

Media Release
30 August 2022

Opera Australia's celebrated Artistic Director presents his grand finale - a showcase of the world's finest talent



After 13 years at the helm of the national opera company, Artistic Director Lyndon Terracini AM today announced his final season for Opera Australia, a year-long celebration of some of the world's finest singers and musical talent with performances in Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane.

In a clear indication of Opera Australia's standing on the global stage, some of the biggest names in opera will be performing for the Company in 2023.

The world's leading tenor, Jonas Kaufmann, in demand sopranos Ermonela Jaho, Lise Lindstrom, Jessica Pratt and Amber Wagner, along with globally renowned Wagner interpreter Stefan Vinke, legendary bass Ferruccio Furlanetto and audience favourite Michael Fabiano, to name just a few, will all make very welcome returns to Australia in 2023.

Reflecting on where he had envisaged Opera Australia (OA) would be in his final year, and the challenges of a lingering pandemic that has wreaked havoc on the arts industry, Mr Terracini is understandably very proud to be able to present such a star-studded final season.

"This 2023 season may not include all the wonderful productions I would have liked for my final program, but I know this incredible collection of the world's finest talents will thrill audiences over the next twelve months.

"We will finally be able to stage Chen Shi-Zheng's amazing production of the world's first digital Ring Cycle in Brisbane, with the cast from the original 2020 season largely intact. And these are the best of the best Wagnerian performers, you won't find a better cast anywhere in the world," said Terracini.

The big names aren't limited to the singers, with highly acclaimed conductors Renato Palumbo, Guillaume Tourniaire, Lorenzo Passerini, Andrea Battistoni, Carlo Montanaro, Pinchas Steinberg, Philippe Auguin, return to Australia while Asher Fisch and Michelangelo Mazza will be making their debuts.

The program includes a mix of new and much-loved productions by acclaimed directors Sir David McVicar, Rosetta Cucchi, Damiano Michieletto, Elijah Moshinsky, Alex Ollè, Davide Livermore, Gale Edwards, and Chen Shi-Zheng.

OA's co-production of *The Tales of Hoffmann* will finally make it to the stage after being postponed in 2021. Starring acclaimed Australian soprano Jessica Pratt, proudly following in Dame Joan Sutherland's esteemed footsteps by being one of the very few singers capable of singing all four female lead roles.

Famous for her incredible performance in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Jessica is also set to give a masterclass of her coloratura prowess when she performs a one-off concert showcase of 'mad scenes'. A not-to-be-missed night of vocal acrobatics by one of the world's foremost bel-canto interpreters in the newly refurbished Concert Hall.

Also making a welcome return to the Concert Hall, celebrated tenor Jonas Kaufmann will be making his role debut in two concert performances of *La Gioconda*. Joined on stage by a star-studded cast, including one of the leading baritones of our time, Ludovic Tézier, with Pinchas Steinberg conducting the Opera Australia Orchestra and full Chorus.

Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour will welcome back one of its most beautiful productions, with Alex Ollé's *Madama Butterfly*. Karah Son will reprise the starring role of Cio Cio San that she performed to much acclaim for OA in the Joan Sutherland Theatre in 2019.

Limited venue availability in Melbourne has resulted in OA being unable to present any fully staged opera productions in 2023, however audiences will be treated to two of the most exciting performances of the year.

For the first time OA will stage a concert performance of Philip Glass' mesmerising *Satyagraha* featuring a stellar Australian cast lead by Indian Australian Shanul Sharma and West Australian soprano Rachelle Durkin.

Melbourne's Wagner devotees will be treated to *Tannhäuser* in Concert at Hamer Hall, featuring two of the world's biggest voices, that of the aforementioned global Wagnerian superstar Stefan Vinke and making one of her now-rare international appearances for this performance, soprano Amber Wagner will make a very welcome return to Melbourne.

In addition, two of the finest solo artists in the world will perform one-off recitals at the Melbourne Recital Hall - Michael Fabiano and Ferruccio Furlanetto.

