



oq OPERA  
QUEENSLAND

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT





Opera Queensland acknowledges and respects Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners of the land and seas where we live and perform.

We acknowledge and respect the knowledge, cultures, languages, songs and dances they have created and shared for at least 65,000 years.

Our commitment is to listen and walk respectfully with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals and communities, to celebrate the stories and songs of this place and its First Peoples.

# HIGHLIGHTS

2023 was another exceptional year for Opera Queensland. We were able to take our performances and community activities to people right across the state. Whether it's on the mainstage with our regular performance partners the Queensland Symphony Orchestra and QPAC or in regional centres at every point of the compass, we were driven by the desire to bring audiences stories rich with music and song performed by the finest artists working today.

As one of Australia's five major opera companies we are committed to developing the artists and creative workers who play such a vital role in the cultural landscape. Similarly, we constantly interrogate our practice to ensure our audiences experience the diversity and emotional depth that opera has to offer, be that in the classroom, at the local pub or in a lyric theatre.

88,992

TOTAL REACH

163

TOTAL PERFORMANCES

19,848

MAINSTAGE AUDIENCE

17

MAINSTAGE PERFORMANCES

6,956

REGIONAL QUEENSLAND REACH

91

REGIONAL QUEENSLAND PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS

6,855

LEARNING & EDUCATION REACH

80

LEARNING & EDUCATION PERFORMANCES AND WORKSHOPS

4

NEW WORKS IN DEVELOPMENT

247

ARTISTS AND ARTS WORKERS EMPLOYED

5

RECITALS IN THE OPERA QUEENSLAND STUDIO

8

YOUNG ARTIST PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

# VISION

## VISION

Growing a community connected by the transformative power of opera.

# PURPOSE

## PURPOSE

Creating a vibrant and sustainable program of classic, contemporary and new work by diverse artists for diverse audiences across Queensland and beyond.

# VALUES

## VALUES

### CREATIVITY

We create opportunities for artists, a space to play, experiment and be ambitious. We embrace difference and take risks, inspiring the community to explore and imagine new possibilities.

### RESPECT

Our relationships are built upon listening, empathy, trust and inclusiveness. Integrity is central to everything we do. We are accountable, committed and fair.

### COLLABORATION

Opera is a multifaceted artform, requiring a myriad of different skills. Working with our partners generates new ideas and opportunities, enabling all to achieve more than we could alone.

### VIRTUOSITY

We are focused, rigorous and questioning. We are committed to the highest standard of excellence in our art and our business.

### JOY

We delight in our work. Joy and happiness is a vital ingredient of what we do, create and give.

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## MESSAGE FROM

## CEO &amp; ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

**Our Vision at Opera Queensland is to grow a community connected by the transformative power of opera. A goal as simple as it is ambitious – through the work and music we create for our audiences, we want to nourish the connections that bind us.**

Whether we are sitting together in the theatre at QPAC, in an open paddock in the Outback, watching a performance in our Studio or participating in a singing workshop, the experience of sharing story and song connects and strengthens us as a community.

In a challenging year for many, the opportunity to create new productions and invest in the development of our artists and creative workers was a responsibility we held carefully. Faced with rising costs and the need to remain vigilant to the complexity of the times, we were rigorous in the practice of our art and business.

This was well evidenced in Laura Hansford's gripping production of Verdi's *Macbeth*. The concision and focus of this production illuminated the story in an electrifying way. The Queensland Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Umberto Clerici, Anna-Louise Cole and José Carbó leading a fine ensemble, and the Opera Queensland chorus in full force was a spectacular launch of our mainstage season at QPAC.

Our production of *Così fan tutte* similarly brought this much loved opera to life in a refreshingly new light, peeling back the façade to examine the fragile vulnerability of the male ego. *Aida*, our collaboration with Opera Australia, used technical wizardry and a blaze of visual imagery to continue this idea of turning our expectations of what opera can be upside down.

Around our mainstage productions we continued to deepen our connections with regional audiences. *Lady Sings the Maroons* used the Queensland songbook, from The Saints in the seventies to today's Ball Park Music, to ask the question: "What is Queensland?" A question with as many answers as there were audience members.

On its tour to 21 different locations around the state, it stopped at the Festival of Outback Opera, which continues to attract a myriad of people wanting to encounter the wonder of opera in the majestic landscapes of Winton and Longreach. This year we were thrilled to have members of the Queensland Symphony Orchestra join the University of Queensland Pulse Chamber Orchestra as our resident ensemble.

Our Young Artist program goes from strength to strength, with eight new artists joining the program in 2023. The passion and enthusiasm of each of them refuting any suggestion that opera is a fading artform. On the contrary, their imaginations, dreams and ambitions are an inspiration for us all. Thrillingly, many of this cohort have gone on to take leading roles in 2024, in such high profile and demanding productions as Opera Australia's national tour of *La bohème* and *West Side Story* on Sydney Harbour.

In a challenging year, we were pleased to deliver a small financial surplus. A testament to the care and attention to detail of everyone at Opera Queensland.

In addition to this team of hard working company members, we are thankful to Arts Queensland and Creative Australia and our community of corporate and private donors whose generosity and commitment to our shared vision is key to the work we do in Brisbane and across the regions.

Special thanks to the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation whose extraordinary generosity underwrites the success of our regional programs, the Mather Foundation through its support of our Annual Appeal and the Frazer Family Foundation which contributes to the Young Artist Program and other key projects.

My sincere thanks to the members of the Opera Queensland Board for their careful governance, navigating the tension between fiscal prudence and artistic exploration with good humour and respect for the company's sustainability. Finally, thank you to the OQ core staff and the extensive network of casual artists and crew who play such a vital role in ensuring our annual programs are delivered with virtuosity and care.

**PATRICK NOLAN**  
CEO & Artistic Director







## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Since its incorporation in June 1981, Opera Queensland has grown to be a leading opera company, succeeding in its vision to grow a community connected by the transformative power of opera, through creating a vibrant and sustainable program of classic, contemporary and new work, by diverse artists, for audiences right across Queensland and beyond.

Opera Queensland thanks the Queensland Government, through Arts Queensland, and the Australian Government through Creative Australia, for providing core funding to the Company. This investment by government has enabled Opera Queensland to employ artists and support staff to deliver three mainstage productions and tour regional, remote and rural Queensland.

Support from our donors and sponsors has enabled Opera Queensland to deliver the Young Artist Program and to grow and develop new talent as part of the company's commitment to advancing excellence in the artform. This support has also enabled the company to continue to develop its presence in rural and remote parts of Queensland. The Festival of Outback Opera and our regional tour of *Lady Sings the Maroons*, were highlights in the 2023 regional Opera Queensland program.

Queensland is very fortunate to have its very own home opera company. Such bodies are treasured community assets which make an invaluable contribution to the wellbeing of communities and to the economy. There is ample evidence to suggest strong societies have a strong arts and culture presence.

I thank the Opera Queensland Board who volunteer their time and expertise to ensure Opera Queensland is a well governed and sustainable arts body. We are pleased to report an operating surplus for 2023.

Finally, I thank Opera Queensland CEO and Artistic Director, Patrick Nolan, for his vision and strong leadership of Opera Queensland. Patrick is supported by a very able and professional team, who together have delivered an outstanding 2023 opera program.

**LINDA A. APELT**  
Chair





## OUR IMPACT DEVELOP

### CREATE PATHWAYS FOR ARTISTS AND ARTS WORKERS

Develop emerging and established artists and arts workers to strengthen the Queensland and national arts sector.

247

TOTAL ARTISTS AND  
ARTS WORKERS  
EMPLOYED

8

YOUNG ARTIST PROGRAM  
OPPORTUNITIES

4

NEW WORKS  
IN DEVELOPMENT

### DEVELOP AND PRODUCE WORKS BY FIRST NATIONS ARTISTS

Work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (First Nations) peoples and communities and support the creation of respectful partnerships to tell the stories of this land in song.



CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT  
OF STRAIGHT FROM  
THE STRAIT

“

*Fostering collaborations with other companies and artists, creating opportunities for artistic exploration and development, is vital to the sustainability of our artform and the sector at large.*

PATRICK NOLAN  
CEO & Artistic Director





# MACBETH

9 – 11 March, Concert Hall, QPAC

Our first production of Season 2023 was Verdi's extraordinary retelling of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. In the hands of two storytellers as profoundly humane and empathetic as Shakespeare and Verdi, we learned how vital these qualities are to the success of any community, be it medieval Scotland or contemporary Australia.

Director, Laura Hansford created a production that insightfully managed the tension between the mystery and the politics with great precision and simplicity. Several of the artists in this production made their role debut, including José Carbó (Macbeth) and Anna-Louise Cole (Lady Macbeth), bringing to life two intriguing characters whose passion for power left no room for love.

## CREATIVE TEAM

**Conductor** Umberto Clerici

**Director** Laura Hansford

**Lighting** Christine Felmingham

**Costumes** Karen Cochet & Bianca Bulley

**Chorus Master** Narelle French

## CAST

**Macbeth** José Carbó

**Lady Macbeth** Anna-Louise Cole

**Banquo** Wade Kernot

**Macduff** Rosario La Spina

**Malcolm** Carlos Bárcenas

**Lady-in-Waiting** Dominique Fegan

**Doctor** Shaun Brown

**Servant** Yuan Gao

**Assassin** Matthew Broadbent

**Apparition 1** Yuan Gao

**Apparition 2** Shikara Ringdahl

**Apparition 3** Leslie Martin-Nightingale

Opera Queensland Chorus

Queensland Symphony Orchestra

“

*... consistently engaging, with captivating performances and striking design heightening this classic tale of tragedy.*

BACKSTREET BRISBANE

*The outstanding vocal performances, and the evocative depictions of each of the characters, builds empathy with the viewer, as each of the characters can be seen, heard and felt in ways that are simply not possible with any other medium...*

4ZZZ





33

*An absolute cracker of a performance, one that had the audience in gales of laughter...*

LIMELIGHT MAGAZINE

*Well, it is... magnifico.*

PHIL BROWN  
InQueensland



# COSÌ FAN TUTTE

10 – 26 August, Playhouse, QPAC

In our mainstage productions we celebrate the collaborative energy at opera's core, an energy that radiates out to the whole of the Queensland arts community.

What never fails to surprise is how relevant works of the operatic cannon remain. The great privilege of being immersed in Mozart's sublime music and Da Ponte's clever story is the constant revelation of how alive to the present moment *Così fan tutte* is with its narrative about inherited privilege and the rights of the individual.

The magic of *Così fan tutte* lies in its brutally honest portrayal of the human condition. Delving into the complexities of love, loyalty, and human relationships, transcending cultural boundaries as it does so.

## CREATIVE TEAM

**Conductor** Zoe Zeniodi

**Director** Patrick Nolan

**Set & Costume** Elizabeth Gadsby

**Lighting** Bernie Tan-Hayes

**Assistant Director** Laura Hansford

**Intimacy Coordinator** Michelle Miall

**Chorus Master** Narelle French

## CAST

**Fiordiligi** Samantha Clarke

**Dorabella** Anna Dowsley

**Ferrando** Brenton Spiteri

**Guglielmo** Jeremy Kleeman

**Despina** Leanne Kenneally

**Don Alfonso** Shaun Brown

Opera Queensland Chorus

Queensland Symphony Orchestra





## YOUNG ARTIST PROGRAM

In 2023 we announced eight new members of our Young Artist Program – seven singers, Maia Andrews, Yuan Gao, Nick Kirkup, Nina Korbe, Olivia Payne, Shikara Ringdahl and Emily Turner were joined by Jess Hitchcock, who is involved in our Young Artist program as a composer.

Overseen by Opera Queensland's Head of Music, Narelle French, the program provides a world-class mentorship experience for talented young singers, composers and directors. This includes regular coaching, masterclasses, workshops and performance opportunities designed to develop skills and stagecraft.

The Opera Queensland Young Artist Program was reignited in 2020 thanks to a bequest from two extraordinary patrons, Lois Schultz and June Wheeler, and receives support from the Frazer Family Foundation.







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## CREATIVE DEVELOPMENTS

To ensure the viability of the artform we must invest in the development of new opera and foster creative talent. Opera Queensland is proud to support the development of new Australian works that tell local stories, enable social change and help build strong vibrant communities.

### STRAIGHT FROM THE STRAIT

We continued the development of this extraordinary story from the Torres Strait about the gangs of track layers, who set a still unbroken record for laying the most track in one day. Creative development workshops were held in July and September to complete the script for this inspiring story.

#### CREATIVE TEAM

**Writer/Librettist** Norah Bagiri  
**Composter/Lyricist** Rubina Kimiia  
**Cultural Advisor** Ruth Ghee, Tony Ghee, George Bagiri, Norah Bagiri  
**Director** Nadine McDonald-Dowd  
**Senior Producer** Gabby Gregory  
**Project Coordinator** Dylan Rettke  
**First Nations Producer** Hannah Scanlon

#### DEVELOPMENT SCRIPT READERS AND SINGERS

Daniel Dow, Gabriel Gela, Sahsha Ghee, Tito Ghee, Jessiah Mabo, Kesia Peters

### BETWEEN A WOLF AND A DOG

Composer Megan Washington continued the development of an adaptation of Georgia Blain's *Between a Wolf and a Dog*, which was shortlisted for The Stella Prize and winner of both the Queensland Premier's and Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Fiction.

### JESS HITCHCOCK PROJECT

Singer-songwriter and 2023 Opera Queensland Young Artist Jess Hitchcock commenced composition of a new opera, devising a story based upon her Torres Strait cultural heritage.

#### CREATIVE TEAM

**Composer** Jessica Hitchcock

### DO WE NEED ANOTHER HERO?

This new regional touring production is a joyful celebration of songs about bravery and heroism. Exploring the musical archives and intertwining opera classics with contemporary chart-topping anthems, *Do We Need Another Hero?* aims to discover what it means to be a hero.

#### CREATIVE TEAM

**Director & Writer** Laura Hansford  
**Musical Director & Arranger** Luke Volker  
**Assistant Director** Emma Nightingale

#### DEVELOPMENT CAST

Jason Barry-Smith, Marcus Corowa, Gabrielle Diaz, Nick Kirkup, Shikara Ringdahl



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## OUR IMPACT CONNECT

### NURTURE AND GROW NEW AUDIENCES

Connect a broad and deep cross-section of the community through opera

3,693	NEW MAINSTAGE TICKET BUYERS
5,096	TOTAL AUDIENCE – SCHOOLS TOURING SHOWS
46	COMMUNITY AND PARTNERSHIP PERFORMANCES
1	PERFORMANCE AT YARRABILBA FAMILY AND COMMUNITY PLACE

### CELEBRATE DIVERSITY TO BUILD STRONG, VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

Remove barriers to the artform for people with diverse backgrounds

5	COMMUNITY CHORUSES FOR <i>LADY SINGS THE MAROONS</i> REGIONAL TOUR
1	COMMUNITY CHORUSES IN BRISBANE FOR CHRISTMAS CAROLS EVENTS
5	AUSLAN INTERPRETED OR AUDIO DESCRIBED MAINSTAGE PERFORMANCES
3	SING SING SING EVENTS AT RYDGES HOTEL SOUTH BANK
27	COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS DURING FESTIVAL OF OUTBACK OPERA AND REGIONAL TOUR

## PLACES AND COMMUNITIES WE REACHED





# FESTIVAL OF OUTBACK OPERA

16 – 22 May, Longreach, Winton

Opera Queensland is passionate about providing audiences, wherever they live, with the opportunity to experience the virtuosity and skill that is at the heart of all our performances. The ensemble of artists gathered for this year's festival was a testament to our commitment to this goal.

With the support of Queensland Government, we expanded the program to include an opening night screening of a classic Queensland production, a Long Lunch with a menu drawn from local produce in Winton, and the Outback Opera Ball, 'Boots and Ballgowns', in Longreach, featuring Paul Tabone. Complementing these were pop-up and community performances, curated by Jason Barry-Smith and Laura Hansford, that included the much loved Sing, Sing, Sing.

195 artists, arts workers and crew were involved in producing the festival. It required an all of company effort to ensure everyone was in the right place, wearing the right outfit at the right time. There is no denying the awe of the Outback, and we were thrilled to share beautiful music in its surrounds with our ever growing audience.

The Festival of Outback Opera was supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, Haymans Electrical and presented in association with The University of Queensland and Queensland Symphony Orchestra.

## DARK SKY SERENADE & SINGING IN THE NIGHT

### CREATIVE TEAM

**Musical Director and Conductor**

Vanessa Scammell

**Director** Patrick Nolan

**Lighting** Bernie Tan-Hayes

**Sound** Geoff McGahan

**University of Queensland Pulse**

**Chamber Orchestra joined by musicians of the Queensland Symphony Orchestra**

### CAST

Jud Arthur, Carlos Bárcenas, José Carbó, Emma Matthews, Milijana Nikolic, Katie Stenzel

**Piano** Narelle French

## LONG LUNCH

### CAST & CREATIVE TEAM

**MC** Jason Barry-Smith

Carlos Bárcenas, Marcus Corowa, Jess Hitchcock, Irena Lysiuk, Emma Matthews

## OPERA BALL

### CREATIVE TEAM

**Musical Director** Jason Barry-Smith

### CAST

Katie Stenzel, Paul Tabone

**Piano** Luke Volker

## LADY SINGS THE MAROONS

### CREATIVE TEAM

**Concept** Patrick Nolan

**Director & Writer** Laura Hansford

**Musical Director & Arranger**

Luke Volker

**Costumes** Karen Cochet,

Bianca Bulley

**Set** Laura Hansford

### CAST

Vocal and instrumental Marcus Corowa, Jess Hitchcock, Irena Lysiuk

**Piano, instrumental and vocals**

Luke Volker

## SING SING SING

**Director** Jason Barry-Smith

**Piano** Bev Kennedy~

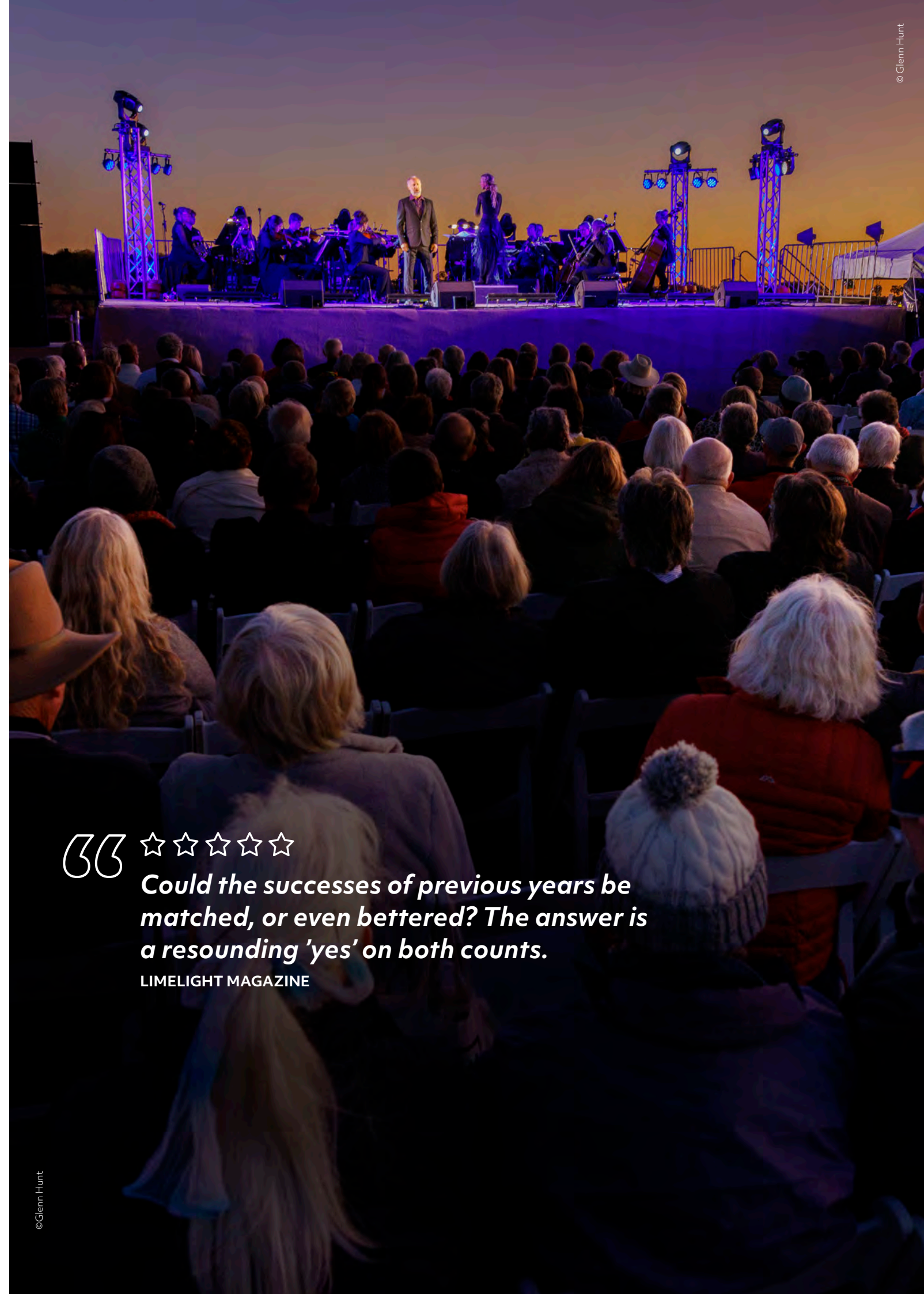
**Piano** Narelle French\*

~Wednesday 17 May

\*Sunday 21 May

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

Nina Korbe, Nick Kirkup



☆☆☆☆☆

*Could the successes of previous years be matched, or even bettered? The answer is a resounding 'yes' on both counts.*

LIMELIGHT MAGAZINE



“The talent and connection to people, place and journeying through Queensland via song, poetry and narrative was simply exquisite. Honestly, this was storytelling at its finest.”

AUDIENCE MEMBER IN CALOUNDRA



## REGIONAL TOUR

# LADY SINGS THE MAROONS

May – June

*Lady Sings the Maroons* took a deep dive into the Queensland songbook to celebrate some of Australia’s most loved artists. We delved into the history of Queensland and asked questions like: What does Queensland sound like? Who’s the most famous singer to be born in Queensland? What’s the first colour that comes to mind when thinking of Queensland? What Queensland songs would you put on a mixtape for a road trip? What’s unique / different about Queensland?

Slowly a story started to emerge, a version of Queensland told through its songs and shaped by all the members of the cast and creative team. It offered us a version of Queensland that is subtle and rambunctious, revealing that so much of the music created here sings to the soul of the places, people and experiences that are uniquely Queensland.

### CREATIVE TEAM

**Concept** Patrick Nolan  
**Director & Writer** Laura Hansford  
**Musical Director & Arranger** Luke Volker  
**Costumes** Karen Cochet and Bianca Bulley  
**Set** Laura Hansford

### CAST

**Vocal and instrumental** Marcus Corowa, Jess Hitchcock, Irena Lysiuk  
**Piano, instrumental and vocals** Luke Volker

### PERFORMANCE LOCATIONS

Caloundra  
 Maryborough  
 Bundaberg  
 Gladstone  
 Rockhampton  
 Proserpine  
 Cloncurry  
 Mount Isa  
 Winton  
 Longreach

Barcaldine  
 Blackall  
 Quilpie  
 Charleville  
 Goondiwindi  
 Roma  
 Kingaroy  
 Toowoomba  
 Brisbane  
 Gold Coast





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# REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT

With the generous support of the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation, Opera Queensland is able to provide high quality live performances, workshops and activities to regional and remote communities.

This year's engagement included expanded community chorus and workshop activities during the *Lady Sings the Maroons* regional tour as well as performances at Opera at Jimbour and Outback River Lights Festival.

## FESTIVAL OF OUTBACK OPERA AND LADY SINGS THE MAROONS

A number of community engagement activities were undertaken during Lady Sings the Maroons regional tour and Festival of Outback Opera, including:

- Community chorus of 14 participants in Gladstone
- Community chorus of 17 participants in Rockhampton
- Community chorus of 8 participants in Roma
- Community chorus of 9 participants in Toowoomba
- Community chorus of 31 participants in Bundaberg
- Three school workshops for 118 students from Our Lady's Longreach School, St Patrick's Winton School, Winton State School, Jundah State School, Stonehenge State School and Windorah State Schools
- Community and school workshops in Gladstone, Rockhampton, Bundaberg, Roma, Quilpie and Charleville
- Pop up performances at aged care and retirement facilities in Yeppoon, Mackay, Chinchilla and Dalby

## OPERA AT JIMBOUR

5-7 MAY

JIMBOUR STATION

Jimbour House welcomed back visitors for a weekend of intimate opera and chamber music performances to celebrate the 20th year of Opera at Jimbour. This year's event featured its largest program to date and a star-studded lineup of internationally renowned soloists and chamber musicians from Opera Queensland, Ensemble Q and a 26-piece orchestra from Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University.

### CREATIVE TEAM

**Program Curators – Opera and Recital**

Patrick Nolan, Narelle French

**Program Curators – Chamber**

Paul Dean, Trish Dean

### OPERA QUEENSLAND CAST

**Conductor & Compere** Peter Luff

**Gala Concerts** Carlos Bárcenas, Shaun Brown, Sarah Crane, Hayley Sugars, Emily Turner

**Recitals** Shaun Brown, Sarah Crane

**Recitals Pianist** Alex Raineri

## OUTBACK RIVER LIGHTS FESTIVAL

12-15 APRIL

CUNNAMULLA

Opera Queensland was thrilled to support the Outback River Lights Festival, including a concert performance featuring our 2022 Composed in Queensland song about life in the region. Through a series of school holiday workshops, teaching artists worked with students from schools in the Paroo Shire to learn the Cunnamulla song. The students then performed alongside artists at the main festival concert on Friday evening for 174 festival attendees. The festival also included a Sing Sing Sing event on Thursday evening with 45 participants.

### PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

**Musical Director & Pianist** Narelle French

**Director** Jason Barry-Smith

**Singers & Facilitators** Jason Barry-Smith, Nick Kirkup, Nina Korbe



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# LIFELONG LEARNING

## FIZZ! AND LA BOHÈME

Delivering opera in engaging and innovative ways within schools and communities is important to Opera Queensland's goal of removing barriers to the artform and building strong, vibrant communities.

Opera Queensland partnered again with multi-award winning shake & stir theatre co. to bring the joy and wonder of opera to over 3,000 students in primary and high schools throughout Queensland.

This meaningful education program includes teacher resources with direct links to the Australian Curriculum and introduces students to opera-based arts experiences that assist in skills development and provide an opportunity for intellectual, emotional and sensory growth and social awareness.

School holiday performances were held in Brisbane and Sunnybank, as well as two special performances of *FiZZ!* at City Hall in December as part of the Lord Mayor's Children's Program.

### CREATIVE TEAM

**Directors** Ross Balbuziente, Nick James, Nelle Lee and Nick Skubij

**Musical Direction and Arrangements** Luke Volker

**Designers** Bianca Bulley, Josh McIntosh

**Assistant Director** Emma Nightingale

**Media Producer** Stephen Brodie, Craig Wilkinson

### CAST

Gabrielle Diaz

Harry Pitts

Connor Willmore

Matthew Broadbent (on screen)

## IN THE CLASSROOM

Students from Springwood State High School and Clayfield College benefited from Opera Queensland's school residency program. In this program, students work with Opera Queensland facilitators and teaching artists to interrogate the stories of traditional operas and retell them in their own way. The workshops provide invaluable access to Opera Queensland's highly skilled music education specialists.

### FACILITATORS AND TEACHING ARTISTS

Sean Andrews

Jason Barry-Smith

Susan Ellis

Nick Kirkup

Kylie Los

Jessica Low

Katie Stenzel



© Murray Summerville

## SING SING SING

Sing Sing Sing brought people together in August, October and December to experience the joy of singing. 174 people of all ages and musical tastes gathered across the year to share their love for music and singing.

Opera Queensland is grateful to the support of Rydges Hotel South Bank who provided the beautiful setting of Bacchus Restaurant for the performances.

### PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

Maia Andrews

Jason Barry-Smith

Shaun Brown

Susan Ellis

Narelle French

Yuan Gao

Nick Kirkup

Lachlann Lawton

Olivia Payne

Emily Turner



© Carlos Angelo

## SING WITH OPERA QUEENSLAND WORKSHOPS

Opera Queensland's popular vocal workshops offer a unique learning opportunity for singers to build confidence and gain performance experience across a variety of workshop formats including group and choral coaching.

### FACILITATORS AND TEACHING ARTISTS

Maia Andrews

Jason Barry-Smith

Susan Ellis

Narelle French

Yuan Gao

Leanne Kenneally

Nick Kirkup

Greg Massingham

Olivia Payne

Bradley Voltz





© Simone Doczkal

## COMMUNITY

**Opera Queensland has continued to increase investment in smaller scale community events with the support of corporate partners. These diverse and bespoke productions provide versatility and are important in exploring new approaches to presentation and providing regular employment for our artists and arts professionals.**

With an emphasis on enjoyment, active engagement and social inclusion, these events also allow us to reach more communities and promote happiness, health and wellbeing.

Performances included National Anthems and Christmas carols at Brisbane Racing Club, Sing Sing Sing at Bond University and The Southport School, QPAC's annual Italian National Day celebration and pop-up performances at Brisbane Airport. Other performances at Customs House, Victoria Park, Calile Hotel and Government House provided memorable experiences for audiences and participants.

Opera Queensland also celebrated being the first arts company in Australia to bring pitch-perfect opera to Queensland classrooms via unrivalled, interactive technology. Launched in Longreach during the Festival of Outback Opera, the partnership with Cisco and Data#3 will harness digital tools to enhance community engagement with high quality arts and deliver positive social, cultural and education outcomes.



© Jade Ferguson

### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY HANWORTH HOUSE

Overlooking the backdrop of the city, we saw our beautiful Brisbane community don their best 'Garden Party Glam' attire for another magical night under the stars at Hanworth House. Presented by our partners, UNE PIECE swimwear, performances featured talented Opera Queensland Young Artist, Shikara Ringdahl, and pianist Kylie Los.

### SUNSET SOIREE WEST VILLAGE

As part of the long-standing partnership with West Village, Opera Queensland was delighted to perform an intimate concert to West Village residents. The rooftop outdoor setting against the Brisbane sunset, along with Opera Queensland's talented Young Artists, Nick Kirkup and Nina Korbe, accompanied by Narelle French on piano, provided the perfect evening of song.

### AUSTRALIAN ANTHEMS BRISBANE RACING CLUB

Opera Queensland was honoured to perform the Australian National Anthem during the Stradbroke Season across May and June for Brisbane Racing Club. Tens of thousands of racegoers were treated to stirring renditions of the anthem by Opera Queensland artists, including Nick Kirkup, Shikara Ringdahl and Katie Stenzel.

### CAROLS ON THE ROOFTOP WEST VILLAGE

This intimate concert featured singers Jason Barry-Smith, Susan Ellis, Katie Stenzel, Connor Willmore with Narelle French on piano for a delightful program of festivities and iconic Christmas tunes.

### CHRISTMAS CAROLS EMPORIUM HOTEL SOUTH BANK

Beneath the mammoth Christmas tree in the Emporium Hotel South Bank, guests and visitors were surprised and delighted by Opera Queensland's Narelle French and the talented Katie Stenzel.

### CHRISTMAS CAROLS RYDGES HOTEL SOUTH BANK

We were thrilled to perform some Christmas favourites for Rydges Hotel South Bank guests this Festive Season. Turning the hotel foyer into a pop-up concert venue, Narelle French and Shikara Ringdahl were joined by a community chorus of 35 participants to celebrate the festive season.



## OUR IMPACT

# PRODUCE

### LEAD CHANGE IN OPERA

Challenge the sector to reimagine the possibilities and potential of the artform



NEW PRODUCTION OF *MACBETH*, DIRECTED BY LAURA HANSFORD



LAUNCHED PARTNERSHIP WITH CISCO AND #DATA3 TO ENHANCE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT USING GROUNDBREAKING DIGITAL TOOLS



NEW PRODUCTION OF *COSÌ FAN TUTTE*, DIRECTED BY PATRICK NOLAN AND CONDUCTED BY ZOE ZENIODI



CO-PRODUCTION OF *AIDA* WITH OPERA AUSTRALIA, USING PHENOMENAL DIGITAL STAGING TECHNOLOGY

### ENSURE FINANCIAL, OPERATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE

Safeguard the future by continually improving business practices



INCREASE IN PHILANTHROPIC AND CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP INCOME



PRIVATE INCOME CONTRIBUTING TO 26% OF REVENUE IN 2023



SMALL OPERATIONAL SURPLUS AND RETENTION OF ADEQUATE CASH RESERVES

“

*...a cutting-edge performance that challenges what audiences think opera can be and gives a momentous opportunity for stories of true humanity to be told on a grand scale.*

ELLIE WADDINGHAM  
Theatre Haus





# AIDA

16 – 20 December, Lyric Theatre, QPAC  
Co-production with Opera Australia

This production was a long time coming. Originally programmed in 2020, postponed to 2021, and put on hold in 2022. So it was a delight to at last be partnering with Opera Australia to bring this spectacular production of *Aida* to our Brisbane audience.

While the opera is most renowned for the Triumphal March, a bombastic celebration of the pomp and ceremony of victory if ever there was one, at the heart of *Aida* is a complex network of relationships exploring love fulfilled and unrequited, familial duty, and patriotic allegiance.

We were thrilled to have members of the Opera Queensland Chorus, led by Chorus Master Narelle French, joining the Opera Australia Chorus to round out the rich and wondrous world of this production.



