

Media Release

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Opera Australia's Kaufmann coup

World's best tenor to perform first opera in Australia



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Opera Australia today announced it had secured the world's most in demand tenor, Jonas Kaufmann to perform his first ever fully staged opera in Australia when the Company presents Wagner's *Lohengrin* in Melbourne in May.

Rarely performing outside Europe these days, this is the first time the German tenor will perform in a fully staged opera anywhere in the entire South East Asia region, let alone Australia.

OA's Artistic Director Lyndon Terracini said "It's a tremendous thrill that the greatest tenor alive is coming to Melbourne to perform in his first opera in Australia, and singing, arguably, one of his finest roles.

"After all we've been through these past two years, it will be a such treat for audiences to see Jonas live on stage, singing the title role in Olivier Py's fantastic new production of *Lohengrin*.

"It's really terrific that Jonas continues such a positive relationship with Opera Australia."

This will be Kaufmann's fourth appearance with Opera Australia, following his performances in an operatic arias recital in 2014, and concert performances of *Parsifal* in 2017 and *Andrea Chénier* in 2019.

Kaufmann has performed *Lohengrin* many times to great acclaim since his role debut at Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich in 2009.

In the title role, Jonas Kaufmann was in a class of his own, totally involved and giving a masterclass of daringly varied, sometimes mannered, vocal technique. The Guardian 2012

Kaufmann will be joined by a cast of powerhouse singers: Emily Magee, Elena Gabouri, Marco Vratogna, Daniel Sumegi and Warwick Fyfe. Opera Australia's Head of Music Tahu Matheson will conduct Wagner's romantic opera, featuring a huge chorus.

PATRON-IN-CHIEF
DR HARUHISA HANDA



HERO PARTNERS



GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



A co-production with Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie, Py's acclaimed production is set in the ruins of Berlin during the aftermath of World War II. A romantic tale of mythical proportions plays out on a monumental revolving tiered set depicting a decaying theatre where emblems of German Romanticism gather dust.

Described as a "thoughtful and audacious piece of theatre" by Opera Traveller, Olivier Py's production of *Lohengrin* will have its Australian premiere at the Arts Centre Melbourne on 14 May 2022.

PRODUCTION PARTNER



BOOKINGS

Opera Australia Box Office | (02) 9318 8200 | opera.org.au

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>

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