

# FESTIVAL OF OUTBACK OPERA

WINTON · LONGREACH · BARCOLDINE · BLACKALL · WINDORAH

19 – 27 MAY

Image courtesy of Tourism and Events Queensland

**MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND****AND****MINISTER FOR TOURISM INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION AND MINISTER FOR SPORT**

Welcome to the inaugural Festival of Outback Opera, as we continue to celebrate the Year of Outback Tourism in 2021

You are in for a special experience, under the vast Outback skies of Longreach, Winton, Windorah, Blackall and Barcaldine.

This significant 8-day arts program responds to the magnificence and energy of the Outback, its vast horizons and star-filled nights with Opera Queensland and Camerata - Queensland's Chamber Orchestra performing alongside internationally acclaimed opera singers. There are also many other performances and events taking place, many of them free.

Queensland's Outback is one of Australia's most beautiful regions, and the Year of Outback Tourism continues to showcase its many experiences, opportunities to explore, and amazing flora and fauna. It is also a great opportunity to meet many wonderful Queenslanders along the way!

At this time, we are all mindful of the economic challenges of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The Queensland Government continues to work with Queenslanders throughout the State so we can unite and recover for Queensland jobs.

We have strengthened our support for the tourism industry because it is important to Outback Queensland and to the Queensland economy. Tourism is a major industry for Queensland, and a strong contributor for Outback Queensland's regional economy. That is why the Queensland Government is delighted to work with Opera Queensland. Together, we are supporting Queenslanders and creating jobs for Queenslanders.

More than 50 events and experiences have been supported by the Queensland Government's Year of Outback Tourism Events Program, and these emphasise the outstanding choice offered by Outback Queensland, for Queenslanders and for visitors to our great State.

We hope you enjoy the Festival of Outback Opera.

Share your photos, post your stories, tell your friends, and make plans to head back to Queensland's Outback.

**ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK MP**

PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND  
MINISTER FOR TRADE

**STIRLING HINCHLIFFE MP**

MINISTER FOR TOURISM INDUSTRY  
DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION  
MINISTER FOR SPORT



# WELCOME

Welcome to the first Festival of Outback Opera, a festival celebrating the wonder of song and storytelling. Opening in Winton before travelling to the shires of Longreach, Barcaldine, Barcoo, and Blackall and Tambo.

During the Festival audiences can encounter some of Australia's greatest opera singers (who prior to their premiere performances in Winton and Longreach, have appeared on stages in New York, Moscow and London), share a drink with friends at Sing, Sing, Sing or be involved in one of our community choruses.

The Festival of Outback Opera was born of Opera Queensland's belief that audiences, no matter where they are, have the right to experience art of the highest calibre. Our aim is to connect audiences from all walks of life from across the state, bringing them experiences inspired by what is special about each location and illuminating the universal joy that singing and storytelling offers.

This is the first outing of the Festival and we hope it becomes a regular part of the Outback's cultural life. In *Are You Lonesome Tonight* we explore the unlikely connections between opera and country music, which resonate well beyond the obvious themes of lovin' and fightin'.

In the same way, opera and the Outback have a great deal to offer each other. There is no denying the emotional power and energy of the Outback, the quality of light and sense of scale, invite us to reflect on our relation to the land and each other. It's impossible not to feel somehow changed by a visit to the Outback.

In the same way, opera creates a space where we can hear and see the world from perspectives beyond our own. Whether it is your first time to the opera or you have a deep connection with the art form, we hope the Festival offers you the chance to encounter something unique, be it a song ringing out of the desert, a conversation with a stranger or a shared experience with a loved one, we are thrilled that you have chosen to join us.

We are grateful for the support of the Premier's Outback Tourism fund, which provided us with the seed funding to activate the Festival. Special thanks also to the Winton, Longreach, Barcaldine, Barcoo, and Blackall and Tambo Councils, who have backed our dream to create a Festival that shines a light on all that opera and the Outback have to offer.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Patrick Nolan'.

PATRICK NOLAN

OPERA QUEENSLAND CEO & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Opera Queensland acknowledges the First Peoples of the Lands across Queensland upon which we perform. We pay our respects to all of Queensland's First Peoples, their ancestors and Elders and to our shared future.







### A NOTE FROM VANESSA SCAMMELL

CONDUCTOR, DARK SKY SERENADE &  
SINGING IN THE NIGHT

When I was called about working on a project for the Festival of Outback Opera and was told that it involved performing outdoors, that the artists were to be Teddy, Eva, Xenia, Kang and Jason, that the orchestra would be Camerata and that it was in Outback Queensland..... I didn't really have to think for very long. My answer was a resounding yes and I packed my Akubra hat without delay.

Having grown up in the country, in a very small town in South Gippsland Victoria, I remember the moments the opera and the symphonies visited us. Those performances led me to a world that I wanted to be a part of, and knowing how special that was for me, I wanted to make sure that this event was one that no one would ever forget.

