

oq OPERA
QUEENSLAND

2024 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.

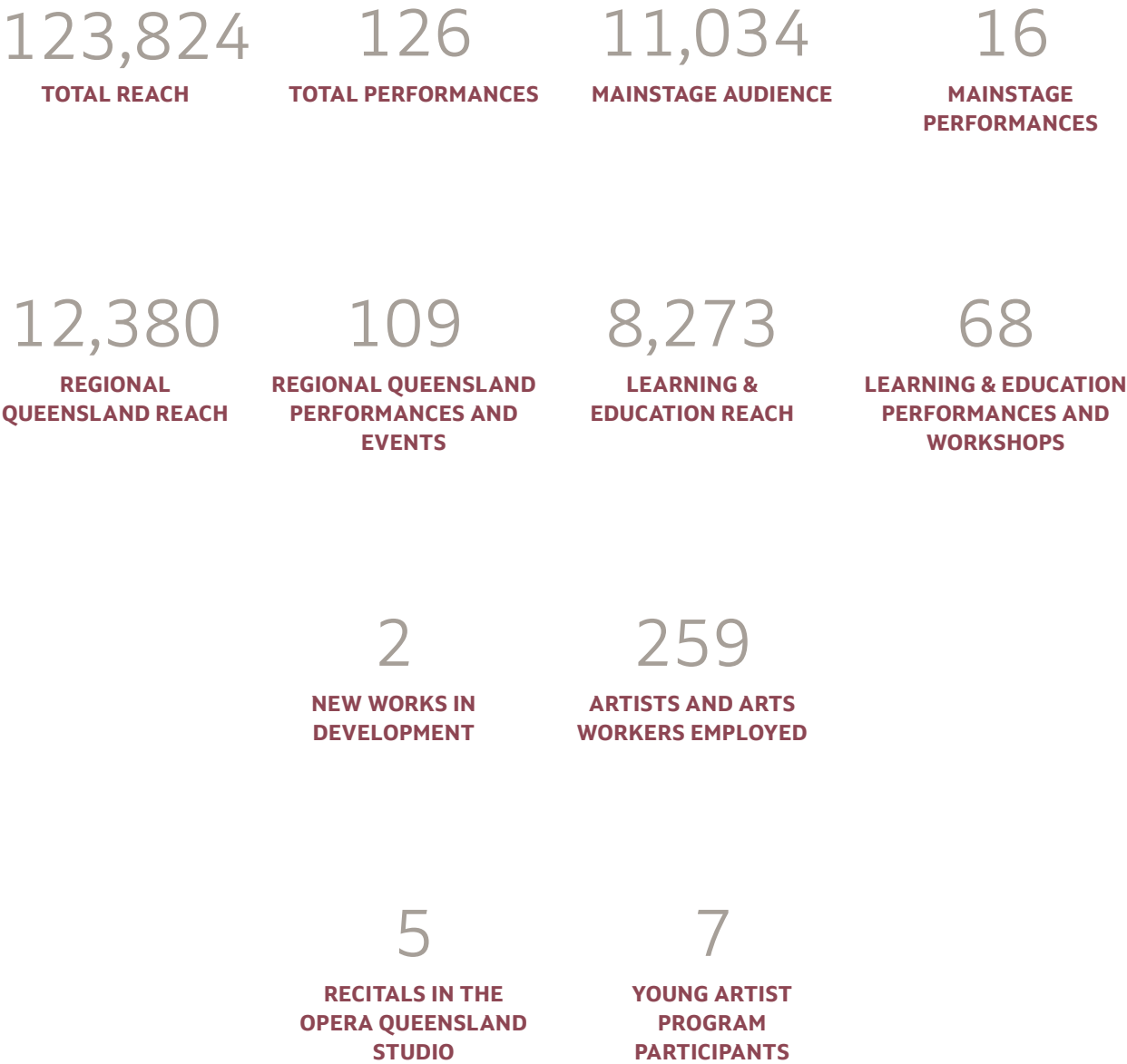
We acknowledge and respect the knowledge, cultures, languages, songs and dances they have created and shared for at least 65,000 years.

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

We are driven to create stories rich with exceptional music and song, performed by the finest artists working today. These may be large scale productions in Brisbane with our performance partners the QSO and QPAC or performances in regional and remote centres at every point of the compass.

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



VISION

Growing a community connected by the transformative power of opera.

PURPOSE

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

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 & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



2024 was an ambitious year. We launched a new festival in Brisbane, co-produced the world premiere of the first musical created by Torres Strait Islanders, and presented three of our productions to audiences around Australia, including, for the first time at the Sydney Opera House. We also deepened our connection with audiences across regional and remote Queensland.

All this activity was framed by a strong commitment to our values of Creativity, Respect, Collaboration, Virtuosity and Joy. As a company we are driven to provide our audiences with exceptional music making and storytelling. It is demanding, challenging, sometimes difficult work, but our belief in the artform and our awareness of the privilege it holds, fuels our passion and deep commitment to producing performances of the highest calibre.

We started the year with two of our productions, *La Traviata* and *Orpheus and Eurydice*, being presented at the Sydney Opera House as part of Opera Australia's summer season. Both played to capacity audiences as did *Orpheus and Eurydice*, when it later toured to Perth.

We launched the Brisbane season with Brisbane Bel Canto, a week-long celebration of music from the bel canto period, exploring the many colours of the human voice. With Australian soprano and international superstar Jessica Pratt as the headline artist, Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor* opened the festival, followed by an exquisite recital of Bellini arias and scenes, with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra (QSO) at Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC). The festival's music director, Richard Mills, led from the front for each of these performances. Acknowledging that a festival is an opportunity to nourish all five senses, we were thrilled to have Maggie Beer create a feast inspired by music from bel canto period – including a dessert called *La Dolce Jessica*!

In May, we returned to Longreach and Winton for the Festival of Outback Opera, featuring one time Opera Queensland young artist Kate Miller-Heidke. The festival grows each year, with the wonder of opera in perfect harmony with the majesty of the Outback and the warmth of the locals.

Our regional tour, *Do We Need Another Hero?*, written and directed by Laura Hansford, asked questions about what it means to be a hero, and what sort of heroes might we need today. It enchanted audiences in over twenty different regional and remote Queensland towns, some of whom were encountering opera for the first time.

In July, we returned to QPAC to collaborate with Circa on a new production of Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*. Once again music, song and movement combined in a way that tested the boundaries of what opera can be.

This was followed by the world premiere of *Straight from the Strait*, telling the true story of the Torres Strait Islanders who built the railways that laid the foundations of Australia's economic boom in the middle of the 20th Century. Partnering with Yumpla Nerkep Foundation, QPAC and Brisbane Festival, the project was led by a team of First Nations creatives, performers, musicians, and cultural advisors to create the first Torres Strait Islander musical – a landmark achievement in Australian cultural history.

Around these major works, we presented a series of recitals, including one by the world-renowned countertenor Andreas Scholl. Our schools program played to many thousands of children across Queensland, and we continued to welcome singers young and old to our singing classes.

Without the support and encouragement of our partners and donors, none of this would have been possible. We thank our government partners, Arts Queensland, Creative Australia and Brisbane City Council – who are key to creating new opportunities for artists, creative workers and audiences.

Amongst a community of many generous supporters, there are a few whom we acknowledge for their exceptional support – Tim Fairfax Family Foundation, Haymans Electrical, Frazer Family Foundation, and Mather Foundation, Philip Bacon, whose exceptional generosity in 2024 enabled us to take our ambitious program across the state and beyond.

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. A huge thank you to the Opera Queensland core staff and the extensive network of casual artists and crew whose expertise and care ensure that our annual programs are delivered with virtuosity and heart.

Finally, thank you to our audiences, whether in the Lyric Theatre in Brisbane or a classroom in a remote outback town, your enthusiasm for what we do inspires our ambitions each day.

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.

The 2024 Opera Queensland Season was widely acclaimed as a resounding success with the introduction of new works, presentation of highly esteemed international artists and strengthening of our regional and schools program.

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 two 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 *Do We Need Another Hero?* were highlights in the 2024 regional Opera Queensland program.

The introduction of the Brisbane Bel Canto festival and staging the widely acclaimed World Premiere, *Straight from the Strait*, provided audiences with unique repertoire and world class performers.

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 a surplus for 2024.

Finally, I thank Opera Queensland CEO & 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 2024 opera program.

LINDA A. APELT
Chair



OUR IMPACT DEVELOP THE ARTFORM

CREATE PATHWAYS FOR ARTISTS AND ARTS WORKERS

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

259

TOTAL ARTISTS AND
ARTS WORKERS
EMPLOYED

7

YOUNG ARTIST PROGRAM
OPPORTUNITIES

2

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.

44

FIRST NATIONS ARTISTS
AND ARTS WORKERS
EMPLOYED



WORLD PREMIERE OF
STRAIGHT FROM
THE STRAIT



BRISBANE BEL CANTO

20 – 27 April

Brisbane Bel Canto was a week long celebration of three great opera composers – Gioachino Rossini, Vincenzo Bellini and Gaetano Donizetti. Together they laid the foundations for the grand Italian operas that have become such an important feature of opera houses around the world.

Over the course of the festival we presented a program that reveals bel canto as a period that examined the purity and agility of the voice in a way that would change the course of opera.

We were very fortunate to welcome Jessica Pratt back to Australia to sing in an opera in Brisbane for the very first time. Recipient of the Italian presidential medal for coloratura singing, she is revered as one of the world's great bel canto singers.

Brisbane Bel Canto was supported by Philip Bacon AO.

LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR CONCERT HALL, QPAC

CREATIVE TEAM

Conductor Richard Mills

Director Patrick Nolan

Assistant Director Eugene Lynch

Costumes Karen Cochet & Bianca Bulley

Lighting Christine Felmingham

Chorus Master Narelle French

CAST

Lucia Jessica Pratt

Edgardo Carlos Bárcenas

Enrico Samuel Dundas

Raimondo David Parkin

Arturo Virgilio Marino

Alisa Hayley Sugars

Normanno Iain Henderson

Opera Queensland Chorus

Queensland Symphony Orchestra

JESSICA PRATT IN CONCERT CONCERT HALL, QPAC

CREATIVE TEAM & CAST

Conductor Richard Mills

Soprano Jessica Pratt

Tenor Carlos Bárcenas

Tenor Rosario La Spina

Queensland Symphony Orchestra

ROSSINI'S STABAT MATER CONSERVATORIUM THEATRE, QUEENSLAND CONSERVATORIUM GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY

CREATIVE TEAM & CAST

Conductor Richard Mills

Soloists Eva Kong, Iain Henderson,

David Parkin, Sian Sharp

Chorus and Orchestra of students from
Queensland Conservatorium Griffith
University

MAGGIE BEER LONG LUNCH OFFICERS MESS

CREATIVE TEAM & CAST

Chef Maggie Beer

Dessert Chef Natalie Paull

Soloists Shaun Brown, Sarah Crane,
Virgilio Marino, Hayley Sugars

Piano Narelle French



★★★★★

A perfect night at the opera opens OQ's inaugural Brisbane Bel Canto festival, giving soprano Jessica Pratt a production of Lucia to call her own.

LIMELIGHT MAGAZINE

With towering mahogany walls evoking Lammermoor Castle, and costumes by Karen Cochet and Bianca Bulley adding a gothic elegance, the production design effectively underscores Lucia's plight.

WEEKEND NOTES

DIDO AND AENEAS

13 – 27 July, Playhouse, QPAC

To experience an opera in full flight requires presence – the vital contract between performer and audience. In many respects this idea of presence and attention is at the heart of our collaboration with Circa. Opera singers and acrobats share many qualities. Both feats require phenomenal physical stamina and a level of trust. The only way to fully appreciate the wonder and energy generated by the singers and acrobats working intimately with one another is to bear witness to it in the moment.

With its refined libretto and many dance interludes, *Dido and Aeneas* offered Director Yaron Lifschitz the opportunity to explore the story in a uniquely poetic and dynamic way.

Dido and Aeneas was supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland and the Frazer Family Foundation.

CREATIVE TEAM

Conductor Benjamin Bayl
Director, Set Design Yaron Lifschitz
Costume Libby McDonnell
Lighting Matthew Marshall
Associate Director Rani Luther
Circa Associate Director Benjamin Knapton
Ensemble Preparation Narelle French

CAST

Dido Anna Dowsley
Aeneas Sebastian MacLaine
Belinda Katie Stenzel
Second Lady Emily Turner
First Witch Hayley Sugars
Second Witch Shikara Ringdahl
Spirit Jessica Low
Sailor Lachlann Lawton

CONTINUO ENSEMBLE

Harpsichord Benjamin Bayl, Mark Connors
Theorbo, Baroque Guitar Jeremy Stafford
Cello Hyung Suk Bae

Opera Queensland Chorus
Queensland Symphony Orchestra

CIRCA ENSEMBLE

Rowan Allinson, Jon Bonaventura,
Rhannon Cave-Walker, Charlotte Cayer,
Jessica Connell, Chelsea Hall, Luke Pearce,
Joshua Strachan, Adam Strom, Darby Sullivan



★★★★★

A new benchmark for opera production in Australia.

LIMELIGHT

Incredible vocal performances and the awe-inspiring physicality of the Circa acrobats merged two art forms seamlessly, mutually elevating both, in this sensational new production.

BACKSTREET BRISBANE

STRAIGHT FROM THE STRAIT

29 – 31 August, Playhouse, QPAC

On 8 May 1968, a group of remarkable Torres Strait Islander workers, on the vast expanse of the Mount Newman railway construction project, shattered a world record as they laid an astonishing 7km of track in a single day, an unparalleled feat that still stands unchallenged. At the heart of their extraordinary achievement is the power of song – songs that are unique to Australia, that tell a passionate and inspiring story.

Straight from the Strait pays homage to the stories of these Torres Strait Islander men and women who ventured far from their homes in pursuit of employment on the mainland. Amid the gruelling labour, they discovered a sense of camaraderie that transcended boundaries. Their sweat and toil laid the foundation for Australia's emergence as an industrial nation.

Straight from the Strait was supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, the Australian Government through Creative Australia and the Torres Strait Regional Authority. It was co-presented by Opera Queensland, Yumpla Nerkep Foundation and Queensland Performing Arts Centre, in association with Brisbane Festival.

CREATIVE TEAM

Writer & Co-Librettist Norah Bagiri
Composer, Co-Librettist, Music Director, Arranger Rubina Kimiia
Director Nadine McDonald-Dowd
Co-Choreographer Cleopatra Pryce
Co-Choreographer Rita Pryce
Set Designer Kevin O'Brien
Costume Designer & Assistant Set Designer Zoë Rouse
Lighting Designer Jason Glenwright
Sound Designer Wil Hughes
Dramaturg Paul Brown
Dramaturg & Script Editor Luke Captain
Music Dramaturg & Music Copyist Luke Volker
Vocal Coach John Peek

CULTURAL ADVISORS

Ruth Ghee, Tony Ghee (Eastern Islands)
George Bagiri, Norah Bagiri (Western & Central Islands)

CAST

Boyor Paul Isakara Williams
Kusa Harold Pascoe
Pinau Vaughan Wapau
Serai Gertrude Benjamin
Isobel Georgia Corowa
Mama Ghenoa Gela
Man Mountain Jalen Sutcliffe
Protector Man, Bradco Bala & John Richardson Ezekiel "Zeek" Power
Levi Joey Tapau
Bobby B Edward Lampton
Jimmy Marcus Corowa
Sid Zane Lemusu
Uncle Reuben & Simeon Maurice Sailor
H&S Officer & Joe Kani Puru
Reporter Cleopatra Pryce

BAND

Guitar* Nathaniel Andrew
Bass, Traditional Percussion* Will Kepa
Keys* Michael Manikus
Keys* Richard Saifoloi
Drumkit Sisa Koroi
Guitar, Traditional Percussion Dimple Bani
* Additional Instrumental Arrangers

CC

As the audience left the theatre on opening night, elders were overcome with what they had witnessed. Representation and truth-telling matter.

THE AUSTRALIAN

Telling the tale of a historic single day in 1968, this celebration of Torres Strait culture is spirited and generous.

GUARDIAN



© Jade Ellis

OUR IMPACT CONNECT

NURTURE AND GROW NEW AUDIENCES

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

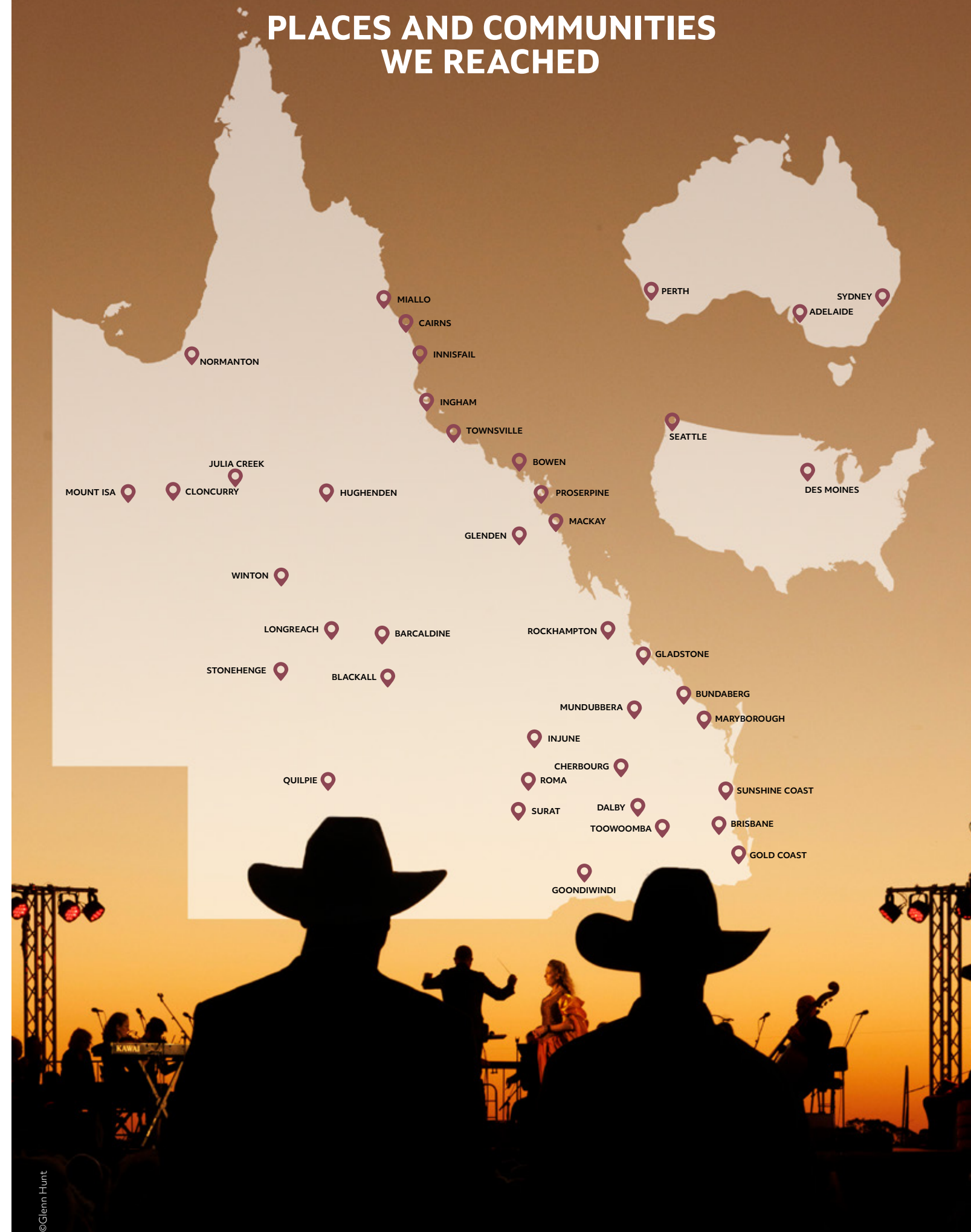
- 1,887 NEW MAINSTAGE TICKET BUYERS
- 7,531 TOTAL AUDIENCE – SCHOOLS TOURING SHOWS
- 53 COMMUNITY AND PARTNERSHIP PERFORMANCES

CELEBRATE DIVERSITY TO BUILD STRONG, VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

Remove barriers to the artform for people with diverse backgrounds

- 2 COMMUNITY CHORUSES FOR *DO WE NEED ANOTHER HERO?* REGIONAL TOUR
- 1 COMMUNITY CHORUS IN BRISBANE FOR CHRISTMAS CAROLS EVENTS
- 5 AUSLAN INTERPRETED OR AUDIO DESCRIBED MAINSTAGE PERFORMANCES
- 3 SING SING SING EVENTS AT OQ STUDIO
- 7 COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS DURING FESTIVAL OF OUTBACK OPERA AND REGIONAL TOUR

PLACES AND COMMUNITIES WE REACHED



FESTIVAL OF OUTBACK OPERA

14 – 20 May, Longreach and 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. Celebrating its fourth year, the festival has grown from strength to strength due to the hard work and support of many people. This year audiences travelled from around Australia to experience the warmth and generosity that is such a hallmark of the region.

With the support of the Queensland Government, we expanded the program to include award-winning singer-songwriter Kate Miller-Heidke at the two gala concerts. Audiences had the rare privilege of hearing her sing opera, the artform where she began her career as an artist, including 'Where?' from her opera *The Rabbits*.

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

DARK SKY SERENADE & SINGING IN THE NIGHT

Conductor Christopher van Tuinen

Musical Director & Arranger
Narelle French

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

Headline Artist Kate Miller-Heidke
Jason Barry-Smith*, Shaun Brown,
Rachelle Durkin, Nick Kirkup,
Nina Korbe, Rosario La Spina,
Katie Stenzel

Piano Narelle French

*Dark Sky Serenade

LONG LUNCH

MC Katie Stenzel

Shaun Brown, Nick Kirkup, Nina Korbe,
Gregory North, Shikara Ringdahl

Musical Director & Piano Narelle French

Cello Patrick Murphy

OPERA BALL

MC Ben Mingay

Jason Barry-Smith, Ruby Clark,
Marcus Corowa, Shikara Ringdahl

Piano Luke Volker

DO WE NEED ANOTHER HERO?

Director & Writer Laura Hansford

Musical Director & Arranger Luke Volker

Assistant Director Emma Nightingale

Costumes Karen Cochet

Set Laura Hansford

Lighting Wesley Bluff

CAST

Jason Barry-Smith, Ruby Clark, Marcus
Corowa, Shikara Ringdahl, Luke Volker

SING SING SING

MC Jason Barry-Smith

Nina Korbe, Shikara Ringdahl

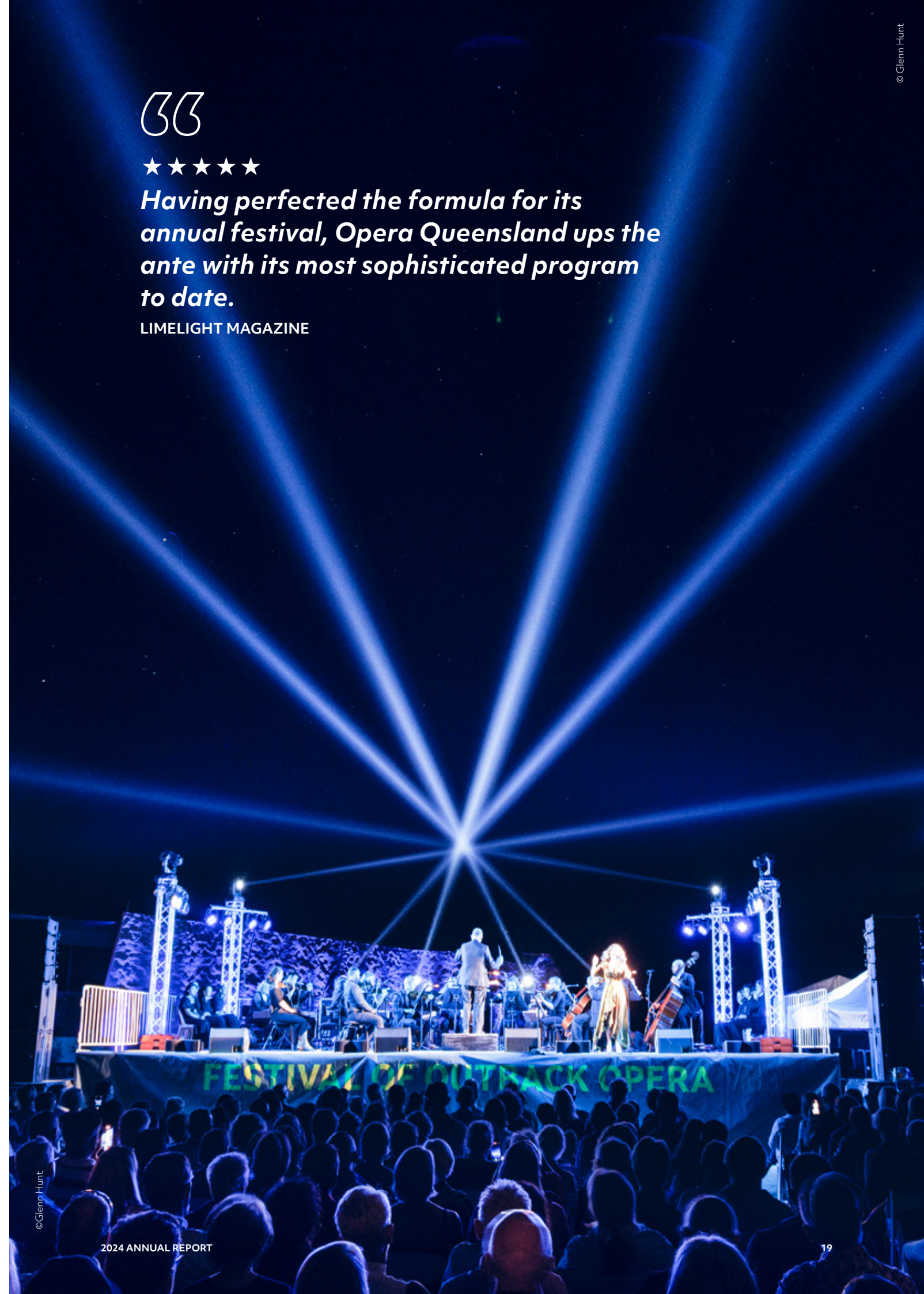
Musical Director Narelle French

CC

★★★★★

Having perfected the formula for its annual festival, Opera Queensland ups the ante with its most sophisticated program to date.

LIMELIGHT MAGAZINE



REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT

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

This year included community chorus and workshop activities during the *Do We Need Another Hero?* regional tour and performances at Opera at Jimbour.

FESTIVAL OF OUTBACK OPERA AND DO WE NEED ANOTHER HERO?

- Community chorus of 11 participants in Roma
- Community chorus of 12 participants in Toowoomba
- Seven school workshops for 330 students from St Thomas More's Primary School Toowoomba, St Mary's Catholic School Bowen, St Joseph's Catholic School Mount Isa, Winton State School, St Patrick's School Winton, A.B. Paterson Barty's Place Winton, Our Lady's Catholic Primary School Longreach
- Pop up performances at aged care and retirement facilities in Gladstone, Rockhampton, Townsville, Warwick and Longreach

OPERA AT JIMBOUR

10–12 MAY

JIMBOUR STATION

Jimbour House welcomed back visitors for a weekend of intimate opera and chamber music performances as well as an outdoor amphitheatre concert performance of *Tosca*. This year's event featured a star-studded lineup of internationally renowned soloists from Opera Queensland and musicians from Ensemble Q and 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 Richard Mills

Tosca Eva Kong

Scarpia Teddy Tahu Rhodes

Cavaradossi Iain Henderson

Sacristan, Sciarrone & Gaoler Shaun Brown

Angelotti & Spoletta Nick Kirkup

Shepherd & Narrator Hayley Sugars

Piano John Woods

OPERA QUEENSLAND CAST – RECITALS

Iain Henderson, Nick Kirkup, Eva Kong, Hayley Sugars

Piano John Woods





High quality, easy listening for a wide variety of audiences, very fortunate to have such talented performers in our region.

Very entertaining, great to see the many different sides to opera.

AUDIENCE MEMBER



© Murray Summerville

REGIONAL TOUR

DO WE NEED ANOTHER HERO?

April – June

Do We Need Another Hero? took a deep dive into history to ask a question that feels more and more pressing by the day. Moving between operatic and popular repertoire, this new production from Director Laura Hansford invited us to reflect on the nature of what it takes to be a hero, finding an answer that may be closer to home than we imagine.

After launching in Brisbane, the show toured to 30 locations across regional Queensland, with performances complemented by bespoke community engagement activities, including school music and singing workshops, and reduced performances in aged care centres. The tour included a new location not previously visited by Opera Queensland in the outback town of Stonehenge, population 58. Travelling to all four corners of the state, the production embraces Opera Queensland's mission to take work of the highest calibre to audiences wherever they may be.

CREATIVE TEAM

Director & Writer Laura Hansford

Musical Director & Arranger

Luke Volker

Assistant Director

Emma Nightingale

Costumes Karen Cochet

Set Laura Hansford

Lighting Wesley Bluff

CAST

Jason Barry-Smith, Ruby Clark,
Marcus Corowa, Shikara Ringdahl,
Luke Volker

PERFORMANCE LOCATIONS

Brisbane
Toowoomba
Maryborough
Proserpine
Ingham
Hughenden
Cloncurry
Mount Isa
Winton

Longreach
Barcaldine
Blackall
Quilpie
Stonehenge
Roma
Goondiwindi
Caloundra
Gold Coast

OUR IMPACT

PRODUCE

LEAD CHANGE IN OPERA

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



LAUNCHED BRISBANE BEL CANTO, A NEW FESTIVAL FOR BRISBANE, FEATURING SUPERSTAR SOPRANO JESSICA PRATT IN A NEW PRODUCTION OF LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR, DIRECTED BY PATRICK NOLAN



NEW PRODUCTION OF DIDO AND AENEAS, DIRECTED BY YARON LIFSCHITZ AND CREATED IN ASSOCIATION WITH RENOWNED CONTEMPORARY CIRCUS COMPANY CIRCA



WORLD PREMIERE OF STRAIGHT FROM THE STRAIT, A GROUNDBREAKING NEW MUSICAL DEVELOPED THROUGH COLLABORATION AND CONSULTATION WITH TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ARTISTS, ELDERS AND COMMUNITIES

ENSURE FINANCIAL, OPERATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE

Safeguard the future by continually improving business practices



INCREASE IN EARNED INCOME FROM PRODUCTION HIRES AND WARDROBE SERVICES



PRIVATE INCOME CONTRIBUTING TO 22% OF REVENUE IN 2024



PLANNED INVESTMENT IN ARTISTIC PROGRAM IN 2024, RESULTING IN SMALL OPERATING DEFICIT AND RETENTION OF ADEQUATE CASH RESERVES



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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.

AMY LEHPAMER & ALEX RAINERI
The Best of Broadway (According to Amy Lehpamer)
20 & 21 September



ALEX RAINERI
Speechless
8 & 9 March



HERU PINKASOVA & BRENDAN MURTAGH
Pacific Harmonies
22 & 23 March



VIRGILIO MARINO & ALEX RAINERI
Songs of My Life
15 & 16 November



ADRIAN STROOPER & ALEX RAINERI
A Window into Song
6 & 7 December

ANDREAS SCHOLL IN CONCERT

18 October, City Tabernacle Baptist Church

When we learned that Andreas Scholl was planning a trip to Australia, we immediately sought to bring him to Brisbane. It is not often we can share with our audiences one of the world's most acclaimed operatic voices. Revered for his "pure, focused tone" and "profound understanding and emotional engagement", Andreas Scholl has enchanted audiences around the world for over 30 years.

We were thrilled to have musicians of the quality of Ensemble Q accompanying Andreas for a concert of timeless music by Bach, Vivaldi and Purcell, including 'Dido's Lament' from *Dido and Aeneas*. This performance created a space for us to encounter our humanity in all its complexity, a moment to reflect on our fragility and feel the threads that bind us all.

CREATIVE TEAM

Co-Artistic Director – Ensemble Q Trish Dean

CAST

Feature Singer Andreas Scholl

ENSEMBLE Q

Violin Adam Chalabi, Lachlan Wilkins, Doretta Balkizas, John Kelly

Viola Liam Mallinson, Maddisyn Dixon-Whitbourne

Cello Trish Dean, Stirling Hall

Double Bass Elias Kokkoris

Harpsichord / Organ Joanna Butler



33

★★★★★

Brisbane's City Tabernacle Baptist Church proves an ideal venue for this one-off from the great German countertenor. This was a very special concert to start Scholl's Australian tour.

LIMELIGHT MAGAZINE



YOUNG ARTIST PROGRAM

In 2024 we announced four returning members and three new members of our Young Artist Program – six singers, Nick Kirkup, Nina Korbe, Lachlann Lawton, Olivia Payne, Shikara Ringdahl and Connor Willmore, were joined by Eugene Lynch, who is involved in our Young Artist program as a director.

Overseen by Opera Queensland's Head of Music, Narelle French, and Managing Producer, Alicia Cush, the program provides a world-class mentorship experience for talented young artists, including 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.





© Murray Summerville

LIFELONG LEARNING

HANSEL & GRETEL

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 7,500 students in primary 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.

CREATIVE TEAM

Directors Ross Balbuziente, Nick Skubij

Writer Nelle Lee

Musical Director Jason Barry-Smith

Set & Costume Design Josh McIntosh

Assistant Director Nick James

Musical Adaptation & Lyrics Narelle French

Media Producers optikal bloc

CAST

Gabrielle Diaz
Tashana Hardy
Jonathan Hickey

Mother Clarissa Foulcher (on-screen)

Sandman Jessica Low (on-screen)

Dew Fairy Irena Lysiuk (on-screen)

IN THE CLASSROOM

Students from Springwood State High School 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

Jason Barry-Smith
Catherine Broadstock
Narelle French
Eleanor Greenwood
Connor Willmore

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 workshops formats including group and choral coaching.

FACILITATORS AND TEACHING ARTISTS

Jason Barry-Smith
Susan Ellis
Narelle French
Kylie Los
Nick Kirkup

SING SING SING

Sing Sing Sing brought people together in September, October and December to experience the joy of singing. 195 people of all ages and musical tastes gathered across the year to share their love for music and singing.

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

Jason Barry-Smith
Susan Ellis
Narelle French
Nick Kirkup
Connor Willmore



© Murray Summerville



©Peter Wallis

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 Queensland Children's Hospital, QPAC's annual Italian National Day celebration and pop-up performances at Brisbane Airport. Other performances at Queens Plaza, Lefty's Music Hall and Calile Hotel provided memorable experiences for audiences and participants.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY HANWORTH HOUSE

Overlooking the backdrop of the city, we saw our beautiful Brisbane community gather for another magical night under the stars at Hanworth House. Presented by our partners, UNE PIECE swimwear, performances featured Eva Kong and Narelle French.

AUSTRALIAN ANTHEMS BRISBANE RACING CLUB

We were honoured to perform the Australian National Anthem during the Stradbroke Season across May and June for Brisbane Racing Club. Over 30,000 racegoers were treated to stirring renditions of the anthem by Opera Queensland artists, including Nina Korbe, Sebastian MacLaine, Shikara Ringdahl, Katie Stenzel and Connor Willmore.

LE FESTIVAL SOUTH BANK

Part of Brisbane's French Festival in July, Opera Queensland artists performed at four pop-up performances, captivating senses and transporting audiences to the romantic streets of Paris. Jason Barry-Smith led singers Joel Berndt, Bernadette Debattista, Gabrielle Diaz, Louise Dorsman, Dominique Fegan, Rachel Griffin, Jonathan Hickey, Kathryn King, Mattias Lower, Daniel Smerdon and Bernard Wheaton, with guitarist Joseph Fallon.

CAROLS ON THE ROOFTOP WEST VILLAGE

This intimate concert featured singers Eleanor Greenwood, Nick Kirkup, Lachlann Lawton, Connor Willmore with John Woods 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 carols sung by Eleanor Greenwood and Connor Willmore.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS RYDGES HOTEL SOUTH BANK

Rydges Hotel South Bank guests were serenaded by Connor Willmore in the hotel foyer for a pop-up carols performance. Guests were also delighted with an afternoon performance featuring Jason Barry-Smith, Susan Ellis, Narelle French and a community chorus of over twenty Sing with Opera Queensland workshop participants.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS SHAYHER GROUP

We were thrilled to perform some Christmas favourites for Shayher Group visitors at Milton House, Brisbane Quarter, and Capalaba Central this festive season. Artists included Jason Barry-Smith, Narelle French, Nick Kirkup, Eva Kong, Eleanor Greenwood, Katie Stenzel and John Woods.



© South Bank Corporation

MAINSTAGE COLLABORATIONS

Opera Queensland artists and productions were seen by audiences across the world, with the company collaborating to present new Australian works and hiring productions to several major opera companies.

EUCALYPTUS

4 – 5 September
Concert Hall, QPAC

Presented by Brisbane Festival, QPAC and Queensland Symphony Orchestra in association with Victorian Opera, Opera Australia, Opera Queensland and Perth Festival. We were delighted to collaborate in presenting Jonathan Mills' new opera, based on the Miles Franklin Award-winning novel *Eucalyptus*, by Murray Bail.

OPERA QUEENSLAND CHORUS

Joel Berndt
Matthew Broadbent
Ryan Carlson
Alicia Cush
Bernadette Debattista
Robyn Kelly
Kathryn King
Andrew Lange
Jessica Low
Mattias Lower
Jon Maskell
Beth McBride
Shikara Ringdahl
Emily Turner
Connor Willmore
Jia-Peng Yeung

LA TRAVIATA

January – March
Opera Australia, Sydney Opera House

A co-production between Opera Queensland, State Opera South Australia and West Australian Opera, this production first premiered in Brisbane on 14 July 2022.

ORPHEUS & EURYDICE

January
Opera Australia, Sydney Opera House
October – November
West Australian Opera, His Majesty's Theatre

This Opera Queensland production first premiered in Brisbane on 16 October 2019.

COSÌ FAN TUTTE

September
State Opera South Australia,
Her Majesty's Theatre

This Opera Queensland production first premiered in Brisbane on 10 August 2023.

THE BARBER OF SEVILLE

May
Seattle Opera, Washington USA
June – July
Des Moines Metro Opera, Iowa USA

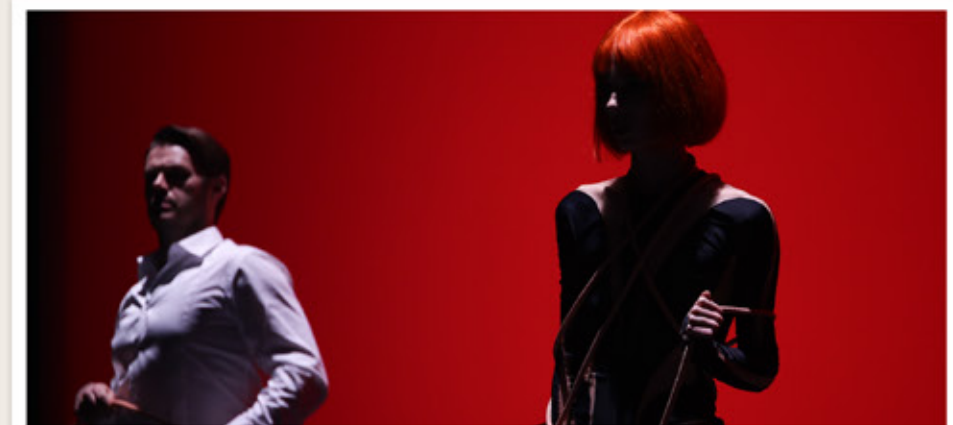
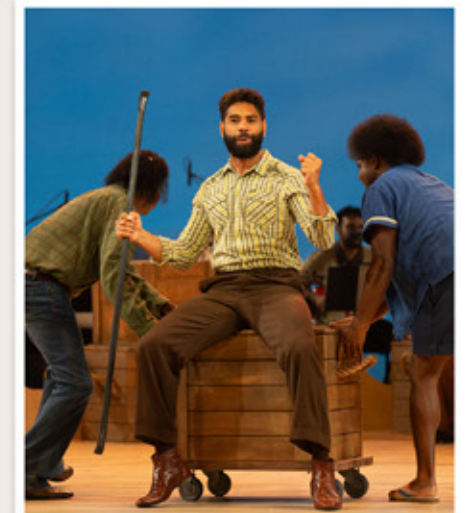
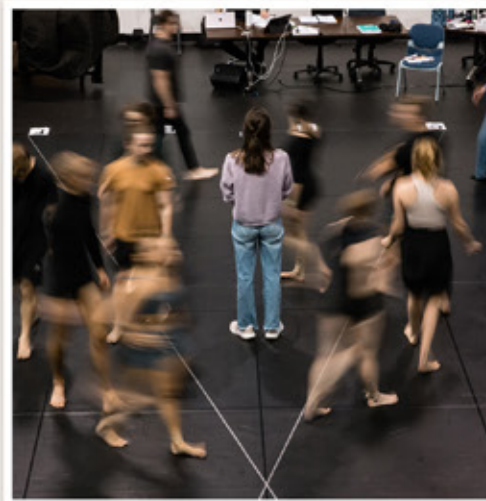
A co-production between Opera Queensland, Seattle Opera and New Zealand Opera, this production first premiered in Brisbane on 9 July 2016.

RUSALKA

July
West Australian Opera, His Majesty's Theatre

An Opera Conference production, with costumes manufactured by the Opera Queensland wardrobe team in Brisbane.





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 Agent-General for Queensland in the UK, Trade and Investment Commissioner in Europe, CEO and non-executive director across a range of sectors including, the Arts, Disability Services, Housing and Urban Planning; early childhood education; Higher Education, Foreign Investment Review policy and superannuation.

As a former 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 an experienced non-executive director with a finance, consulting and assurance background. After working in finance and commercial leadership roles globally and around Australia, Will is now based in Western Queensland with his young family.

As well as being a member of the Opera Queensland board, he also sits on numerous boards and advisory committees with for-purpose organisations including RACQ, Children's Health Queensland Hospital & Health Service and the Royal Flying Doctor Service (Queensland).

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 wellbeing.

JODY CURRIE BA Gender Studies
Director since October 2021

Jody is Queensland born and a proud Yugambeh 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.



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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 22 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)

OPERA QUEENSLAND TEAM

EXECUTIVE TEAM

CEO & Artistic Director Patrick Nolan
Executive Director Adam Tucker (Acting CEO & Executive Director from Dec 2024 to Feb 2025)
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
Director of Learning, Regional and Community Laura Hansford
Director of Development Phoebe Rouse
Acting Director of Development Donnita Maher (Jul to Nov 2024)
Executive Assistant Karen Griffin (until Nov 2024)
Executive Assistant Lynne Anderson (from Nov 2024)
Managing Producer Alicia Cush (from Apr 2024)
Graphic Designer Murray Summerville
Digital Marketing Campaign Specialist Jesse Sobey
Ticketing & CRM Coordinator Alexandra Donald (from Apr 2024)
Partnerships Manager Warrick McDonald
Sponsorship & Events Coordinator Simone Nevison (until Jun 2024)
Development Officer – Administration and Events Zoé Noble Fox
Producer – Learning, Regional and Community Simone Doczkal
Producer – Learning, Regional and Community Carli Griffin (until Jun 2024)
Associate Producer – Learning, Regional and Community Justine Hansberry
Senior Producer Gabby Gregory (until Nov 2024)
Project Coordinator Dylan Rettke (until Jun 2024)
Head of Wardrobe Karen Cochet
Production Coordinator Rhi Booth
Production Administrator Annette Kerwitz
Principal Cutter Bianca Bulley
Wardrobe Assistant Rachael Donegan (Jan to May 2024)
Wardrobe Assistant Joshua von Rurik (Nov 2024 to Feb 2025)
HR, Young Artist Program and Music Coordinator Alicia Cush (until Apr 2024)
Artistic Coordinator Charlotte Walker (from Jan 2025)
Finance Business Partner Sangeeta Khosla
Management Accountant Natasha Seveau (until May 2024)
Accountant Sara George (from Jan 2025)
Assistant Accountant Verkha Perakash (until Nov 2024)

2024 YOUNG ARTISTS

Nick Kirkup, Nina Korbe, Lachlann Lawton, Eugene Lynch, Olivia Payne, Shikara Ringdahl, Connor Willmore



HONARARY LIFE MEMBERS

Emeritus Prof Christa Critchley
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 2024

Linda Apelt
Robert Cumming
Jody Currie
Greg Ellis
Janice Ellis
Will Fellowes
David Gow
Jane Keating
Judith Mather
Katie McNamara
James Walker

2024 OPERA CLUB MEMBERS

Mr David & Mrs Davi Bennion, Ms Georgina Blomfield, Mr Nick Breakspere, Dr Janne Coman, Dr Uzo Dibia, Mr Greg & Mrs Janice Ellis, Ms Kathleen Gallagher, Ms Peta Ganner, Dr Ulrich Hartig, Dr Michael Hurley, Dr Robert Kearney, Prof Christina Lee, Ms June Lloyd, Mr Gregory Molloy, Mrs Brenda Ramsay, Mr Allen & Mrs Mitzi Smith, Mr Tony Tabrett, Mr Harry Thompson

ARTISTS & CREW

ARTISTS
Nathaniel Andrew
Jud Arthur
Doretta Balkizas
Dimple Bani
Carlos Bárcenas
Jason Barry-Smith
Gertrude Benjamin
Joel Berndt
Shaun Brown
Joanna Butler
Adam Chalabi
Ruby Clark
Mark Connors
Georgia Corowa
Marcus Corowa
Sarah Crane
Trish Dean
Gabrielle Diaz
Maddisyn Dixon-Whitbourne
Anna Dowsley
Samuel Dundas
Rachelle Durkin
Susan Ellis
Joseph Fallon
Narelle French
Ghenoa Gela
Sahsha Ghee
Eleanor Greenwood
Stirling Hall
Tashana Hardy
Iain Henderson
Jonathan Hickey
Jess Hitchcock
John Kelly
Leanne Kenneally
Beverley Kennedy
William Kepa
Nick Kirkup
Elias Kokkoris
Eva Kong
Nina Korbe
Sisa Koroi
Rosario La Spina
Edward Lampton
Lachlann Lawton
Amy Lehpamer
Zane Lemusu
Kylie Los
Sebastian Maclaine
Mahonri Eteru
Liam Mallinson
Michael Manikus
Virgilio Marino
Kate Miller-Heidke
Benjamin Mingay
Brendan Murtagh
Steve Newcomb
Gregory North
David Parkin
Harold Pascoe
Olivia Payne

Berniece Peeauakeau
Elena Perroni
Heru Pinkasova
Ezekiel “Zeek” Power
Jessica Pratt
Cleopatra Pryce
Kani Puru
Alex Raineri
Teddy Tahu Rhodes
Shikara Ringdahl
Richard Saifoloi
Maurice Sailor
Andreas Scholl
Shanul Sharma
Sian Sharp
Katie Stenzel
Jillianne Stoll
Adrian Strooper
Hayley Sugars
Jalen Sutcliffe
Joseph Tapau
Emily Turner
Elizabeth Turner
Patrick Van Den Broek
Luke Volker
Bradley Voltz
Vaughn Wapau
George Waqairagata
Kristal West
Lachlan Wilkins
Paul Williams
Connor Willmore
John Woods

CHORUS
Sean Andrews
Jason Barry-Smith
Stephen Beck
Joel Berndt
Matthew Broadbent
Ryan Carlson
Alicia Cush
Shaeyna Day
Bernadette Debattista
Gabrielle Diaz
Louise Dorsman
Dominique Fegan
Regan Flor
Clarissa Foulcher
Anne Fulton
Karen Gaydon
Rachael Griffin
Sally Harrison
Michael Hibbard
Jonathan Hickey
Brett Holland
Kaja Holzheimer
Robyn Kelly
Steven Kickbusch
Adele King
Kathryn King
Nick Kirkup

Mark Kroon
Andrew Lange
Lachlann Lawton
Jessica Low
Annie Lower
Mattias Lower
Leslie Martin
Jon Maskell
Shelden Mathieson
Elizabeth McBride
David Muller
John Nicholson
Emma Nightingale
Shikara Ringdahl
Katie Rutledge
D’Arne Sleeman
Daniel Smerdon
Katie Stenzel
Hayley Sugars
Lionel Theunissen
Emily Turner
Leon Warnock
Rosina Waugh
Bernard Wheaton
Robert Williams
Connor Willmore
Jia-Peng Yeung
Ji Zhang

CHORUS MASTERS
Jason Barry-Smith
Narelle French

CIRCA ACROBATS
Rowan Allinson
Jon Bonaventura
Rhianon Cave-Walker
Charlotte Cayer
Jessica Connell
Chelsea Hall
Luke Pearce
Joshua Strachan
Adam Strom
Darby Sullivan

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Trish Dean
Paul Brown
Laura Hansford
Nick James
Yaron Lifschitz
Rani Luther
Eugene Lynch
Nadine McDonald-Dowd
Emma Nightingale
Patrick Nolan
Cleopatra Pryce
Rita Pryce
Nick Skubij

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Benjamin Bayl
Narelle French
Rubina Kimiia
Richard Mills
Christopher van Tuinen
Luke Volker

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Wesley Bluff
Bianca Bulley
Karen Cochet
Christine Felmingham
Jason Glenwright
Wil Hughes
Kevin O’Brien
Matthew Marshall
Libby McDonnell
Josh McIntosh
Zoë Rouse
Bernie Tan-Hayes

CULTURAL ADVISORS & COACHES
Eric Babia
George Bagiri
Norah Bagiri
Anthony Ghee
Ruth Ghee

ORCHESTRAS
Queensland Symphony Orchestra
The UQ Pulse Chamber Orchestra

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Luke Captain
Norah Bagiri
Narelle French
Laura Hansford
Jess Hitchcock
Rubina Kimiia
Nelle Lee
Luke Volker

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Jason Barry-Smith
Catherine Broadstock
Mark Connors
Teresa Desmarchelier
Narelle French
John Peek
Alex Raineri
Jillianne Stoll
Luke Volker
John Woods

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Catherine Cooper
Sarah Dawes
Archer Fababaer
Mariyah Hall
Angelina Manliguez
Linda Montgomery
Gloria Payne
Jessica Selmes
Erl Ren Solana
Judith Symonds
Carmel Treasure
Jorjee Turnbull
Catherine Vaughan
Jillina Whittaker
Brydee Williams

COMMUNITY CHORUS – TOOWOOMBA
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Taz Clifford
Katie Commens
Mary Louise Fraser
David Hedges
Kylie Lee
Kay Ryan
Kate Wolyncevic

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Melanie Alexiadis
Luke Allan
Rachael Appleyard
Jade Ashton
Hannah Beech
Wesley Bluff
Susan Booth
Ashleigh Bradfield
Stephen Brodie
Claire Browning
Leigh Buchanan
Eric Buckingham
Leandro Burrafato
Abbey Church
Josephine Clark-Liebke
Lily Cochet
Ryan Codner
Elodie Cooper
Hasen Degebrodt
Venita Derbyshire
Brandon Duncan
Marie Dupuy
Kirsten Fletcher
Tim Gawne
Anthea Govett
Danni Grantford
Carli Griffin
Emma Hain
Bethany Hall

Faith Hall
Tom Hawker
Skye Heales
Josiene James
Lidiya Kaplun
Yesim Kara
Mitchel King
Amelie Klingseisen
Peter Marsden
Valeria Mastakova
Geoff McGahan
Arlie McGill
Gabriella McLaren
Kylie Mitchell
Linus Monsour
Hannah Moroney
Illuka Nally
Ricky Olfacius
Zena O’Shannessy
Adam Paine
Charlotte Parker
Lachlan Paterson
Nicola Pulvirenti
Mak Purdy
Kelly Purnell
Emma Richards
Lauren Sallaway
David Schafer
Vince Scuderi
Jane Shelton
David Spearritt
Kate Stevenson
Lydia Strover
Rhianon Tate
Jacob Taylor
Joash Teo
Deborah Thacker
Kriss Torres Ramirez
Laura Van Berkel
Jacinta Vella Campbell
Daniel Villiers
Charlotte Walker
Tammy Weller
Stephanie West
Michelle Wiki
Fiona Willard



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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 Creative Australia's Essential Governance Practices for Arts Organisations. All key governance documents are available on the company's website at 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 eight 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 Creative Australia), 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, Prof Frank Gannon & Mrs Mary Gannon, Mr David Gow & Dr Kirsten Gow, Mr Hien Le, Emeritus Prof Andrew Lister & Ms Kate Lister, Emeritus Prof David Siddle & Emeritus Prof Christa Critchley, Dr Susan Urquhart[†] & Dr Philip Aitken[†]

FOUNDATION DONORS \$15,000 AND ABOVE

Dr Susan Urquhart[†] & Dr Philip Aitken[†], Mr Philip Bacon AO, Emeritus Prof Peter Coaldrake 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, Wagner Corporation

PLATINUM DONORS \$10,000–\$14,999

Mr Douglas Murphy KC[§] & Mrs Geri Murphy

GOLD DONORS \$5,000–\$9,999

The Hon Justice Thomas Bradley[§] & Dr Matthew Yoong, Miss Adele Dickman, Dr John Gough & Ms Ann Page, Mr Lee Nevison[§] & Mrs Mary Louise North, Dr Ken Piaggio, Dr Jonathan Ramsay, Geoff Ross Endowment – Australian Philanthropic Service Foundation, Dr Mark Walker, Anonymous 2

SILVER DONORS \$1,000–\$4,999

Ms Linda Apelt, Dr Richard Baer, Mr Damian Bartholomew, Dr John Bashford & Ms Deborah Sinnott, Dame Quentin Bryce CVO AD, Ms Anne Cross AM, Mr Robert Cumming[§], Mr Gordon Cumming-Harris, Mr Will Fellowes & