

OPERA QUEENSLAND
UNDER
— THE —
STARS



SAT 28 NOV
RIVERSTAGE

40 YEARS OF
oq OPERA
QUEENSLAND



PATRICK NOLAN Artistic Director & CEO

We feel very fortunate to be welcoming you to our Season 2021 launch and the beginning of our 40th birthday celebrations at an event with thousands of people attending.

The Riverstage has echoes of a Roman amphitheatre – a space that holds many people and the relationship to the stage feels strong no matter where you are. A place where people from all walks of life can gather and have a shared experience.

It is also special because it is located right in the heart of the city – where culture needs to be. Great cities are made that way by the mixing of many different resources – the market for food and other goods, a parliament for civility, fields for sport and leisure, places for spiritual reflection, and galleries, concert halls and other spaces for music, art and storytelling - the spaces where we can process the messy complexity of life.

If this year has been anything, it has been messy and complex. And so, it came as no surprise that when everything closed down,

and our worlds became our homes as never before, what went through the roof was online streaming, be that films, or digital books, or, as we discovered with our Aria a Day program, people singing you a song. All around the world, we turned to the art we could access to help us make sense of it all.

It feels very good to be making a return to the stage. If it takes a village to raise a baby, it takes a city to raise an opera company. As we begin celebrations for our 40th birthday we are also looking forward to laying the foundations for another forty years. We have so many plans to continue to build Opera Queensland as a dynamic and responsive company and while we have a great team to do it, we can't do it alone.

On behalf of everyone at Opera Queensland, we thank you for being here this evening and wish you and your families all the very best for the coming break.

May the New Year bring much good health to us all.

Welcome to Country

Shannon Ruska
Director, Tribal Experiences

Special thanks to:

The Hon Minister Leeanne Enoch

Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and
Minister for the Arts

Opera Queensland respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the Lands across Queensland and pays respect to their ancestors who came before them and to Elders past, present and emerging.



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Australian Government



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Director:	Patrick Nolan
Lighting Designer:	Ben Hughes
Chorus Master:	Narelle French
Female principal outfits by:	Gail Sorronda

PERFORMERS

Jason Barry-Smith Compere and Baritone
Eva Kong Soprano
Sofia Troncoso Soprano
Hayley Sugars Mezzo-soprano
Xenia Puskarz Thomas Mezzo-soprano
Kang Wang Tenor
José Carbó Baritone
Samuel Piper Baritone
Helen Franzmann, Kahl Monticone & Yeronga State High School Students
with **Kiera Deakin & Jessica Low**
Opera Queensland Chorus
Queensland Symphony Orchestra
Shane Chen Acting Concertmaster
with special guest **Megan Washington**

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Assistant Head of Wardrobe:	Bianca Bulley
Surtitles:	Narelle French

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Lighting Desk Operator:	Richard "Zak" Harrison
Sound Engineer / Operator:	Geoff McGahan
Surtitles Technician:	Buck Outdoor Pty Ltd
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Hair & Make Up Artists:	Angela Farris, Emma Rawlings, Desiree Vogelsang
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DANE LAM
Conductor

Australian-Chinese conductor, Dane Lam, is Principal Conductor of the Xi'an Symphony Orchestra. Operatically, he enjoys a close relationship with London's Opera Holland Park and companies including Opera Queensland, Opera Australia and Scottish Opera.

Dane made his debut, aged eighteen, with the Sydney Symphony and has since conducted: the Queensland, Adelaide, Canberra, Dunedin, Kunming, Shandong, and Suzhou Symphony Orchestras, Münchner Rundfunkorchester, Het Residentie Orkest, City of London Sinfonia, Manchester Camerata, South Bank Sinfonia, Liverpool Philharmonic Ensemble 10/10, RTÉ Concert Orchestra, Beethoven Orchester Bonn, Verbier Festival Orchestra, and the Juilliard Orchestra.

Recent engagements include Angela Hewitt, Stephen Hough, Ning Feng, Barry Douglas, and Kirill Gerstein with XSO; *La bohème* and *Don Giovanni* at Opera Australia, *L'arlesiana* and *Così fan tutte* for Opera Holland Park, *Giulio Cesare* for Bury Court Opera, *Orfeo ed Euridice* for Opera Queensland, The Rake's Progress and *La traviata* for Scottish Opera.

In 2021, Dane Lam will lead seasons of *Le nozze di Figaro* in Brisbane, *La clemenza di Tito* in Canberra and will conduct the Xi'an Symphony (with Martha Argerich and Friends), Sydney, Melbourne, Queensland and Adelaide Symphony Orchestras.