In shaping the program we were all determined to share moments of opera that displayed beauty and emotion, humour and sheer exhilaration, but alongside these magnificent works from the Opera repertoire I wanted to imbue the evening with other gems. Australian repertoire, the wondrous compositions of Rodgers and Hammerstein and indeed other artists from outside the realm of the expected!

So, amongst Mozart, Verdi and Puccini, you will be treated to some unexpected choices that will move you, make you laugh, make you cry and make you think... The sheer beauty and interpretation of these works that will be performed by these talented and versatile artists will leave you breathless.

Oh What a Beautiful.... Evening this is going to be.

Please sit back, breathe in the fresh air and know that you will be transported to a place of beauty and magic with these very special concerts.

# FESTIVAL OF OUTBACK OPERA

WINTON • LONGREACH • BARCOLDINE • BLACKALL • WINDORAH

## 19 – 27 MAY

### DARK SKY SERENADE



FRIDAY 21 MAY

Australian Age of Dinosaurs

An exquisite concert embracing the majesty and wonder of all the Outback has to offer to the music of Mozart, Bizet, Rossini and Rodgers and Hammerstein to name a few.

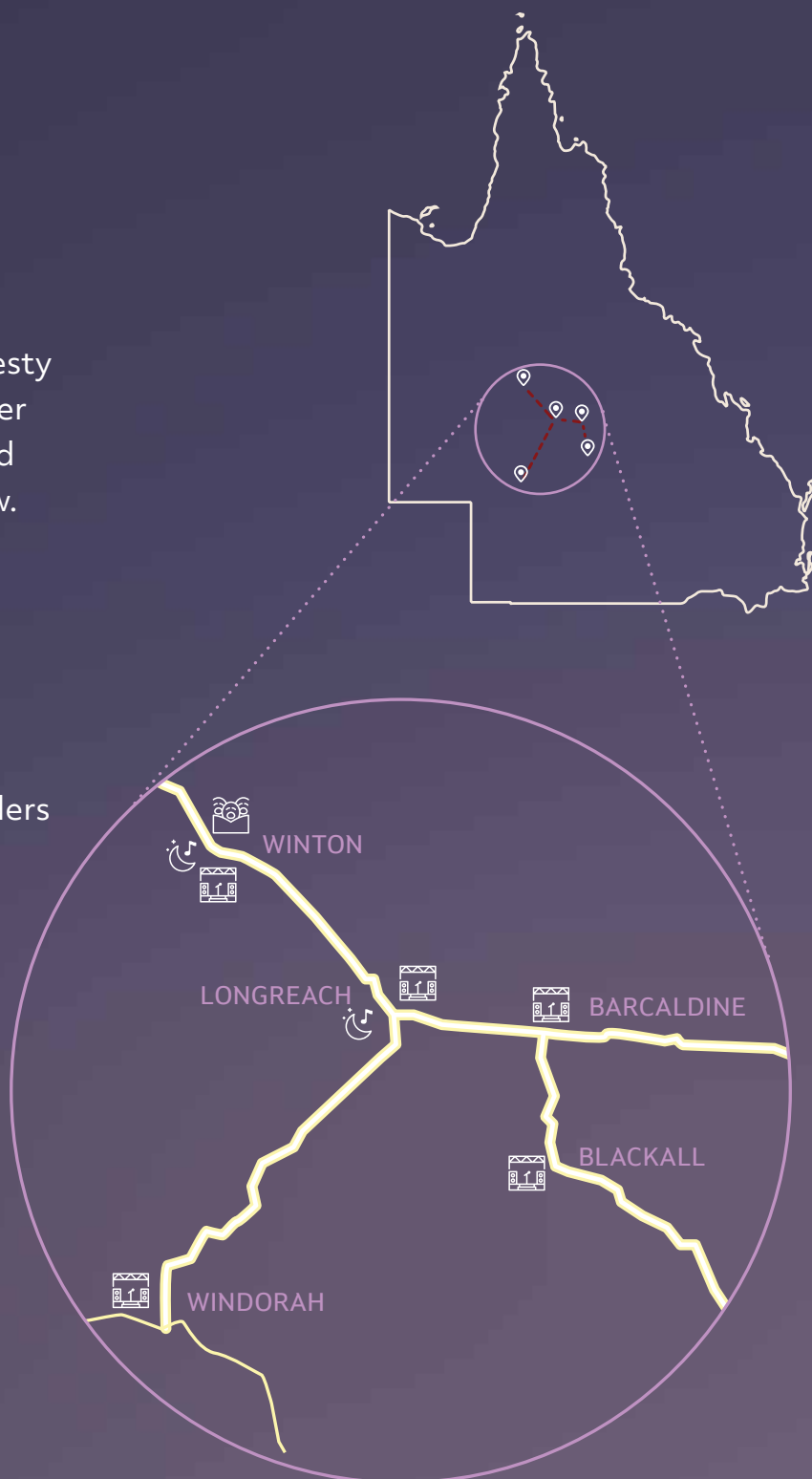
### SINGING IN THE NIGHT



SATURDAY 22 MAY

Qantas Founders Museum

As the sun sets behind the Qantas Founders Museum in Longreach, enjoy music by composers from across the history of opera, including Handel, Verdi, and Puccini and some much-loved musical numbers from shows such as *South Pacific*, *Fiddler on the Roof* and *My Fair Lady*.





