagner himself called "streams of gold", sung by a huge chorus not to be missed.

PATRON-IN-CHIEF
DR HARUHISA HANDA



HERO PARTNERS



GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



In a second Australian premiere, Boito's only complete opera *Mefistofele* will be presented in concert with one of the world's most sought-after basses **Ferruccio Furlanetto** singing the title role. American soprano **Leah Crocetto** returns to Melbourne, after wowing audiences in *Aida* earlier this year, as Margherita, performing alongside Australian soprano **Natalie Aroyan** and Australia's favourite tenor **Diego Torre**.

Ferruccio Furlanetto will also, for the first time in Australia, share the highlights of his 40+ year long career in a one night only concert. Accompanied by international Russian pianist Natalia Sidorenko, Ferruccio will remind Melbourne audiences of his vast vocal range and thundering power with beloved bass arias from some of his greatest successes including *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Don Giovanni*, *Boris Godunov* and *Don Carlo* and a range of composers such as Brahms, Mussorgsky and Rachmaninov.

Cameron Mackintosh's new production of one of the most successful musicals of all time, Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera*, will deliver hit after hit from its musical score, featuring new staging and special effects, from the famous chandelier to the underground lake.

OA will continue its commitment to making opera accessible by performing a new production by Kate Gaul of Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* to schools around Victoria, touring a new production of Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* by director Priscilla Jackman to regional theatres, and staging Opera Gala in Uluru once again in the heart of Australia following postponements in 2020 and 2021.

AUTUMN 2022

VERDI: *La Traviata* | Conductor **Renato Palumbo** | Director **Elijah Moshinsky**

Following her success at Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour, shining star soprano Stacey Alleaume will make her in-theatre role debut as Violetta. Renato Palumbo makes a welcome return to Australia to conduct Ho-Yoon Chung as Alfredo, José Carbó as Giorgio and Celeste Haworth as Flora. **State Theatre, Arts Centre Melbourne, May 4 – 28 2022**

WAGNER: *Lohengrin* | Conductor **Tahu Matheson** | Director **Olivier Py**

A co-production with Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie, Olivier Py's *Lohengrin* will premiere in Melbourne, using a monumental revolving tiered set to depict a decaying theatre where emblems of German Romanticism gather dust. Opera Australia's Head of Music Tahu Matheson will conduct Wagner's romantic opera for the first time with an all-star cast featuring Emily Magee as Elsa, Elena Gabouri as Ortrud, Marco Vratogna as Telramund and Roberto Aronica in the title role. **State Theatre, Arts Centre Melbourne, May 14 – 24, 2022**

IN CONCERT

BOITO: *Mefistofele* | Conductor **Andrea Battistoni** | Director **Matthew Barclay**

Never before performed in Australia, the music of Boito's only completed opera will ring out in the State Theatre. After her 2021 Australian debut in *Aida*, American soprano Leah Crocetto will return to Melbourne to sing the part of Margherita opposite Australia's favourite tenor Diego Torre as Faust, Australian soprano Natalie Aroyan, and Italian bass Ferruccio Furlanetto as Mefistofele. Sensational young conductor Andrea Battistoni will conduct the full orchestra, huge chorus and big children's chorus through Boito's lush orchestration in a tale about a dance with the devil himself. **State Theatre, Arts Centre Melbourne, May 25 – 27, 2022**

Ferruccio Furlanetto Concert | Pianist **Natalia Sidorenko**

The globally renowned Ferruccio Furlanetto will deliver a one night only concert showcasing his vast vocal range, thundering power and vocal abilities for which he is known around the world. One of the world's most sought after singers, Ferruccio will traverse the emotional landscape of Brahms, Mussorgsky and Rachmaninov along with a variety of recognisable bass arias from *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Don Giovanni*, *Boris Godunov*, *Don Carlo* and more. **Melbourne Recital Centre, June 1, 2022**

MUSICAL

LLOYD-WEBBER: *The Phantom of the Opera*

One of the most successful musicals of all time, *The Phantom of the Opera*, will bring hit after hit from its musical score to Melbourne. Cameron Mackintosh's new production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's legendary show makes its Arts Centre Melbourne debut, with new direction, scenic design, lighting, sound and choreography with the original Tony- Award-winning costume designs. **State Theatre, Arts Centre Melbourne, October 30 – December 31 2022**

NATIONAL TOUR

ROSSINI: *The Barber of Seville* | Director Priscilla Jackman

Priscilla Jackman makes her OA national tour directorial debut with a new production of *The Barber of Seville*. The tour will travel across Victoria, Tasmania, Canberra, and New South Wales, bringing a world-class standard of opera to regional communities. This production will include a Regional Children’s Chorus, giving young singers from each community a chance to perform onstage alongside industry-leading opera singers.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

Janet Glover | Communications Manager | +61 412 601 816 | janet.glover@opera.org.au
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BOOKINGS

Subscriptions available now. Two operas from \$154
 Opera Australia Box Office | (02) 9318 8200
 See the digital brochure here opera.org.au/2022

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>