A graduate of The Juilliard School, Royal Northern College of Music, and the University of Queensland, Dane was assistant conductor to Kurt Masur at the Orchestre National de France and Principal Conductor of the Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Orchestra. He was a finalist in the 2018 International Opera Awards in the Best Newcomer Category.



PATRICK NOLAN
Director

Currently the Artistic Director and CEO of Opera Queensland, Patrick has created productions for Sydney Chamber Opera, Opera Australia, New Zealand Opera, Seattle Opera, Sydney Theatre Company, Belvoir St, Griffin Theatre, Melbourne Theatre Company, and all the major Australian capital city festivals.

From 2009 - 2014 he was Artistic Director of Legs On The Wall, creating works that toured Australia, UK, Korea and Brazil. These included: *My Bicycle Loves You* for the Sydney and Perth Festivals, *The Voyage* for the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad and *Perch* for the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games.

In 2015 Patrick was awarded an Australia Council Theatre Fellowship to support research into large scale outdoor performance and the relationship between extreme physicality and storytelling. He was also appointed to the NSW / ACT Arts and Health Leadership Group.

As a theatre maker he is driven by a process in which a performer explores the extreme of their capacity to find a way of expressing an idea, a feeling, a sound that takes the audience to a place of inquiry and perhaps understanding.



BEN HUGHES Lighting Designer

Ben Hughes is a lighting designer for theatre, dance and opera. Ben's designs include: for Opera Queensland, *Don Giovanni*, *Mozart Airborne* (with Expressions Dance Company and Natalie Weir), *Snow White*; for Queensland Theatre, *Antigone*, *L'Appartement*, *Twelfth Night*, *An Octaroon*, *Scenes from a Marriage*, *Switzerland*, *Good Muslim Boy* (with Malthouse Theatre), *Black Diggers* (with Sydney Festival), *Mother Courage and Her Children*, *The Seagull*, *Happy Days*, *Grounded*, *HOME*, *The Button Event*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Constellations*, *Switzerland*, *Design for Living*, *1001 Nights*, *The Lost Property Rules*, *Orbit*, *The Mountaintop*, *The Pitch & The China Incident*, *Kelly*, *Head Full of Love*; for Belvoir, *Samson*; for Sydney Theatre Company, *Black is the New White*, *The Effect* (with Queensland Theatre); for Melbourne Theatre Company, *Noises Off!* (with Queensland Theatre), *Let The Sunshine* (with Queensland Theatre); for La Boite, *From Darkness*, *The Mathematics of Longing*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Medea*; for Expressions Dance Company, *The Dinner Party*, *Converge*, *Propel*, *The Host*, *Carmen Sweet*; for Adelaide Festival, *Two Feet*; for Queensland Ballet, *The Masters Series*, *Flourish*, *Giselle*. Ben is Associate Artistic Director of The Danger Ensemble, and lectures in lighting design at Queensland University of Technology.



**JASON
BARRY-SMITH**
Host

Jason Barry-Smith's study in Brisbane, Munich, London and Rome led him to a singing career on the Australian operatic stage, and is equally in demand as a singing teacher, conductor, arranger, and compere.

He's performed in some of Opera Queensland's most successful productions over the past 26 years, and has also performed the title role in *Billy Budd* for the Brisbane Biennial, Papageno in *The Magic Flute* for Opera Australia (Opera on the Beach), Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte* for the Tokyo Arts Foundation, Mathieu in *Andrea Chénier* and Belcore in *The Elixir of Love* for the State Opera of South Australia, Mamoud in *The Death of Klinghoffer* and the title role in *The Barber of Seville* for New Zealand Opera, Tony in *West Side Story* for Brisbane Festival, and Major-General Stanley in *The Pirates of Penzance* for Essgee Entertainment; and created the roles of Aldo Marini in *Mimma — A Musical of War & Friendship*, Samuel in *Electric Lenin* for NORPA and Julian in *Quartet* for the New Zealand Arts Festival.



EVA KONG
Soprano

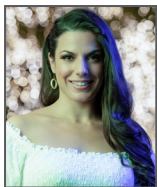
In 2019, soprano Eva Kong sang the title role in Opera Australia's touring production of *Madama Butterfly* and made her début as Violetta in *La traviata* in Seoul, South Korea; she also appeared as soprano soloist in *Iris dévoilée* for Sydney Symphony and sang Kumudha in *A Flowering Tree* for Opera Queensland. She returns to Opera Australia in 2021 as Woglinde in their new production of *Der Ring des Nibelungen*.

