

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

SONGS OF LOVE & WAR DO BATTLE IN OPERA QUEENSLAND'S PASSIONATE NEW PRODUCTION

An industrial foundry seems an unlikely location to be immersed in passionate music but that's precisely what **Opera Queensland** is doing in its ground-breaking new production, ***Songs of Love & War***.

The leading arts company partners with The University of Queensland (UQ) and Urban Art Projects (UAP) to fill UAP's Northgate foundry with fiery songs and simmering desire for two special performances on **Sunday 26 September**.

Songs of Love & War strips bare the passions of lovers and fighters through a musical score that brings together 17th Century madrigals of **Claudio Monteverdi** and contemporary artists including **ABBA, Led Zeppelin, Beyoncé** and **David Bowie**.

The music will be performed by The UQ Pulse Chamber Orchestra accompanying six Opera Queensland soloists and the twelve voices of The UQ Singers.

Songs of Love & War is a promenade performance with audience members encouraged to move through the industrial setting of UAP's working foundry as the orchestra and 18-strong ensemble perform. There will be two shows only at **6.30pm** and **8.30pm**.

Opera Queensland CEO & Artistic Director **Patrick Nolan** said the company was excited to partner with UQ and UAP to experiment, innovate and push the boundaries of opera.

"At its core, opera is about connection: between artist and audience, between classic and contemporary, between music and memory," Mr Nolan said.

"We share the joy of opera – of music and storytelling – with people across Queensland and constantly seek out ways to innovate and reach new audiences.

"This partnership with UQ and UAP takes us out of traditional theatres and into a unique performance space, offering UQ students an incredible opportunity to perform with some of Queensland's leading opera singers.

"Audiences will experience the furious force of love, the intimacy of chamber performances, live art projected onto the foundry's walls and ceilings, extraordinary costumes and exquisite music from the Renaissance to now."

Songs of Love & War takes its inspiration from renowned Italian composer **Claudio Monteverdi** who published *Madrigals of Love and War (Madrigali guerrieri, et amorosi)* in 1638.

In it, he argued composers had captured the first two passions – soft and moderate – and his goal was to express the third "missing" passion – agitation.

Musical Director and Opera Queensland Resident Conductor **Dane Lam** said the ferocity of Monteverdi's songs reflected the passion and desire of deep love.

"Monteverdi's 'war' refers to the fighting emotions of the heart, the intensity of feeling that comes with falling in and out of love," Mr Lam said.

"In many ways, his compositions are precursors to today's pop songs which is why pairing the two genres on the one repertoire is genuinely complementary.

"Breathing new life into these classics and sparking new passion in contemporary songs are Opera Queensland's talented soloists **Amber Evans, Jessica Low, Sofia Troncoso, Shaun Brown, Nick Kirkup** and **Timothy Newton**."

Tickets to *Songs of Love & War* are on sale now from <https://www.oq.com.au/whats-on/songs-of-love-and-war/>

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.

- ENDS-

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Songs of Love & War

Presented by Opera Queensland and The University of Queensland
in association with UAP

Sunday 26 September

UAP (Urban Art Projects)

Corner Holland Street and Toombul Road, Northgate

Two performances - 6.30pm and 8.30pm

Approx. 70 mins with no interval

Tickets

Adults \$49 +bf, Full-time students \$29 +bf (student ID required at venue) at oq.com.au

General admission. <https://www.oq.com.au/whats-on/songs-of-love-and-war/>

This is a promenade performance and the audience is encouraged to move throughout. A limited number of low stools are available for those requiring seats.

Musical Director	DANE LAM
Director	PATRICK NOLAN
Costume	KAREN COCHET and BIANCA BULLEY
Lighting	BERNIE TAN-HAYES

Cast

AMBER EVANS

JESSICA LOW

SOFIA TRONCOSO

SHAUN BROWN

NICK KIRKUP

TIMOTHY NEWTON

THE UQ SINGERS featuring Jacalyn Adcock, Jada Love, Tess O'Donohue, Morgan Rosati, Maria Woodford
Kaija Scott, Connor Willmore, Jarrod Grabham, Troy Castle, Reuben Abbott, Yu Guo, Jia-Peng Yeung

THE UQ PULSE CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

Getting There

UAP is located 100 metres from Northgate train station. Trains to and from Central station every 10 mins. Please plan your travel on translink.com.au.

Free parking is available at the venue and Northgate train station

Drop-off for taxis and rideshares is UAP 41 Holland St Northgate

Please consider the environment and carpool or catch a train if possible.