## SING SING SING



WEDNESDAY 19 MAY, 6PM  
North Gregory Hotel

Opera Queensland's much-loved singalong comes to the Outback for one night only.



## ARE YOU LONESOME TONIGHT



THURSDAY 20 MAY  
Waltzing Matilda Centre



SUNDAY 23 MAY  
Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame



MONDAY 24 MAY  
Barcaldine Showgrounds



TUESDAY 25 MAY  
Blackall Woolscour



THURSDAY 27 MAY  
Windorah Rodeo Grounds

A celebration of country music and opera featuring arias and songs by composers such as Puccini, Verdi, Slim Dusty, Dolly Parton and more.









# CREATIVE TEAM & CAST

## DARK SKY SERENADE & SINGING IN THE NIGHT

### CREATIVE TEAM

Conductor **Vanessa Scammell**  
Director **Patrick Nolan**  
Camerata Artistic Director **Brendan Joyce**  
Lighting Design **Bernie Tan-Hayes**  
Sound Designer **Geoff McGahan**

### CAST

Teddy Tahu Rhodes  
Jason Barry-Smith  
Eva Kong  
Xenia Puskarz Thomas  
Kang Wang

Camerata – Queensland's Chamber Orchestra

## ARE YOU LONESOME TONIGHT

### CREATIVE TEAM

Concept **Patrick Nolan**  
Director **Laura Hansford**  
Designer **Penny Challen**  
Lighting Design **Wesley Bluff**  
Musical Director **Steve Russell**  
Music Consultant – Opera **Dane Lam**  
Music Consultant – Country **Sara Storer**

### CAST

Irena Lysiuk  
Marcus Corowa  
Jonathan Hickey

## SING SING SING

### CREATIVE TEAM

Director **Jason Barry-Smith**  
Pianist **Steve Russell**

# DARK SKY SERENADE

FRIDAY 21 MAY 2021

Vast horizons, crystal clear air and glorious music await you at this once in a lifetime concert. Set upon a raised plateau, amid the extraordinary Australian Age of Dinosaurs parklands, watch the sun set and the Milky Way emerge out of the night sky, as you're enchanted by songs from across the ages.

Sinfonia in C major by Antonio Vivaldi

'Some enchanted evening' from *South Pacific* by Rodgers and Hammerstein

Habanera from *Carmen* by Georges Bizet

'Che gelida manina' from *La bohème* by Giacomo Puccini

'I could have danced all night' from *My Fair Lady* by Lerner and Loewe

Ascot Gavotte from *My Fair Lady* by Lerner and Loewe

'Plains baked golden in the morning light' by John Rotar ✦

'O soave fanciulla' from *La bohème* by Giacomo Puccini

'Largo al factotum' from *Il barbiere di Siviglia* by Giacomo Rossini

'Porgi amor' from *Le nozze di Figaro* by W. A. Mozart

'Soave sia il vento' from *Così fan tutte* by W. A. Mozart

Admiral's Song from *H.M.S. Pinafore* by Gilbert and Sullivan

'If I were a rich man' from *Fiddler on the Roof* by Bock and Harnick

'Little corellas: Allora 1987' (2021) by Cameron Patrick

'Au fond du temple saint' from *The Pearlfishers* by Georges Bizet

Brindisi from *La traviata* by Giuseppe Verdi

✦ = World Premiere Performance



# SINGING IN THE NIGHT

SATURDAY 22 MAY 2021

With a charming hundred-year-old plane hangar as a backdrop, be immersed in beautiful music making as the sun sets behind the Qantas Founders Museum in Longreach.