For Opera Australia in 2017-2018, she appeared in *The Nose*, *Parsifal* and *Great Opera Hits* and sang Madame Mao in *The Nixon Tapes* for the Sydney Opera House Trust; she also sang La Charmeuse in *Thaïs* and took the sopranos solos in *Carmina Burana* for the Melbourne Symphony and sang Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni* for Opera Queensland.

Her performance as Laura in *Luisa Miller* for Opera Australia earned her a Green Room Award. For the national company, she has also sung Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni* and Liù in *Turandot*.

Eva received a Helpmann Award Nomination for Best Female in a Supporting Role and was a Green Room Award Winner for Best Female in a Supporting Role - both in 2014 for her commanding appearance as Madame Mao in *Nixon in China* for Victorian Opera.

In July 2020, Eva made her debut as Manon for Korean National Opera - the first Australian singer to return to an opera stage after the Covid-19 international lockdown.



**SOFIA
TRONCOSO**
Soprano

American soprano Sofia Troncoso, a recent addition to the Brisbane arts community, is an accomplished singer in numerous styles including early music, Mozart's works, bel canto, and contemporary music. Recent highlights include Papagena in *The Magic Flute* for Scottish Opera, described as 'charming and witty' in the Scottish Herald, a critically acclaimed debut with Longborough Festival Opera as Poppea in *L'incoronazione de Poppea*, Giannetta in *The Elixir of Love* for Into Opera, Adele in *Fledermaus* with Diva Opera and concerts with the RSNO and Xi'an Symphony Orchestra. Other notable roles include Susanna in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Vixen in *The Cunning little Vixen*, and Nannetta in *Falstaff*.

Sofia is a graduate of the Royal Academy of Music, the National Opera Studio in London, and was recently an Emerging Artist for Scottish Opera where this year she returned as Tytania in a new production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Amongst her numerous successes, Sofia is a former Karaviotis & Salter Prize holder (Les Azuriales), Central City Opera Young Artist, and holds an Exceptional Talent Visa in the UK.



HAYLEY SUGARS
Mezzo-soprano

Mezzo-soprano Hayley Sugars commenced her vocal training at the University of Southern Queensland and subsequently undertook postgraduate study at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music. During her studies, Hayley was the recipient of many academic and performance awards including the Elizabeth Muir Postgraduate Scholarship (QCM) and the Joyce Campbell Lloyd Overseas Scholarship (USQ).

Hayley was a member of the Opera Queensland Young and Developing Artist Program from 2007-2009 and has enjoyed success in national competitions, including winning the German-Australian Opera Grant in 2010. This success resulted in contracts with the Hessisches Staatstheater Wiesbaden and the Landestheater Coburg.

Operatic repertoire includes Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni*, the title role in *Rinaldo*, Mrs Grose in *The Turn of the Screw*, Rosina in *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, Varvara in *Katja Kabanova*, Flora Bervoix in *La traviata*, Mirabella in *Der Zigeunerbaron*, Suzuki in *Madama Butterfly*, Cherubino in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Dido in *Dido and Aeneas*, Valencienne in *The Merry Widow*, Prince Orlovsky in *Die Fledermaus*, Brangäne in *Tristan und Isolde* and Auntie in *Peter Grimes*.

Since returning to Australia, Hayley has performed to great acclaim for Opera Queensland, New Zealand Opera and The Brisbane Festival. Most recently, she presented the recital *Songs of Desire* for Opera Queensland.



**XENIA PUSKARZ
THOMAS**
Mezzo-soprano

Brisbane-born mezzo-soprano Xenia Puskarz Thomas is a Kovner Fellow at The Juilliard School, New York where she commenced her studies online this October under Professor Edith Wiens. She will relocate to New York in December.

Xenia was awarded a Bachelor of Music from the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University in 2018 with first class honours and the University Medal for Academic Achievement. In 2019, Xenia was a scholar of the Melba Opera Trust program supported by the Amelia Joscelyne Scholarship. Later in the year, Xenia studied with teachers from the Metropolitan Opera House and The Juilliard School as part of the prestigious Opera Foundation for young Australians' Lady Fairfax New York Scholarship that she won in 2018. This year, she participated in the Carnegie Hall *SongStudio 2020* program and undertook masterclasses with Renée Fleming and Elina Garanča.

Recent performance engagements include: Opera Queensland Ensemble; Brisbane Racing Club Member's Evening; Opera at Jimbour with Opera Queensland; Bangalow Festival with the Southern Cross Soloists, and the Camerata of St John's Helpmann nominated 'Home' concert. Xenia's operatic roles include: Dorabella in *Così fan tutte*; L'enfant in *L'Enfant et les sortilèges*; Mrs Gladys Callaway in *Dry River Run* and Ramiro *La finta giardiniera*.



KANG WANG
Tenor

Australian-Chinese tenor Kang Wang was a finalist in the 2017 Cardiff Singer of the World competition and is a recent graduate of the Lindemann Young Artist Development Program of the Metropolitan Opera.

During the 2018–19 season, Mr Wang makes numerous house and role debuts with Welsh National Opera, The Glimmerglass Festival, Austin Lyric Opera, and on the concert stage with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Münchner Philharmoniker, and Eugene Symphony.

Recent engagements include performances with the Metropolitan Opera, Austin Lyric Opera, Opera Queensland, and concerts with the London Philharmonic, Beijing Symphony Orchestra, American Classical Orchestra, San Antonio Symphony, and Queensland Symphony Orchestra.

Mr Wang has appeared at the Kennedy Center (Washington, D.C.), Grand Hall of Tchaikovsky Conservatory (Moscow - Russia), David Geffen Hall (New York), Vene Teater (Tallinn - Estonia), and the Musique et vin au Clos Vougeot festival in France. Originally from Harbin, China, Mr Wang received an International Artist Diploma at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, United Kingdom, and a Master's of Music from the Queensland Conservatorium in Australia.



JOSÉ CARBÓ
Baritone

Argentine-Australian baritone José Carbó is one of the most exciting operatic artists of his generation; he has performed in the leading houses of the world including Teatro alla Scala, Teatro Real Madrid, Los Angeles Opera, Teatro dell'Opera di Roma, Seattle Opera and Opera Australia.

His triumphant Verdi debut in 2013 as Renato in *Un ballo in maschera* for Opera Australia led to further important Verdi role debuts including the title role in *Rigoletto*, Rodrigo in *Don Carlo* and his now-signature role of Germont in *La traviata*.

In 2018/2019, José toured Australia with superstar Sumi Jo, sang Germont and Sharpless in *Madama Butterfly* for Opera Australia and made his role début as Baron Scarpia in *Tosca* for Opera Queensland. In 2017, he sang Germont and Alfio/Tonio in *Cavalleria rusticana* and *Pagliacci* for Opera Australia — receiving Helpmann Award and Green Room Award nominations for his work. Other recent appearances include Riolo in *Florencia en el Amazonas* for Los Angeles Opera and Germont and Enrico in *Lucia di Lammermoor* for Victorian Opera. In 2015, José joined the roster of principal artists at the Metropolitan Opera.

José's debut album *My Latin Heart* (released by ABC Classics) was nominated for the ARIA Classical Record of the year and debuted at No. 1 on the Limelight Magazine Classical Music charts.



SAMUEL PIPER
Baritone

Samuel Piper made his debut as with Opera Queensland as Masetto in their 2018 production of *Don Giovanni*. He was also a soloist in the Helpmann nominated *Mozart Airborne*, which ran at the Cremorne Theatre in 2017 and has been a regular for company performances ever since he joined the chorus of Verdi's *Otello* in 2013. In 2018, Samuel was a chorister at Opera Australia in *Aida*, *The Nose*, and *La bohème* on the Harbour, also joining Pinchgut Opera for their City Recital Hall performances of Handel's *Athalia*.

Samuel holds a Bachelor of Music and has continued his studies through further scholarship and development opportunities, including the Melba Opera Trust (2016–2019), Lisa Gasteen National Opera School. Both opportunities led to significant performance opportunities including as Morales in *Carmen* with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra, a concert engagement with Victorian Opera at Hamer Hall, as well as performances at Kirribilli House, Hawthorne Arts Centre, and Deakin Edge to name a few.

He was introduced to opera through a high-school *Moving Opera* workshop with Opera Queensland, and is delighted to have had the opportunity to work and grow with the company over the last 12 years moving from workshop participant, youth ambassador, chorister, to young soloist.

OPERA QUEENSLAND CHORUS

Chorus Master: **Narelle French**

Sopranos and Mezzo-sopranos:

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Anne Fulton
Karen Gaydon
Rachael Griffin
Sally Harrison
Kaja Holzheimer
Adele King
Annie Lower
Ashleigh MacLaine
Leslie Martin
Elizabeth McBride
Bree Meara-Hendy
Ron Morris
Emma Nightingale
Heru Pinkasova
Deirdre Pullen
Katie Rutledge
Cassandra Seidemann
D'Arne Sleeman
Rosina Waugh

Tenors and Basses:

Sean Andrews
Stephen Beck
Matthew Broadbent
Ryan Carlson
Chris Cobcroft
Bill Cronk
Roger Davy
Shannon Foley
Sam Hartley
Iain Henderson
Michael Hibbard
Ian Kammholz
Steven Kickbusch
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Music Teacher:

Kiera Deakin

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