*The combined Opera Australia and Opera Queensland chorus was immense, mercurial, an impressive force with a rousing or tender tone and savage attack.*

GILLIAN WILLS  
Australian Stage

## CREATIVE TEAM

**Conductor** Lorenzo Passerini  
**Director** Davide Livermore  
**Revival Director** Shaun Rennie  
**Set** Giò Forma  
**Costumes** Gianluca Falaschi  
**Lighting** John Rayment  
**Digital Content Designer** D-Wok  
**Revival Choreographer** Allie Graham  
**Assistant Director** Danielle Maas

## CAST

**Aida** Natalie Aroyan  
**Amneris** Elena Gabouri  
**Radamès** Diego Torre  
**Amonasro** Michael Honeyman  
**Ramfis** Alexander Vinogradov  
**The King** Conal Coad  
**High Priestess** Jennifer Black

## Opera Australia Chorus

**Chorus Master** Paul Fitzsimon

**Assistant Chorus Master** Michael Curtain

## Opera Queensland Chorus

**Chorus Director** Narelle French

**Queensland Symphony Orchestra**

A co-production between Opera Queensland and Opera Australia



# THE STUDIO SERIES

The Studio Series provided an opportunity to hear remarkable performances of rare intimacy from internationally renowned artists. Stripping away the costumes and lavish sets of the mainstage, artists shared insights into the music that has defined their careers.



**MICHAEL HONEYMAN & SIMON KENWAY**  
A Queer Romance  
6 & 7 July



**IRENA LYSIUK & ALEX RAINERI**  
Poulenc: An Ode to My Favourite Composer  
17 & 18 March



**PAUL TABONE, MIRUSIA & ALEX RAINERI**  
I Still Call Australia Home  
31 March & 1 April



**CONAL COAD & SARKA BUDINSKA**  
Forty Years on Forty Stages  
2 & 3 June



**LORINA GORE & ALEX RAINERI**  
Reaching for the Moon  
23 & 24 June

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© Stephanie Do Rozario

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# OPERA QUEENSLAND BOARD

## PATRONS

Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM Governor of Queensland and Professor Graeme Nimmo RFD

## OPERA QUEENSLAND BOARD

**LINDA APELT** BEd, GradDipC, MEdSt, GAICD  
Appointed Chair January 2022  
Director since January 2022

Linda is a business and community leader with a wealth of international senior leadership experience as a diplomat, Trade and Investment Commissioner, CEO and non-executive director across the public and private sectors.

As a former long-serving Director-General with the State Government of Queensland, Linda oversaw enhanced service delivery in a range of portfolios including education, housing, health and community services, Indigenous policy and the arts.

**KATIE MCNAMARA** BPharm (Hons), MBA, GAICD  
Appointed Deputy Chair May 2023  
Director since September 2020

Katie has over 20 years experience in senior executive and consultancy roles with retail and fast moving consumer goods companies in Australia, Europe, America and Asia. Katie is an accomplished violinist, holding her Performers Diploma from Trinity College (London), and is an active chamber music performer.

**WILL FELLOWES** BCom, GradDipCA, GAICD  
Appointed Treasurer May 2023  
Member, Audit and Risk Committee since September 2016  
Director since July 2019

Will is a former Assurance Director with PwC specialising in external audit, internal audit and advisory services. He is currently a non-executive director of Children's Health Queensland and RACQ. Living in regional Queensland, Will is passionate about developing communities and bringing development, support and culture to our regions.

**JUDITH MATHER** MBus (HR Management), MBus (Philanthropy and NFP)  
Director since September 2019

Judy is an alumna of the Queensland University of Technology, having studied a Masters of Business in both Human Resources Management and Philanthropy. She is a Director and Trustee of the Mather Foundation, a Private Ancillary Fund which seeks to encourage learning through music and arts, while supporting mental health and well-being.

**JODY CURRIE** BA Gender Studies  
Director since October 2021

Jody is Queensland born and a proud Yugambah woman with traditional ties to the country between the Logan and Tweed Rivers. She has held senior executive roles in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander aged care, health, and human service delivery, and is an advocate for improving service accessibility to vulnerable communities. After attaining her Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Gender Studies, Jody embarked on her career in health and human service delivery. She serves as a non-executive director on the Brisbane North Primary Healthcare Network, Hearing Australia and National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ageing and Aged Care Council.



© Jade Ferguson

**JAMES WALKER** DipBus, DipAgric, DipMarketing, DipFin  
Director since August 2023

James Walker is a fifth-generation farmer from Longreach, Queensland who is passionate about Australian family farms and in improving financial performance through tailored initiatives and utilising his networks in industry and government.

**MARK FENTON** FCPA, MBA, BBus, FAICD  
Director since March 2024

Mark is an accomplished non-executive director with more than 21+ years' experience in a wide variety of industry sectors including performing arts, education, membership services, mental health, government advisory, supportive housing and aged care. He has extensive experience in finance, risk, audit and change leadership and is committed to ongoing personal and board development to ensure high levels of corporate governance are achieved.

**JANE KEATING** BA Psychology and Sociology, GAICD  
Member, HR Committee since November 2023

Jane moved into non-executive director roles after a diverse executive career spanning human resources, systems implementation, data strategy, audit, risk and compliance. She spent 15 years in senior executive roles in finance, including as Managing Director, Finance, Data and Compliance with Queensland Treasury Corporation (QTC).

Jane's governance experience includes board roles in membership organisations, not-for-profit, and government advisory committees in the areas of women's advocacy, housing, disability and the prevention of sexual harassment.

**DAVID GOW** BCom, LLB, FAICD  
Treasurer May 2019 – May 2023  
Director since April 2018  
(Retired February 2024)

**ANNE CROSS** AM BSW, MSW, FAICD  
Deputy Chair May 2020 – May 2023  
Director since April 2017  
(Retired May 2023)



# OPERA QUEENSLAND TEAM

## EXECUTIVE TEAM

**CEO & Artistic Director** Patrick Nolan  
**Executive Producer** Adam Tucker  
**Chief Financial Officer** Christine McEwan

## TEAM

**Head of Music and Chorus Director** Narelle French  
**Director of Technical Production** Alex Loh  
**Director of Marketing & Sales** Lucy Childs  
**Acting Director of Marketing & Sales** Suzanne Hannema (Jun to Dec 2023)  
**Director of Learning, Regional and Community** Kylie McOmish (until Aug 2023)  
**Director of Learning, Regional and Community** Laura Hansford (from Aug 2023)  
**Director of Development** Megan Kair (until Dec 2023)  
**Director of Development** Phoebe Rouse (from Jan 2024)  
**Executive Assistant** Karen Griffin  
**Artistic Associate** Laura Hansford (until Aug 2023)  
**Graphic Designer** Carlos Angelo (until Jun 2023)  
**Graphic Designer** Murray Summerville (from Aug 2023)  
**Digital Marketing Campaign Specialist** Jesse Sobey (from Mar 2023)  
**Ticketing & CRM Coordinator** Hayley Rankin (until Dec 2023)  
**Partnerships Manager** Phoebe Rouse (until Jan 2024)  
**Sponsorship & Events Coordinator** Simone Nevison  
**Events and Administration Officer** Rachel Bryce (until Sep 2023)  
**Development Officer** Meagan Gamble (until Jul 2023)  
**Development Officer – Administration and Events** Zoé Noble Fox (from Dec 2023)  
**Producer – Learning, Regional and Community** Simone Doczkal  
**Producer – Learning, Regional and Community** Carli Griffin (from Sep 2023)  
**Associate Producer – Learning, Regional and Community** Justine Hansberry (from Mar 2023)  
**Senior Producer** Gabby Gregory (from Jul 2023)  
**Project Coordinator** Dylan Rettke (from Jul 2023)  
**Head of Wardrobe** Karen Cochet  
**Production Manager** Chris Tollefson (until Jul 2023)  
**Production Coordinator** Carlo Maur (until Oct 2023)  
**Production Coordinator** Rhi Booth (from Mar 2024)  
**Production Administrator** Annette Kerwitz  
**Principal Cutter** Bianca Bulley  
**Wardrobe Assistant** Amy Garrett (until Oct 2023)  
**Wardrobe Assistant** Rachael Donegan (from Jan 2024)  
**HR, Young Artist Program and Music Coordinator** Alicia Cush  
**Finance Business Partner** Sangeeta Khosla  
**Management Accountant** Natasha Seveau (Jul 2023 to Apr 2024)  
**Assistant Accountant** Verkha Perakash  
**Assistant Accountant** Sara George (until Aug 2023)

## 2023 YOUNG ARTISTS

Maia Andrews, Yuan Gao, Jess Hitchcock, Nick Kirkup, Nina Korbe, Olivia Payne, Shikara Ringdahl, Emily Turner

© Glenn Hunt



## HONARARY LIFE MEMBERS

Anne Cross AM  
Lady Jane Edwards AM  
Sir Leo Hielscher AC  
Martin Kriewaldt  
David Macfarlane OAM  
Marilyn Richardson  
Emeritus Prof David Siddle  
Dr Nancy Underhill

## COMPANY MEMBERS 2023

Linda Apelt  
Emeritus Prof Christa Critchley  
Anne Cross AM  
Robert Cumming  
Jody Currie  
Greg Ellis  
Janice Ellis  
Will Fellowes  
David Gow  
Jane Keating  
Judith Mather  
Katie McNamara  
James Walker

## 2023 OPERA CLUB MEMBERS

Mr Damian Bartholomew, Mr David & Mrs Davi Bennion, Mr Roger Cragg, Miss Adele Dickman, Mr Greg & Mrs Janice Ellis, Ms Gwendolyne Erwin, Ms Peta Ganner, Dr Graeme & Mrs Cathy Hall, Mr Ulrich Hartig, Ms Gabriele & Mr Juergen Hoppe, Mr Ross Lamont, Prof Christina Lee, Ms Angela Martin, Ms Bethany Masters, Dr John McCollow, Dr Brian Misso Esq, Mr Gregory Molloy, Mrs Susan Partridge, Mrs Sonja & Mr Arne Petersen, Dr David & Mrs Marcia Pitman, Mr Tony Tabrett, Ms Angela Timbs, Mr Mark van Den Berg & Mrs Loryn Einstein-van Den Berg, Ms Marilyn Varvaro, Mrs Patricia & Mr Robert Wilson.