## ACT ONE

Hoedown from *Rodeo* by Aaron Copland

'Willkommen' from *Cabaret* by Kander and Ebb

'Oh, what a beautiful morning' from *Oklahoma* by Rodgers and Hammerstein

'De' miei bollenti spiriti' from *La traviata* by Giuseppe Verdi

Flower Duet from *Lakmé* by Léo Delibes

'Beautiful dreamer' by Stephen Foster

Adagio for Strings by Samuel Barber

'Largo al factotum' from *Il barbiere di Siviglia* by Gioachino Rossini

The Masochism Tango by Tom Lehrer

'Là ci darem la mano' from *Don Giovanni* by W. A. Mozart

Brindisi from *La traviata* by Giuseppe Verdi

## ACT TWO

'What a wonderful world' by Louis Armstrong arr. B. Joyce

Toreador's Song from *Carmen* by Georges Bizet

Juliette's Waltz from *Roméo et Juliette* by Charles Gounod

'Apis Australis (Australian Honey Bee)' (2020) by John Rotar

'(There'll be bluebirds over) The white cliffs of Dover' by Burton and Kent

'Fields of gold' by Sting

'So in love' from *Kiss me, Kate* by Cole Porter

Mattinata by Ruggiero Leoncavallo

'Funiculì, funiculà' by Luigi Denza

Song of The Pirate King from *The Pirates of Penzance* by Gilbert and Sullivan

'Au fond du temple saint' from *The Pearlfishers* by Georges Bizet

'Nessun dorma' from *Turandot* by Giacomo Puccini



## Vanessa Scammell CONDUCTOR

In 2017, Vanessa Scammell conducted *My Fair Lady* for Opera Australia and a new production of *The Merry Widow* for West Australian Opera; she led seasons of Lehar's masterpiece for Opera Australia and Opera Queensland in 2018 as well as conducting *Eskimo Joe* for the Brisbane Festival and, for the eleventh consecutive year, the Helpmann Awards.

In 2019, she conducted *Sweeney Todd* and *Jekyll & Hyde* (both starring Anthony Warlow) and an encore national tour of *From Broadway to La Scala*. In 2021, she conducts the Sydney, Melbourne, Queensland and West Australian Symphony Orchestras, Opera in the Outback for Opera Queensland a major National Tour for the BBC.

For Opera Australia, she has conducted *South Pacific*, the national tour of *La traviata* and was Musical Director for their acclaimed 2015 television opera *The Divorce*. For the Australian Ballet, her credits include *Body Torque*, Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker* and *The Dream*.

For the Really Useful Company, she was Musical Director for *The Phantom of the Opera* in Beijing, Taipei, Athens, South Korea, South Africa and Australia; *West Side Story* Australian Tour for Farrelly Productions; *Chicago* Australasian Tour for Gordon Frost Organisation; *The Producers*, *Damn Yankees* and *Hello Dolly* for The Production Company, *Fiddler on the Roof* for TML Enterprises and the Australian premiere of *The Light in the Piazza*.



## Brendan Joyce CAMERATA ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Brendan Joyce's leadership of Camerata has been described by the Australian Arts Review as "outstanding" and under his Artistic Direction, Camerata's performances have attracted the comment, "in Classical music circles, it just doesn't get much better than this." (Limelight Magazine).

Brendan frequently appears as soloist with Camerata, has led for milestones including the group's first recordings, tours, digital and online appearances, and in acclaimed collaborations at the Brisbane Festival, Queensland Music Festival, Tyalgum Festival, Darwin Festival and the Australian Festival of Chamber Music. Brendan curates Camerata's renowned programming including its Helpmann nominated concerts, *Sara Macliver with Camerata* (2019) and *Home* (2014), and the 2014 APRA AMCOS Best Performance in Queensland award for the group's crucial presence in Natalie Weir's *When Time Stops* for Expressions Dance Company. Brendan is an alumnus of the original version of Camerata that played to critical acclaim 1987 to 1997.

In demand as a leader and concertmaster, Brendan performs regularly as leader of the Orchestra of the Antipodes in Sydney, and for many years appeared as a guest Concertmaster and member of the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra. With the latter he performed the premiere on period instruments of Max Richter's hit work, *Vivaldi Four Seasons Recomposed* to high critical acclaim. Recent performances included *Chamber Music Landscapes at Ukaria* for the 2019 Adelaide Festival and in 2020 for Musica Viva Australia's *Queen of the Nile* and for the 2020 digital series, *The Isolate Late Show*. During his youth orchestra days, Brendan led the Australian Youth Orchestra and Queensland Youth Symphony. Brendan has played with the Australian Chamber Orchestra, America's Smithsonian Chamber Orchestra, as guest with the Australian String Quartet, and he performed the complete cycle of Bartok's iconic String Quartets with the Kurilpa String Quartet.

Attaining a Doctor of Musical Arts in Violin Performance from The University of Maryland, USA, Brendan received awards for his leadership of the Maryland Handel Festival Opera Orchestra, as well as for presentations and premieres of the music of twenty Australian composers. Born and raised in Ayr, Queensland his early teachers included Joyce Crooks, Lyn Darveniza and Stephen Frewen-Lord in Ayr. He undertook extensive studies and mentoring with Elizabeth Morgan AM in Brisbane, undertaking undergraduate studies at the University of Queensland. Brendan studied higher degrees in the United States with Gerald Fischbach, and in chamber music with David Salness and the Guarneri String Quartet.





**Teddy Tahu Rhodes**  
**BASS-BARITONE**

Teddy Tahu Rhodes has performed internationally with the opera companies of San Francisco, Austin, Washington, Philadelphia, Dallas, Cincinnati, Houston, the Metropolitan Opera, Hamburg Staatsoper, Bayerische Staatsoper - Munich, Theatre du Châtelet - Paris, Welsh National Opera and Scottish Opera.

