

oq OPERA  
QUEENSLAND

PRESENTS

ARE ★ YOU  
**LONESOME**  
★ TONIGHT ★  
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A CELEBRATION OF

**COUNTRY MUSIC AND OPERA**

## *Are You Lonesome Tonight* is a celebration of the power of song and storytelling.

In the early Twentieth Century, Opera was one of the most popular forms of entertainment. One of the greatest singers of that time was Dame Nellie Melba. Born in Melbourne (and living for a short while in Mackay), her career took her to London, Paris and New York, where she played to packed houses in all the major opera houses— Covent Garden, Palais Garnier, Metropolitan Opera. Not long before her death in 1931, she toured Australia, a time that coincided with a new recording era and the beginning of what would come to be known as Country music.

Today most people consider Opera and Country music to be two genres with very little in common. If Opera is for the exclusive few, Country music is for anybody who can play a guitar and sing along; if Opera is grand, Country music is humble, born in the cattle yards and homesteads of the Appalachian Mountains; if Opera is technically complex, Country is accessible and, on the comparisons, go...

A closer analysis reveals a very different story — Opera and Country music in fact share many similar qualities and inclinations. Both celebrate the virtuosic –

be it singing, demanding technique or complex storylines; both rely on character driven stories to communicate their ideas; both revel in the involvement of the audience, who are passionate about the artists they love and will do anything to get a ticket.

*Are You Lonesome Tonight* uses these similarities as a springboard into a cabaret style performance that explores the extraordinary qualities of each genre —celebrating their similarities and their differences alike. Three singers and a specialist musician will use the canvas of history — 400 years of opera and almost 100 years of Country — to tell a story about love, yearning and life on the road.

Working with direct address, audience members feel as if they are involved in a living room conversation as they join a group of people passionate about the joys and wonders Opera and Country music have to offer. Songs by composers like Puccini and Verdi sit alongside Hank Williams and Dolly Parton.

The lives of the great stars are compared, and the emotional richness of the songs shown to share many of the same trials and tribulations.



## Venues

Are You Lonesome Tonight is self-contained, and can be accommodated in traditional proscenium venues, town halls, school halls and cultural facilities. This production, with collaborative planning, will also work well in outdoor settings, and may serve to celebrate local natural features or attractions.

The performance area should measure 8 metre depth by 8 metre width (minimum) with overhead clearance of 4 metres (minimum). We will require two dressing rooms (with seating and benches for approximately three artists in each) with mirrors, running water, and preferably access to toilets not shared with audience. The nature of these amenities is negotiable when working with outdoor venues.

## Community Engagement

Opera Queensland will reach beyond your audience into the wider community to offer a bespoke engagement program developed for each touring location. This could include a vocal workshop with school students, a performance at an aged care facility or a masterclass with a local choir or barbershop group.

Once performance dates are confirmed Opera Queensland will meet with key stakeholders to ensure that our presence in town is felt beyond the stage.

## Technical

The production will tour all set pieces, costuming, props, and a basic lighting and sound rig to fit performance requirements. Where a venue is equipped, we will prioritise the in-house standard lighting and audio rigs. Opera Queensland will tour a digital keyboard and requires access to 240V 3-phase power (5 pin outlet).

The touring team will require minimal supplementation from venue staff.

## Example Schedule

12.00pm	Arrival & Bump-in
5.00pm	Sound Check
7.00pm	Performance with interval
9.00pm	Bump-out
11.30pm	Finish / off-site

## Freight Notes

The production will travel in a 6-tonne van driven by touring crew. A loading dock is preferred.

However, if not available, easy vehicle access to a double door that opens to the stage environment is essential.





Images from Opera Queensland's Regional Tour 2021



*Townsville*



*Goondiwindi*



*Brisbane Racing Club*



*Cunnamulla*





## Contact

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