# ARTISTS & CREW

## ARTISTS

Jonathan Abernethy  
Maia Andrews  
Sean Andrews  
Jud Arthur  
Clinton Bagiri  
Corinne Ballard  
Carlos Bárcenas  
Jason Barry-Smith  
Carla Beard  
Charlotte Betts-Dean  
Holly-Rose Boyer  
Matthew Broadbent  
Shaun Brown  
Sarka Budinska-Boxall  
Luke Captain  
José Carbó  
Samantha Clarke  
Conal Coad  
Anna-Louise Cole  
Mark Connors  
Georgia Corowa  
Marcus Corowa  
Sarah Crane  
Daniel Davey  
Gabrielle Diaz  
Louise Dorsman  
Daniel Dow  
Anna Dowsley  
Susan Ellis  
Dominique Fegan  
Narelle French  
Yuan Gao  
Gabriel Gela  
Ruth Ghee  
Tito Ghee  
Sahsha Ghee  
Lorina Gore  
Jonathan Hickey  
Jess Hitchcock  
Michael Honeyman  
Mia Huang  
Henry Kafoa  
Leanne Kennedally  
Beverley Kennedy  
Simon Kenway  
Wade Kernot  
Simon Kim  
Nick Kirkup  
Jeremy Kleeman  
Eva Kong  
Nina Korbe  
Rosario La Spina  
Lachlann Lawton  
Kellie List  
Kylie Los  
Mirusia Louwerse  
Jessica Low  
Irena Lysiuk  
Jessiah Mabo  
Robert Mann

Virgilio Marino  
Leslie Martin-Nightingale  
Greg Massingham  
Emma Matthews  
Benjamin Mingay  
Oscar Morris  
Milijana Nikolic  
Gregory North  
Olivia Payne  
Kesia Peters  
Harry Pitts  
Alex Raineri  
Shikara Ringdahl  
Brenton Spiteri  
Katie Stenzel  
Jillianne Stoll  
Paul Tabone  
Cara Tran  
Sofia Troncoso  
Emily Turner  
Turrbal Dippil  
Luke Volker  
Bradley Voltz  
Megan Washington  
Harry Whaleboat  
Robert Williams  
Connor Willmore  
Louise Winton  
John Woods  
Waveney Yasso

## CHORUS

Maia Andrews  
Sean Andrews  
Stephen Beck  
Joel Berndt  
Kathryn Bradbury-King  
Matthew Broadbent  
Cameron Bryer  
Ryan Carlson  
Julia Carwood  
Susan Chapman  
Thomas Chapman  
Christopher Cobcroft  
Shaeyna Day  
Louise Dorsman  
Christie Eckersley  
Dominique Fegan  
Regan Flor  
Clarissa Foulcher  
Anne Fulton  
Yuan Gao  
Karen Gaydon  
Rachael Griffin  
Sally Harrison  
Michael Hibbard  
Brett Holland  
Kaja Holzheimer  
Robyn Kelly  
Steven Kickbusch  
Adele King

Nick Kirkup  
Rainer Klose  
Mark Kroon  
Andrew Lange  
Lachlann Lawton  
Camilo Lopez  
Jessica Low  
Annie Lower  
Mattias Lower  
Ashleigh MacLaine  
Sebastian MacLaine  
Leslie Martin-Nightingale  
Jon Maskell  
Shelden Mathieson  
Elizabeth McBride  
David Muller  
John Nicholson  
Olivia Payne  
Mak Purdy  
Shikara Ringdahl  
Katie Rutledge  
D'Arne Sleeman  
Daniel Smerdon  
Michael Strasser  
Lionel Theunissen  
Emily Turner  
Chloe Walton  
Leon Warnock  
Rosina Waugh  
Tammy Weller  
Bernard Wheaton  
Robert Williams  
Connor Willmore  
Jia-Peng Yeung  
Ji Zhang

## CHORUS MASTERS

Jessica Berwick  
Narelle French  
Julie Layt  
Janine Lester

## DIRECTORS, DRAMATURGS & CHOREOGRAPHERS

Ross Balbuziente  
Jason Barry-Smith  
Laura Hansford  
Nick James  
Nelle Lee  
Nadine McDonald-Dowd  
Michelle Miall  
Emma Nightingale  
Patrick Nolan  
Nick Skubij  
Luke Volker

## CONDUCTORS & MUSICAL DIRECTORS

Jason Barry-Smith  
Umberto Clerici  
Susan Ellis  
Narelle French  
Rubina Kimiia  
Dane Lam  
Peter Luff  
Richard Mills  
Vanessa Scammell  
Luke Volker  
Zoe Zeniodi

## DESIGNERS

Bianca Bulley  
Karen Cochet  
Christine Felmingham  
Elizabeth Gadsby  
Josh McIntosh  
Bernie Tan-Hayes

## ORCHESTRAS

Queensland Symphony Orchestra  
The UQ Pulse Chamber Orchestra

## COMPOSERS, ARRANGERS, LIBRETTISTS & WRITERS

Philippe Bachman  
Norah Bagiri  
Jason Barry-Smith  
Narelle French  
Laura Hansford  
Rubina Kimiia  
Nelle Lee  
Luke Volker

## MUSIC STAFF

Mark Connors  
Teresa Desmarchelier  
Narelle French  
Alex Raineri  
Jillianne Stoll  
John Woods

## YOUNG ARTIST TUTORS

Narelle French (Program Director)  
Jason Barry-Smith  
Mark Connors  
Teresa Desmarchelier  
Susan Ellis  
Geoff McGahan  
Patrick Nolan  
Bryan Probeta  
Graham Pushee  
Jillianne Stoll  
John Woods

## COMMUNITY CHORUS – BUNDABERG

Shanna Bailey  
Bernie Bainbridge  
Lizzie Barnes  
Heidi Brown  
Hellen Christie  
Tarin Dobbie  
Damien Farrell  
Alexandra Gees  
Kim Gidall  
Kirsty Gidall  
Julie Gifford  
Amy Griffin  
Nancy Harrison  
Elissa Hooper  
Varley Hooper  
Sasha Job  
Christina Johnson  
Jennifer Judd  
Hammer Lee-Ann  
Felicity Licciardo  
Sue McCay  
Andrea McLaren  
Ben McLaren  
Sharon Millett  
Cornelius Nydam  
Evalee Sharples  
John Sibley  
Roslyn Stehbens  
Andrea Tabart  
Karen Venus  
Angie Yarrow

## COMMUNITY CHORUS – CALOUNDRA

Colleen Addison  
James Baxter  
Patricia Berg  
Bev Forbes  
June Fowler  
Bill Hastings  
Wendy Marks  
Ian Rix  
Ruth Rix  
Richard Rowlands  
Carol Salisbury  
Pamela Schellein  
Maggie Schumack  
Barbara White  
Peter Wilson

## COMMUNITY CHORUS – GLADSTONE

Kerry Birt  
Kyra Dunnett  
Michelle Goldenberg  
Janine Lester  
Rob Lord  
Elsje Malherbe

Emily Masters  
Kyla Mckim-Hill  
Kathleen Roby  
Michelle Sargaison  
Julie Sibley  
Carmen Smith  
Michelle Spann  
Campbell Suter

## COMMUNITY CHORUS – ROCKHAMPTON

Lynette Anstey  
Bethlea Bell  
Kelvin Burgoyne  
Karen Clifford  
Jessica Dennien  
Kathryn Esdale  
Tricia Hahn  
Caitlin Hiron  
Jodie Hiron  
Catherine Johnston  
Maria Kananghinis  
Dorothy Khoo  
Eleanor Kirkwood  
Amanda Lawrence  
Julie Layt  
Kaylene Lillis  
Cyndi Thomson