Past seasons include Escamillo (Hamburg, Paris, Munich, Bilbao, Metropolitan Opera, Opera Australia), *Don Giovanni* (Opera Australia, West Australia Opera) Emile De Becque - *South Pacific* (Opera Australia National Tour) and *The King and I* (Opera Australia National Tour).

Teddy debuted the roles of Méphistophélès - *Faust* (State Opera of South Australia and West Australia Opera) and Sweeney Todd (Victorian Opera), a concert tour *From Broadway to La Scala* (Australia and New Zealand) and *Scarpia - Tosca* (West Australia Opera, Opera New Zealand). More recently Teddy has performed *William Tell* and *I Capuleti ei Montecchi* (Victorian Opera), Titirel (*Parsifal*, Victorian Opera), Lord Sidney (*Il Viaggio a Reims*, Opera Australia) and Enrico VIII (*Anna Bolena*, Opera Australia) as well as another Australian tour of *From Broadway to La Scala*. In 2020 Teddy returned to Opera Australia to sing Méphistophélès in *Faust*.

As well as headlining Opera Queensland's inaugural Festival of Outback Opera, in 2021 Teddy will sing Theseus (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Adelaide Festival), Nourabad (*Les Pêcheurs de Perles*, Victorian Opera), Count Almaviva (Opera Queensland's new production of *The Marriage of Figaro* presented by West Australia Opera) and Beethoven 9 (Auckland Philharmonia).

Awards include an ARIA, two Helpmann Awards, a Limelight Award, a Green Room Award plus an MO Award.



**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 soprano solos in *Carmina Burana* for the Melbourne Symphony and sang Donna Anna in Opera Queensland's *Don Giovanni*.

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.



**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.

Following his début with Opera Queensland in 2013, Kang performed most recently in the 2021 Season launch, Opera Queensland Under the Stars. In February 2021, Kang made his solo performance début for Opera Queensland, in recital with pianist John Woods.

During the 2018-19 season, Kang made numerous house and role débuts 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 and Austin Lyric Opera, and concerts with the London Philharmonic, Beijing Symphony Orchestra, American Classical Orchestra, San Antonio Symphony, Opera Queensland and Queensland Symphony Orchestra.

Kang 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, Kang received an International Artist Diploma at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, United Kingdom, and a Masters of Music from the Queensland Conservatorium in Australia.



## 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 last October under Professor Edith Wiens.

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's Vocal Ensemble; Brisbane Racing Club Member's Evening; *Opera at Jimbour* with Opera Queensland; *Bungalow 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 in *La finta giardiniera*.



## Jason Barry-Smith BARITONE AND COMPÈRE

Baritone and musical educator 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 compère.

Jason has 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's *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.



# CAMERATA

## ORCHESTRA LIST

### MUSICIANS

#### VIOLIN

Brendan Joyce – Leader\*  
 Jonny Ng\*  
 Clare Cooney  
 Sally-Ann Djachenko  
 Rebekah Hall\*\*  
 Allana Wales  
 Helena Wang  
 Sally Waterhouse

#### VIOLA

Gregory Daniel\*  
 Sophie Ellis\*\*  
 Graeme McKean

#### CELLO

Nathan Smith\*  
 Rory Smith  
 Alison Smith-O'Connell

#### DOUBLE BASS

Marian Heckenberg\*

*\*Principal*

*\*\*Upbeat program*

### FOUNDER

Elizabeth Morgan AM

### BOARD

**Chairman** Brian Bartley  
**Deputy Chair** Libby Anstis  
**Hon. Secretary** Ben Poschelk  
**Hon. Treasurer** Nicola White  
 Dr Pamela Greet  
 Jenny Hodgson  
 Anne-Maree Moon

### STAFF

**Artistic Director** Brendan Joyce  
**Executive Director** Michael Sterzinger  
**Managing Producer** Angela Loh  
**Producer** Sonia Riggs  
**Education Manager** Jonny Ng  
**Rehearsal Manager** Jason Tong  
**Librarian** Kate Harbison  
**Tour/Stage Manager** Andrew Bell



**CAMERATA**

QUEENSLAND'S CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

# ARE YOU LONESOME TONIGHT

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY BEEF AUSTRALIA



**Laura Hansford**  
DIRECTOR

Laura Hansford is a Queensland-based artist who has been working on operatic productions for the last decade as both a creative and technical collaborator. Beginning her career as a part of the Stage Management team at Opera Queensland in 2012, she has been an instrumental part of the company's most memorable works, most recently as Assistant Director for the company's 2019 production of *Tosca*. Recently Laura has worked as an Associate Director for Victorian Opera on productions of *Pelléas et Mélisande* and *The Barber of Seville*. Laura has worked with companies such as Opera Australia, the State of South Australia, New Zealand Opera, Circa and the Queensland Symphony Orchestra, but her true passion lies in her engagements with Opera Queensland's and the Learning, Regional and Community Department, where she was a part of the last six regional touring programs. In 2020 Laura was nominated as an Emerging Female Artist at the Matilda awards.



**Penny Challen**  
DESIGNER

Penny Challen has over 20 years' experience in creative & production design. Having trained at QCA and NIDA, she has worked with some of the leading names in world theatre on productions for companies such as the UK's The Royal Opera House, Royal Shakespeare Company and National Theatre. Locally she has created designs for Opera Queensland, The State Library of Queensland, Queensland Theatre and La Boite. She is Co-Artistic Director of Little Match Productions, an independent Brisbane performing arts organisation specialising in new classical vocal works in contemporary contexts for adults and children. Penny is a passionate advocate for women in the performing arts and telling women's stories.



**Wesley Bluff**  
LIGHTING DESIGN

Recent Lighting Design credits include: *Cinematic* (Queensland Symphony Orchestra), *A Very Naughty Christmas* (Woodward Productions), *Dinner* (QUT), *Love and Money* (QUT), *A Very Naughty Christmas* (Understudy Productions), *State of Origin*, *The Beginning* (Home Ground Productions), *YANK!* (Understudy), *Wicked* (Matt Ward Entertainment), *The Revisionist* (Refraction Theatre), *Reagan Kelly* (Rocket Boy Ensemble), *Fame* (MWE), *Spring Awakening* (Underground Broadway), *Strictly Ballroom* (IMTC), *RENT* (MWE), *This is Our Youth* (Underground Broadway), *Les Misérables* (IMTC), *Don't Call Me Ishmael* (Underground Broadway), *Rock of Ages*, *Miss Saigon*, *Mary Poppins* (HOTA).

Outside of theatrical works, Wesley has also created lighting designs for seasons of *The Little Mermaid*, and *The sleeping Beauty* (Ballet Theatre QLD), *Song to The Earth* (Bleach).





**Steve Russell**  
**MUSICAL DIRECTOR**

Long regarded as one of Australia's finest jazz pianists and accompanists and a highly accomplished composer and arranger, Steve Russell has appeared with a vast array of national and international jazz, blues, pop and cabaret artists in an eclectic career spanning some forty years. His performance credits include Rodriguez, Chrissy Amphlett, Dan Sultan, Wendy Matthews, William Barton, Katie Noonan, James Morrison, Troy Cassar-Daley, Kate Miller-Heidke and Shellie Morris.

Steve is also a passionate educator, currently teaching at the Jazz Music Institute and Southern Cross University.

Previous musical directorships include the Queensland Performing Arts Centre's Songs of Justice, Queensland Music Festival productions, the Mount Isa Blast, the Yarrabah Band Festival and The Isaac Project, as well as *Snow White*, Opera Queensland's co-production with La Boîte Theatre, and five seasons of the iconic Women in Voice.



**Dane Lam**  
**MUSIC CONSULTANT –  
OPERA**

Australian-Chinese conductor Dane Lam is Principal Conductor of the Xi'an Symphony Orchestra and Opera Queensland's 2021 Resident Conductor and Associate Music Director. Operatically, he enjoys a close relationship with London's Opera Holland Park, Opera Australia and Scottish Opera.

Dane made his début, 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 concerts with 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; and *The Rake's Progress* and *La traviata* for Scottish Opera.

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



**Sara Storer**  
**MUSIC CONSULTANT –  
COUNTRY**

Sara Storer is a renowned Australian country music singer-songwriter and former teacher. She won a record breaking seven Golden Guitar awards in the Tamworth Country Music Festival in January 2004, and as of 2017, she has won 21 in total.

Three of her six studio albums have reached the top 30 on the ARIA Albums Chart, *Firefly* (July 2005), *Lovegrass* (August 2013) and *Silos* (March 2016). *Silos* also won Best Country Album at the ARIA Music Awards of 2016. Storer has been a member of a country music trio, Songbirds (2007–09) alongside Beccy Cole and Gina Jeffries.

# ARE YOU LONESOME TONIGHT

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Irena Lysiuk

Since graduating from Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University in 2016 with a Graduate Diploma in Music Studies and in 2014 with a Bachelor of Music, Irena Lysiuk has worked extensively for Opera Queensland.

Irena played the role of Gretel in Opera Queensland and shake & stir theatre co's school touring production of *Hansel & Gretel* (2017–18) and Adina in *FiZZ!* (2016), as well as chorus roles in Opera Queensland productions including Gilbert & Sullivan's *Ruddigore* (2017), *Don Giovanni* (2018) and *A Flowering Tree* (2019).

Turning to musical theatre, Irena played Carmen in *Sweet Charity* at the Brisbane Powerhouse (2019) and Anne Eggerman in the Brisbane Philharmonic Orchestra's production of Sondheim's *A Little Night Music* (2018). In 2018, Irena debuted the role of the Pussycat in Little Match Productions' new opera *The Owl & the Pussycat*, and performed at CommGames Festival and Brisbane Festival 2018 at QPAC. During her time at the university, Irena's roles included Damigella in *L'incoronazione di Poppea* (2015), Barbarina in *Le nozze di Figaro* (2013), Papagena in *Die Zauberflöte* – scenes (2012), and Una Novizia in *Suor Angelica* (2011).



Marcus Corowa

Marcus Corowa has captured the hearts of Australians with his silky, soulful voice and charming stage presence. An award-winning First Nations entertainer, Marcus is an accomplished singer/songwriter, composer, actor and mentor who has been turning heads for more than a decade.

Drawing on his Aboriginal and South Sea Islander heritage, Marcus creates captivating music with elements of blues, jazz and funk; a combination that won him the 'Most Promising New Talent in Music' award at the 2012 Deadly Awards and that can be heard on his EPs *Water & Air* and *The Greater You*. Since then, Marcus has found success as an independent recording artist, composer and actor.

Marcus is an exceptional live entertainer which has resulted in amazing partnerships. He was part of the 30-year anniversary celebrations for Australian Catholic University's Indigenous program, Yalbinga, performed with the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra at The National Centre for Indigenous Excellence Reconciliation Action Week, and has secured residencies with both *Voyages Sails in the Desert* and on the *Indian Pacific*. He is a positive role model and advocate for diversity and inclusion, committed to using his voice to mentor and inspire young Australians.



Jonathan Hickey

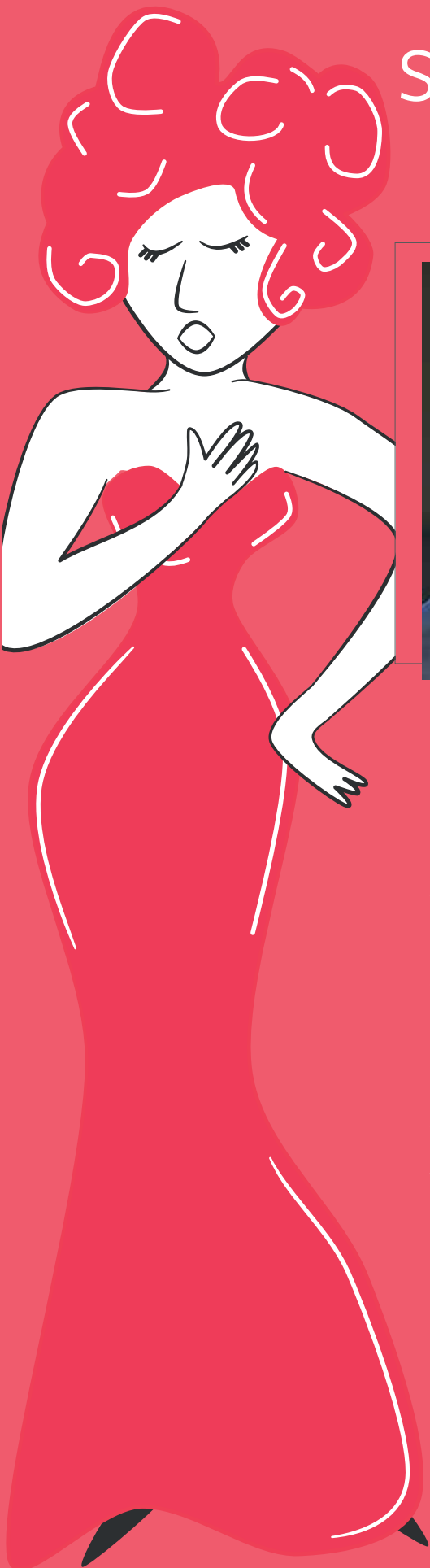
Jonathan Hickey is a musical theatre performer and multi-instrumentalist. He most recently played Tobias in TEG's 40th anniversary production of *Sweeney Todd*, performing at the Darling Harbour Theatre, ICC Sydney and Her Majesty's Theatre, Melbourne.

Other notable roles are Alex in *Aspects of Love* (Hayes Theatre, Sydney), Fabrizio in *The Light in the Piazza* (Melbourne Arts Centre), for which he was nominated for a Green Room Award for best supporting actor, and Matt in *The Fantasticks* (Hayes Theatre, Sydney).

Jonathan has toured regional Queensland as part of Opera Queensland's Open Stage school touring program in *FiZZ!* (2015, 2016) and *Hansel & Gretel* (2018). Other theatre credits include Opera Queensland's *The Pearlfishers*, Matt in *Bare*, Henrik in *A Little Night Music* with Brisbane Philharmonic. He also enjoys composing and performing in his family band Chinatown Carpark.



# SING SING SING



**Jason Barry-Smith**  
**DIRECTOR**

Baritone and musical educator 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.

Jason has 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's *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.