2023 will also be a year of celebration of Australian talent with many homegrown performers singing alongside their international counterparts, many in break-out roles. Among those being thrust into the spotlight will be Anna-Louise Cole who will sing in *Tannhäuser* before stepping into the role of Sieglinde and then Brünnhilde in the Ring Cycle.

OA's celebrated chorus will be cut loose to take centre stage at the Sydney Opera House with five performances of their own show aptly named Chorus! Led by Chorus Master Paul Fitzsimon, *Chorus!* will be a showcase of famous choral pieces performed by 46 outstanding voices coming together as one to create a unique operatic experience.

[Further details about each production on the following pages]

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Booking Information

Subscriptions available now. Three operas from \$216

Opera Australia Box Office | (02) 9318 8200

Explore the season with our digital brochure [opera.org.au/features/discover-2023-season](https://www.opera.org.au/features/discover-2023-season)

Single tickets on sale from 12 October 2022

www.opera.org.au

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Sydney Summer

MOZART: *Don Giovanni* | Conductor Guillaume Tourniaire | Director Sir David McVicar

McVicar's celebrated production returns to the JST with several exciting debuts, including first appearances in Australia by Ukrainian baritone Andrei Kymach in the titular role, and Israeli bass Yuri Kissin as Leporello. Young Artist Sophie Salvesani will make her official mainstage opera debut for OA in the role of Donna Anna, after stepping in last minute during the Sydney Winter season to play Violetta. She will share the role with Celeste Lazarenko. Spanish tenor Juan de Dios Mateos will reprise his Don Ottavio. Bronwyn Douglass and Jane Ede will sing Donna Elvira and will be joined by Cathy-Di Zhang, Andrew Williams, and David Parkin. **Sydney Opera House, 5 January – 17 February**

PUCCINI: *La Bohème* | Conductor Michelangelo Mazza | Director Gale Edwards

Audiences will have one last chance to bid farewell to this beloved production of *La Bohème* by Gale Edwards. Korean soprano Karah Son will soar as Mimì while Peruvian tenor Iván Ayón Rivas will debut in Australia, as Rodolfo, sharing the role with Atalla Ayan who will make his OA role debut. The superb cast includes OA principals Julie Lea Goodwin, Esther Song, Haotian Qi, Alexander Sefton, Shane Lawrencev and Richard Anderson. **Sydney Opera House, 12 January – 11 March**

CILÈA: *Adriana Lecouvreur* | Conductor Renato Palumbo | Director Rosetta Cucchi

The Australian premiere of Rosetta Cucchi's production of Cilèa's *Adriana Lecouvreur*, co-produced with Teatro Comunale di Bologna and Fundación Opera de Óviedo, features an exceptional cast of some of the world's best voices. Star Albanian dramatic soprano Ermonela Jaho will perform the title role opposite American tenor Michael Fabiano as Maurizio, Romanian mezzo-soprano Carmen Topciu as The Principessa and Italian baritone Giorgio Caoduro as Michonnet. **Sydney Opera House, 20 February – 7 March**

In Concert

DONIZETTI: *Roberto Devereux* | Conductor Renato Palumbo

This rarely performed Tudor history retelling by Donizetti will be delivered in concert with Italian tenor Valerio Borgioni returning to Australia as the titular character. Making her Australian debut, Italian soprano Roberta Mantegna will sing Elisabetta, and fellow countryman baritone Giorgio Caoduro returns as the Duke of Nottingham. After her 2020 and 2021 performances were postponed, Polish mezzo-soprano Agnieszka Rehlis will make her long-awaited Australian debut in the role of Sara. **Sydney Opera House, 16 + 18 March**

Ferruccio Furlanetto in 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, Furlanetto 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 Gudanov*, *Don Carlo* and more. **City Recital Hall, 27 April**

Chorus! | Conductor Paul Fitzsimon | Director Matthew Barclay

Attracting great acclaim and accolades for many years as one of the best opera choruses in the world, the renowned Opera Australia Chorus will have the spotlight all to themselves in an hour-long showcase of great operatic choral pieces. Led by Chorus Master Paul Fitzsimon, forty-six OA choristers will explore the vast musical terrain of opera repertoire. **Sydney Opera House, 4, 11, 24 February, 4, 10 March**

Great Opera Hits

A selection of the world's greatest arias will ring out in the Joan Sutherland Theatre in a 90-minute light-hearted concert filled with classics by eminent composers such as Bizet, Mozart, Verdi. Most of which will be familiar to both opera lovers and newcomers alike. **Sydney Opera House, 1, 11, 13, 20, 29 January, 19 February, 17 March**

Sydney Winter

VERDI: *Rigoletto* | Conductor Renato Palumbo | Director Elijah Moshinsky

Elijah Moshinsky's production presents this Verdi tragedy on a colossal revolving set complete with a real car onstage. Italian baritone Ernesto Petti will make his Australian debut in the title role. Brazilian tenor Atalla Ayan and Italian bass Roberto Scanduzzi will reprise their roles of the Duke of Mantua and Sparafucile respectively. Adored OA soprano Stacey Alleaume will star as Gilda, a role she has sung internationally to much acclaim, and bass David Parkin will perform Monterone. **Sydney Opera House, 13 – 26 June**

VERDI: *Aida* | Conductor Lorenzo Passerini and Tahu Matheson | Director Davide Livermore

Davide Livermore's grand staging of *Aida* using OA's ground-breaking digital technologies will make a welcome return starring American soprano Leah Crocetto as the title character opposite Elena Gabouri as Amneris. After his postponed Australian debut, Uzbekistani tenor Najmiddin Mavlyanov will sing Radamès, Italian bass Roberto Scandiuizzi will sing Ramfis and Australian favourite baritone Warwick Fyfe will perform Amonasro. **Sydney Opera House, 19 June– 21 July**

OFFENBACH: *The Tales of Hoffmann* | Conductor Andrea Battistoni | Director Damiano Michieletto

Australian superstar soprano Jessica Pratt returns home to play all four soprano parts in the premiere of acclaimed director Damiano Michieletto's new production. It is the Company's first co-production with the Royal Opera House Covent Garden that will be built locally in its Surry Hills workshop and have its premiere season in Sydney. The titular role of Hoffmann will mark Peruvian tenor Iván Ayón Rivas' first appearance in Australia while Croatian bass baritone Marko Mimica will also make his Australian debut singing the four villains. **Sydney Opera House, 11 – 22 July**

In Concert

PONCHIELLI: *La Gioconda* | Conductor Pinchas Steinberg

Starring the incomparable Jonas Kaufmann, who will be making his role debut as Enzo Grimaldo, OA will premiere two concert performances of *La Gioconda* exclusive to the Sydney Opera House. Kaufmann will be joined on stage by one of the greatest baritones alive, Ludovic Tézier as Barnaba and Spanish soprano sensation Saïoa Hernández making her OA debut in the title role of *La Gioconda*, along with Agnieszka Rehlis and bass Vitalij Kowaljow. **Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House, 9 and 12 August**

CONCERT: *Mad Scenes with Jessica Pratt* | Conductor Carlo Montanaro

Jessica Pratt will perform some of the most dramatic, heartbreaking and impressive moments in opera, many of which she has become renowned for around the world, including her signature role in *Lucia di Lammermoor*. Accompanied by the Opera Australia Orchestra, Jessica will demonstrate her dramatic range and vocal acrobatics in a performance of the most challenging arias of the bel canto repertoire including music by Bellini, Verdi, and Donizetti. **Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House, 3 August**

Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour

PUCCINI: *Madama Butterfly* | Conductor Brian Castles-Onion | Director Alex Ollé

Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour will be a highlight of Sydney's cultural calendar yet again with Alex Ollé's stunning production of *Madama Butterfly*. Unmissable sopranos Karah Son and Eva Kong will share the heroine role of Cio-Cio-San while Diego Torre and Thomas Strong play Pinkerton, Agnes Sarkis and Sian Sharp sing Suzuki, and Michael Honeyman and Luke Gabbedy share the role of Sharpless. Pop-up restaurants and bubbles, the stunning Harbour backdrop and fireworks will combine to deliver a night like no other. **Fleet Steps, Mrs Macquaries Point, 24 March – 23 April**

Melbourne Season

GLASS: *Satyagraha* in Concert | Conductor Tahu Matheson | Director Andy Morton

In a first for Opera Australia, Philip Glass' mesmerising masterpiece *Satyagraha* will be performed in a one-off exclusive concert at Melbourne's Hamer Hall. Known for his voice of "resplendent clarity, precision and beauty of sound" (Sydney Morning Herald, 2019) Shanul Sharma returns to Australia to perform in a hypnotic and reverent portrayal of Mahatma Gandhi's early years of nonviolent protest in South Africa. **Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne, 13 May**

WAGNER: *Tannhäuser* in Concert | Conductor Asher Fisch | Director Shane Placentino

From its thrilling overture to its shattering climax, Wagner's exploration of love, religion and redemption through German folklore has fascinated and entranced audiences since its scandalous premiere. See German tenor Stefan Vinke and American soprano Amber Wagner perform together again, reunited after their acclaimed performances in Melbourne's 2016 *Ring Cycle*. Presented in concert at Hamer Hall, Wagner's magnificent orchestrations will be conducted by Asher Fisch and gloriously played by Orchestra Victoria. **Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne, 17 & 20 May**

Michael Fabiano in Concert

Making his Melbourne debut, celebrated American tenor Michael Fabiano will bestow his rich vocal talents on audiences in his first Australian solo recital. Appearing by request at famous opera houses across the world, from the Metropolitan Opera to Teatro alla Scala, Fabiano is one of the world's best tenors and this is a rare chance for audiences in the Southern Hemisphere to experience his powerful and emotive performance. **Melbourne Recital Centre, 12 February**

Ferruccio Furlanetto in Concert | Pianist **Natalia Sidorenko**

The globally renowned Ferruccio Furlanetto returns to Melbourne to finally deliver a one night only concert, after being forced to postpone his scheduled performance in 2022. 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, Furlanetto 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 Gudanov*, *Don Carlo* and more. **Melbourne Recital Centre, 22 April**

Brisbane Season

WAGNER: The Ring Cycle | Conductor **Philippe Auguin** | Director **Chen Shi-Zheng**

The world's first ever digital Ring Cycle will finally open in Brisbane for three, week-long full cycles in December. The previously announced, all-star cast will feature Daniel Sumegi as Wotan and Anna-Louise Cole as Brünnhilde marking the first time two Australians will lead a full Cycle. American star soprano Lise Lindstrom will appear as Brünnhilde in the first two cycles while German tenor Stefan Vinke will perform his signature, world-renowned role, Siegfried. **Lyric Theatre, QPAC, 1 – 21 December**

VERDI: Aida | Conductor **Lorenzo Passerini** | Director **Davide Livermore**

OA's critically acclaimed, first digital production will be presented for the first time for Brisbane audiences to witness the immersive theatrical experience delivered by towering LED screens. OA favourites soprano Natalie Aroyan and tenor Diego Torre will lead the cast as Aida and Radamès, alongside Michael Honeyman as Amonasro. Alexander Vinogradov will reprise his 2021 Green Room Award nominated performance as Ramfis with powerhouse Elena Gabouri as Amneris. **Lyric Theatre, QPAC, 6 – 20 December**

National Tour 2023

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

After a popular, successful tour around southern states in 2022, Priscilla Jackman's new production of *The Barber of Seville* will travel across New South Wales, Queensland, Northern Territory and Western Australia, 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, as the world-recognised "Fi-ga-ro, Fi-ga-ro, Fi-ga-ro" rings out across the country. **Various theatres, July – September**

BOOKINGS

Subscriptions available now. Three operas from \$216
 Opera Australia Box Office | (02) 9318 8200
 Explore the season with our digital brochure opera.org.au/2023
 Single tickets on sale from 12 October 2022
www.opera.org.au

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