## COMMUNITY CHORUS – ROMA

Rebekah Beier  
Jenny Coggan  
Karen Dawes  
Melusine Duchateau  
Chris Godde  
Sandra Macdonald  
Linda Montgomery  
Sarah Thompson

## COMMUNITY CHORUS – TOOWOOMBA

Majella Albion  
Kylie Bright  
Katie Commens  
Mary Louise Fraser  
Brett Gredig  
Jane Hobbs  
Bernie Ingle  
Tess Laird  
Pam Peterson

## COMMUNITY CHORUS – CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Glenise Berry  
Rachel Bond  
Gregory Breslin  
Daniel Bryant  
Amy Chiu  
John Collingwood-Smith

Libby Courtice  
Rob Cumming  
Lois Cutmore  
Peter Dart  
Marloes Dekker  
Adele Dickman  
Tiah Dionysius  
Katrina Drake  
Bernadete Gamboa  
Barbara Gillett  
Alison Hatcher  
Harriet Hughes  
Charles Hung  
Ulrike Kappler  
Robyn Kelly  
Adam Kilvert  
Cameron Lane  
Cathy Millar  
Rosaline Mok  
Rebecca Munroe  
Sonia Ozanne  
Deirdre Pullen  
Michael Simons  
Tony Tabrett  
Taina Vitikka  
Leanne Walker  
Linley West  
Barbara Williams  
Fei Yu

## PRODUCTION & TECHNICAL

Rachael Appleyard  
Jade Ashton  
Kendall Batey  
Wesley Bluff  
Rhi Booth  
Joshua Braithwaite  
Stephen Brodie  
Claire Browning  
Eric Buckingham  
Bianca Bulley  
Leandro Burrafato  
Daniel Cameron  
Raine Carter  
Julia Carwood  
Josephine Clark-Liebke  
Lily Cochet  
Cody Cook  
Brandon Duncan  
Courtney Farrar  
Rebecca Firkins  
Kirsten Fletcher  
David French  
Amy Garrett  
Tim Gawne  
Matthew Golder  
Grant Gravener  
Carli Griffin  
Andrew Haden  
Michelle Hair  
Tom Hawker

Kelly Hollett  
Josiene James  
Lidiya Kaplun  
Angela Kelly  
Barbara Kerr  
Jennifer Livingstone  
Ella Lollback  
Rory McCabe  
Geoff McGahan  
Arlie McGill  
Catherine McGuinness  
Scott McOmish  
Wendy McPherson  
Ben Mills  
Erin Milne  
Linus Monsour  
Hannah Moroney  
Bridget O'Brien  
Adam Paine  
Lachlan Paterson  
Zachary Powson  
Nicola Pulvirenti  
Mak Purdy  
David Schafer  
Vince Scuderi  
Josh Skipp  
Joanne Smith  
Kate Stevenson  
Oscar Taylor  
Joash Teo  
Samuel Wall  
Tammy Weller  
Stephanie West  
Michelle Wiki  
Craig Wilkinson  
Fiona Willard





# CORPORATE GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

**Opera Queensland recognises that effective governance is essential to the realisation of Opera Queensland's purpose, vision and goals.**

Opera Queensland also recognises that an effective governance framework encourages and supports the efficient use of the company's resources and requires accountability from every person in the company for the stewardship of those resources. The Board of Opera Queensland accepts that it has ultimate accountability for the company's actions and outcomes, and understands that effective governance requires a healthy organisational culture supported by clear and transparent policies and practices.

In developing our governance practices, Opera Queensland has had regard to applicable legislation and recognised standards. The Board of Opera Queensland is committed to maintaining a documented and transparent governance framework consistent with recommended practices provided within the Australia Council for the Arts' Essential Governance Practices for Arts Organisations. All key governance documents are available on the company's website at [oq.com.au/about/governance](http://oq.com.au/about/governance)

## 1. LAY SOLID FOUNDATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT

Opera Queensland has a Board Charter setting out the roles, responsibilities, structure and processes of the Board of Opera Queensland. It is complementary to and consistent with Opera Queensland's Constitution. The Board Charter and the Constitution are published on the company's website.

The Board has approved a formal statement of delegated authority to Executive Management that is reviewed annually by the Board. The development of Opera Queensland's strategy, purpose, vision and values is an iterative process of co-creation between the Board and Executive Management. The Board reviews and monitors the strategic direction of the company, and monitors progress towards achieving relevant goals, key performance indicators and outcomes set out in the strategic and operational plans.

## 2. STRUCTURE THE BOARD TO ADD VALUE

The Opera Queensland Board comprises seven independent non-executive directors who provide their time and services on a voluntary basis. In addition to formal board meetings, the Board meets with stakeholders and Executive Management. The Board is supported by two standing committees; namely, the Audit and Risk Committee and the HR Committee. Each committee has a charter, which is published on the company's website, and operates with authority delegated by the Board. There is a clear division of responsibility between the role of the Board and the role of management.

The HR Committee assists and advises the Board by providing an objective non-executive review of the remuneration of staff and of all policies relevant to remuneration and HR matters. The role of the Audit and Risk Committee is described in section 5.

Each director is appointed for a three year term and is eligible for re-election by company members at the annual general meeting. The company's constitution provides for maximum tenure, subject to a grandfathering provision.

The Board considers that a diversity of skills, backgrounds, knowledge, experience, ethnicity, gender and geographic backgrounds supports good governance. The Board considers that each of the directors has the following attributes: sufficient time to undertake the responsibilities of the role, integrity, and a preparedness to question and critique. Alongside these attributes the skills matrix sets out the mix of skills and experience that the Board considers necessary or desirable in its directors. This matrix informs decisions on board size, composition, and renewal.

The Board evaluates its own performance annually and assesses professional development needs for both Board and Executive Management.

## 3. ACT ETHICALLY AND RESPONSIBLY

Opera Queensland has a Code of Conduct approved by the Board. Compliance with the Code of Conduct is a requirement for all directors, employees, contractors and collaborators. The Code includes a mechanism for identifying and managing conflicts of interest. There is a process of induction for all new Board members, employees, contractors and collaborators where company policies and processes are explained. The Code of Conduct is published on the company's website.

## 4. PROMOTE DIVERSITY

Opera Queensland is committed to promoting inclusive practices and understanding. The company has a Diversity Policy that has been approved by the Board and communicated throughout the company. Workplace diversity is an integral part of how we operate and is imperative to our success. The company recognises the need to respect individual differences and strive for a truly inclusive workplace where every person can contribute to the endeavours of the company. Measurable objectives for achieving diversity will be included in the company's strategic plan. The Diversity Policy is published on the company's website.

## 5. SAFEGUARD INTEGRITY IN ALL FINANCIAL REPORTING

The Audit and Risk Committee is a standing committee of the Board, operating under a charter and delegated authority from the Board. The Committee has oversight of the company's budgets, financial statements, and other financial information provided to government, financial institutions, company members and the community. The Committee also oversees the company's systems of internal control, and the appointment of auditors and the audit process.

Each member of the Committee is financially literate, and the Committee includes a member who is a qualified chartered accountant and auditor. The company's annual financial statements are audited by an independent external auditor appointed by the Board. The auditor meets annually with the committee independently of management. The auditor's independence, competence and capability is reviewed by the Board. Executive Management provides the auditors and the Board with assurance concerning the maintenance of financial records, compliance with accounting standards, risk management and internal control systems. It also provides assurance that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the company's performance. The auditor is invited to attend the company's annual general meeting.





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## 6. ENGAGE WITH STAKEHOLDERS

The Board's commitment to good governance is, in part, expressed through the company's ongoing engagement with stakeholders. The company uses a range of formal and informal communication channels to understand the views of stakeholders and to share with them the purpose and work of the company.

The company meets formal reporting requirements under the funding arrangements with the Queensland Government (through Arts Queensland) and the Federal Government (through the Australia Council), and engages through other channels, such as meetings.

Engagement by the Board and management with members, patrons and partners is facilitated through the Annual General Meeting, performances and events, annual report, website, season launch, and communication through print and digital channels.

The company's supporters are acknowledged at company performances and events, and in our print and digital publications.

Opera Queensland plays an important part in Queensland life, and engages with Queenslanders through our performances, school programs, workshops, collaborations, and social media. The company seeks to broaden and deepen community engagement.

## 7. RECOGNISE AND MANAGE RISK

The Board and Executive Management of Opera Queensland recognise that a sound risk management framework is critical to effective management of the company. An effective risk management system identifies and manages potential risks in a continuous, proactive and systematic way through an integrated application of risk management processes across all facets of our operations by all levels of management.

The Audit and Risk Committee assists the Board with oversight of the risk management framework with the Board holding ultimate responsibility for risk management within the company. The company continues to enhance the risk management framework, informed by a risk appetite statement, and integration of risk management into key processes, including risk-based decisions in strategy and business planning, and the incorporation of a formal process for ongoing review and improvement. Continuing work on the risk management framework is being informed by relevant regulations and the Australian / New Zealand standard AS/NZ ISO 31000:2009 Risk management — Principles and guidelines.

The company has a Risk Management Plan and a Risk Management Register that is reviewed by Executive Management with reports to the Board. An attestation is provided by Executive Management that material risks are being managed effectively. The Risk Register and any risk movement is reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee at every meeting.

## 8. REMUNERATE FAIRLY AND RESPONSIBLY

The company's approach to remuneration is framed by the strategic direction and operational demands of the organisation together with high standards of governance.

A number of principles underpin our approach to remuneration — namely:

- Align remuneration to the company's purpose and prudent risk taking;
- Attract and retain capable and committed people;
- Support the execution of the company's strategic plan; and
- Remunerate fairly and consistently.

The Board approves the remuneration of Executive Management following recommendations by the HR Committee. The company has a formal process for employee performance evaluations and remuneration reviews.

Members of the Board are not remunerated.

The Board of Opera Queensland provides oversight of the company's remuneration and performance management frameworks. No member of management makes decisions about their own remuneration.



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# OUR DONORS

## LEGACY DONORS

The Estate of Lois Schultz & June Wheeler, the Estate of Marie Jameson

## ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE

Mr Philip Bacon AO, Prof Ian Frazer AC & Mrs Caroline Frazer, Dr Colin Furnival<sup>†</sup> & Dr Isobel Furnival<sup>†</sup>, Prof Frank Gannon & Mrs Mary Gannon, Mr Hien Le, Emeritus Prof Andrew Lister & Ms Kate Lister, Emeritus Prof David Siddle & Emeritus Prof Christa Critchley, Dr Susan Urquhart<sup>†</sup> & Dr Philip Aitken<sup>†</sup>

## FOUNDATION DONORS \$15,000 AND ABOVE

Mr Philip Bacon AO, Mr Tim Fairfax AC & Mrs Gina Fairfax AC, Tim Fairfax Family Foundation, Frazer Family Foundation, Hall-Brown Family Foundation, Mather Foundation, Emeritus Prof David Siddle & Emeritus Prof Christa Critchley

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<sup>†</sup> The Medical Chapter   <sup>§</sup> The Legal Chapter

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# THANK YOU

**Wherever we perform or teach or gather to sing and share our stories, the generous support of our donor community is there with us. We wrap up 2023 grateful for all we have been able to achieve and excited for the many great opportunities in store for 2024.**

Our Annual Appeal played an important role in supporting the work of our emerging artists, and we were thrilled to exceed our target once again. A special thank you to the Mather Foundation whose generous support significantly amplifies the opportunities we can make available to all our artists.

The exceptional generosity of the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation is the foundation of our regional programming. Our touring production, *Lady Sings the Maroons*, visited over twenty different regional and remote centres on its tour, as well as pop-up performances and workshops along the way. Mixing popular and operatic repertoire, we welcomed audiences who would otherwise never encounter our performances.

Coinciding with the Brisbane performance of the *Lady Sings the Maroons* at Roma Street Parklands, Opera Queensland together with Deloitte celebrated the launch of the New Deloitte Access Economics report, 'The economic and social benefits of Opera Queensland', commissioned by Opera Queensland and measuring the impact the leading arts organisation has on the state's economy, social fabric and cultural identity. The report recognised Opera Queensland as an important social institution, contributing \$6M to the economy annually, creating and supporting hundreds of local jobs and being a key driver of Queensland's cultural brand. On behalf of everyone at Opera Queensland, thank you for the generosity that enables us to achieve this and to share the wonder of opera across the state.

We invite you to enrich lives today by joining our donor community.

**T 61 7 3735 3030   E [development@oq.com.au](mailto:development@oq.com.au)**



# FINANCIAL REPORT

A four-year summary of results is presented below. The full version of the 2023 Financial Statements can be found on the Opera Queensland website.

The 2023 result reflects increased investment in productions and touring, including employment of artists and arts workers.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE	2023 \$	2022 \$	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>OPERATING REVENUE</b>				
Event Income	1,641,686	1,612,336	1,415,857	139,927
Sponsorships & Donations	2,246,728	1,876,535	1,236,631	848,212
Grant Income	4,105,296	4,347,595	4,815,247	4,655,791
Other Income	649,401	531,187	465,847	121,236
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>8,643,111</b>	<b>8,367,654</b>	<b>7,933,582</b>	<b>5,765,166</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>				
Production & Touring Costs	5,607,407	5,295,876	4,458,509	2,063,364
Community Programs & Education	211,820	471,285	312,309	87,781
Marketing & Business Development	1,362,270	1,488,690	1,385,589	1,036,429
Infrastructure and Administration	1,407,176	1,227,358	1,324,069	1,376,303
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>8,588,673</b>	<b>8,483,210</b>	<b>7,480,476</b>	<b>4,563,877</b>
<b>Net Result from Operating Activities<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>54,438</b>	<b>(115,556)</b>	<b>453,106</b>	<b>1,201,289</b>
Bequests & Endowments	-	317	550	1,716,493
Fair value adjustment (endowment)	114,876	(166,348)	449,262	193,287
Reserves Matched Funding	-	-	100,000	200,000
<b>Total Income from Restricted Items<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>114,876</b>	<b>(166,031)</b>	<b>549,812</b>	<b>2,109,780</b>
<b>COMPREHENSIVE RESULT</b>	<b>169,314</b>	<b>(281,587)</b>	<b>1,002,918</b>	<b>3,311,069</b>

1. Net result from Operating Activities excludes a number of restricted income streams which are not available for operating purposes.

2. Restricted Items include:

- Philanthropic bequest and endowments
- Fair value of adjustment of financial assets (shares) attributed to the donation and endowment reserve
- Reserves matched funding from Creative Australia

BALANCE SHEET	2023 \$	2022 \$	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	3,317,627	3,696,657	3,396,366	2,894,510
Trade receivables and other assets	829,533	187,526	258,497	298,860
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>4,147,160</b>	<b>3,884,183</b>	<b>3,654,862</b>	<b>3,193,370</b>
Property, plant and equipment	941,014	828,637	914,079	1,013,323
Other investments	2,121,102	2,006,226	3,087,477	2,338,215
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>	<b>3,062,116</b>	<b>2,834,863</b>	<b>4,001,556</b>	<b>3,351,538</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>7,209,276</b>	<b>6,719,046</b>	<b>7,656,418</b>	<b>5,765,166</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
Trade and other payables	286,899	143,956	431,534	260,455
Employee benefits	185,931	153,012	155,609	123,194
Lease liabilities	45,036	64,714	62,785	58,170
Provisions	-	-	-	119,000
Other	380,284	228,339	509,867	440,348
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>898,150</b>	<b>590,021</b>	<b>1,159,796</b>	<b>1,001,197</b>
Employee benefits	46,334	36,152	57,448	44,671
Lease liabilities	105,806	103,200	167,914	230,699
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>	<b>152,140</b>	<b>139,352</b>	<b>225,362</b>	<b>275,370</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>1,050,289</b>	<b>729,373</b>	<b>1,385,158</b>	<b>1,276,567</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>6,158,987</b>	<b>5,989,673</b>	<b>6,271,260</b>	<b>5,268,341</b>
<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>				
Subordinated loan	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Restricted donation and endowment reserve	3,132,456	3,017,580	3,183,611	2,733,798
Restricted reserve	-	-	1,000,000	800,000
Accumulated surplus	2,826,531	2,772,093	1,887,649	1,534,543
<b>TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>	<b>6,158,987</b>	<b>5,989,673</b>	<b>6,271,260</b>	<b>5,268,341</b>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the notes and summary of significant accounting policies. This is an extract from the audited Financial Statements. The full version of the Financial Statements can be found on the Opera Queensland website.



# OUR PARTNERS

We would like to thank and acknowledge our 2023 partners, whose support enables our shared vision to deliver meaningful experiences that inspire world class performances and enrich the lives of our Queensland community.

An exciting world is created when Opera Queensland partners with leading corporations. Our partnerships are unique, delivering a tailored suite of engagement events and benefits with outcomes that exceed expectations. For a discussion about how your organisation can benefit from a partnership with Opera Queensland, please contact us.

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**Opera Queensland Ltd**  
ABN 83 101 258 750

Queensland Conservatorium Building  
140 Grey Street, South Bank  
PO Box 5792, West End Qld 4101

T 61 7 3735 3030  
E [info@oq.com.au](mailto:info@oq.com.au)

[oq.com.au](http://oq.com.au)