**Steve Russell**  
**PIANIST**

Long regarded as one of Australia's finest jazz pianists and accompanists and a highly accomplished composer and arranger, Steve Russell has appeared with a vast array of national and international jazz, blues, pop and cabaret artists in an eclectic career spanning some forty years. His performance credits include Rodriguez, Chrissy Amphlett, Dan Sultan, Wendy Matthews, William Barton, Katie Noonan, James Morrison, Troy Cassar-Daley, Kate Miller-Heidke and Shellie Morris.

Steve is also a passionate educator, currently teaching at the Jazz Music Institute and Southern Cross University.

Previous musical directorships include the Queensland Performing Arts Centre's Songs of Justice, Queensland Music Festival productions, the Mount Isa Blast, the Yarrabah Band Festival and The Isaac Project, as well as *Snow White*, Opera Queensland's co-production with La Boîte Theatre, and five seasons of the iconic Women in Voice.

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## Opera Queensland Ltd

ABN 83 010 258 750

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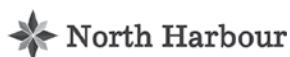
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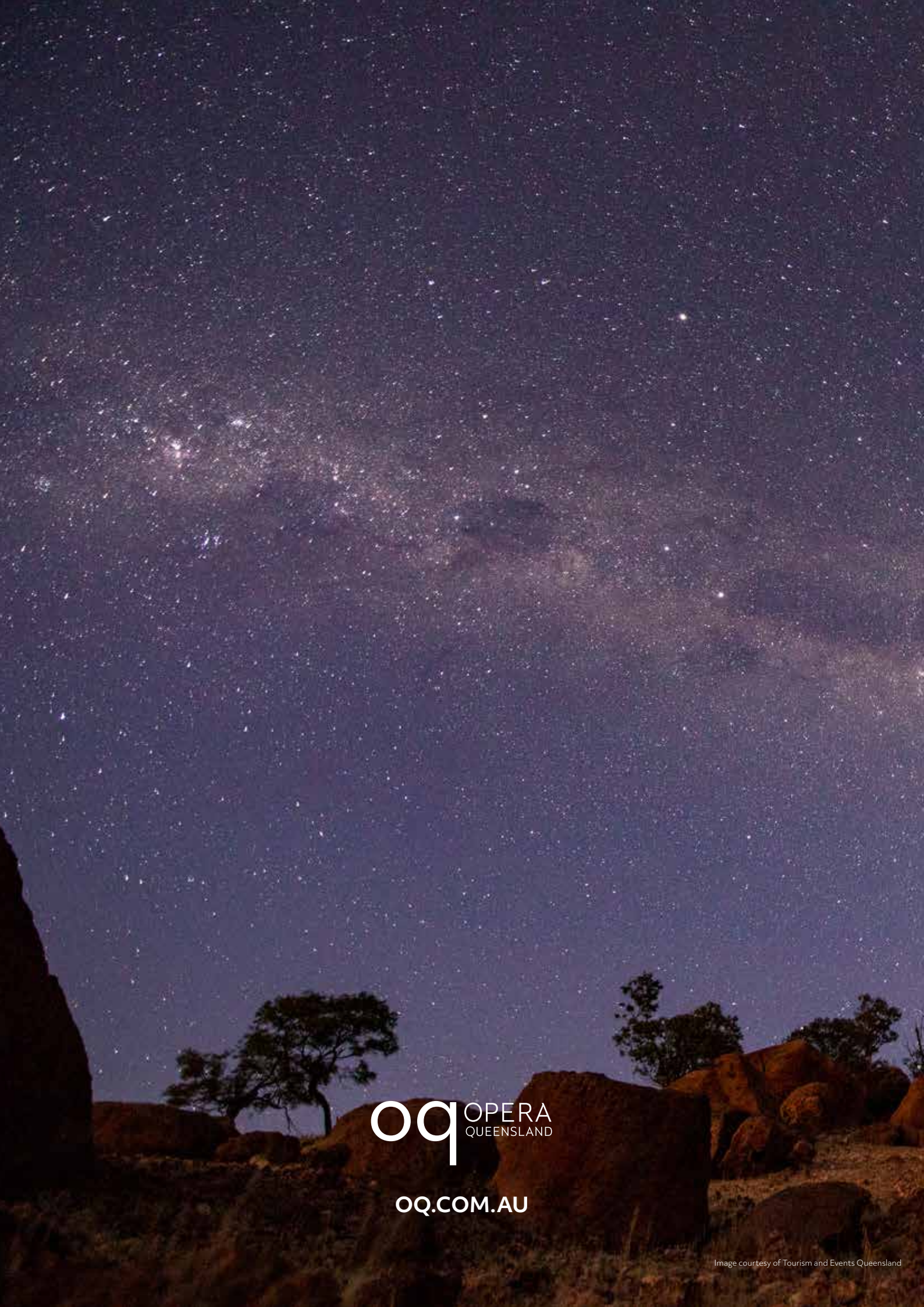
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