

MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE STUDIO SERIES BRINGS POETRY, PASSION AND A RENEWED
SENSE OF INTIMACY TO OPERA**

Delight in the remarkable power of the human voice with leading opera artists and rising stars in Opera Queensland's **Studio Series**, a program of intimate recitals and unforgettable performances in the Opera Queensland's newly refurbished Studio at South Bank.

Opera Queensland's Artistic Director & CEO Patrick Nolan curated a program featuring some of Australia's most talented singers and musicians, performing repertoire that spans arias from renowned operas, lesser-known works from well-known artists, and contemporary compositions.

"From a tenor in full flight to a soprano who could stop time with her singing, the Studio Series celebrates the many wonders of the human voice, creating a space for the audience to deepen its understanding of the remarkable art of singing," Mr Nolan said.

"Audiences will discover new and beautiful music and gain insights into the artists as they introduce each song to reveal its personal significance," Mr Nolan said.

Opera Queensland is partnering with the **Brisbane Music Festival (BMF)** to deliver two of the recitals. The BMF is directed by **Alex Raineri**, one of Australia's most accomplished pianists who will perform in four of the recitals over the course of the series.

The **2021 Studio Series** begins with American-Australian soprano and composer **Jane Sheldon** in her Opera Queensland debut. Jane will perform with Alex Raineri to deliver **Songs of Love and Death** on **12 and 13 February** with music by Debussy and Messiaen.

Chinese-Australian tenor **Kang Wang** also makes his solo debut with Opera Queensland in **Secret - A Love That Never Was**, joined on stage by renowned pianist **John Woods**. Their recital charts a tale of unrequited love featuring songs by Tosti, Donaudy and Maristella on **26 and 27 February**.

Yorta Yorta soprano and composer **Deborah Cheetham AO** will perform her own work as well as songs by composers such as Strauss, Puccini, Glanville-Hicks and Kats-Chernin alongside pianist **Toni Lalich OAM** in **Songs My Mother Sang to Me** on **19 and 20 March**.

Gregory Massingham and **Stephen Emerson** present the complete song-cycle, **Winterreise**, one of Schubert's final works, on **7 and 8 May** against a backdrop of majestic winter landscapes by German painter Caspar David Friedrich.

Raineri returns with soprano **Eva Kong** in **Death Becomes Her**, a program of evocative songs spanning arias from *Roméo et Juliette* and *Madama Butterfly* to Debussy's *Quatre Chansons de Jeunesse* and Korean repertoire on **4 and 5 June**.

Opera Queensland's second collaboration with the 2021 Brisbane Music Festival partners soprano **Sarah Crane** and baritone **Shaun Brown** in **A Poet's Love** featuring Mahler's *Rückert-Lieder* and Schumann's *Dichterliebe* on **6 and 7 August**, with Alex Raineri on piano.

Following sold out performances with Opera Queensland in 2019, soprano **Alexandra Flood** returns to explore the influence of Middle and Far Eastern melody on Western classical music traditions in **Eastern Promises** on **17 and 18 September**. Alex Raineri will accompany Alexandra in this final performance of the 2021 Studio Series.

Performances are held on Friday evenings and Saturday afternoons and run for approximately 60 minutes without interval. Single tickets are \$85. Season subscription discounts available until 15 March. Book at oq.com.au.

– ENDS –



The Studio Series

Opera Queensland Studio
140 Grey St, South Bank

SONGS OF LOVE AND DEATH

Jane Sheldon & Alex Raineri

Friday 12 February, 7pm

Saturday 13 February, 2pm

oq.com.au/whats-on/songs-of-love-and-death/

SECRET

Kang Wang & John Woods

Friday 26 February, 7pm

Saturday 27 February, 2pm

oq.com.au/whats-on/secret-a-love-that-never-was-kang-wang-and-john-woods/

SONGS MY MOTHER SANG TO ME

Deborah Cheetham AO & Toni Lalich OAM

Friday 19 March, 7pm

Saturday 20 March, 2pm

oq.com.au/whats-on/deborah-cheetham/

WINTERREISE

Gregory Massingham & Stephen Emmerson

Friday 7 May, 7pm

Saturday 8 May, 2pm

oq.com.au/whats-on/winterreise/

DEATH BECOMES HER

Eva Kong & Alex Raineri

Friday 4 June, 7pm

Saturday 5 June, 2pm

oq.com.au/whats-on/death-becomes-her/

A POET'S LOVE

Sarah Crane, Shaun Brown & Alex Raineri

Friday 6 August, 7pm

Saturday 7 August, 2pm

oq.com.au/whats-on/a-poets-love-sarah-crane-shaun-brown-alex-raineri/

EASTERN PROMISES

Alexandra Flood & Alex Raineri

Friday 17 September, 7pm

Saturday 18 September, 2pm

oq.com.au/whats-on/eastern-promises-alexandra-flood-alex-raineri/

Media Contact:

Beth Uttley, Account Manager, Aruga PR ~ E: beth@aruga.com.au | M: 0430 726 564

Julia Crosswell, Account Coordinator, Aruga PR ~ E: julia@aruga.com.au | M: 0481 226 220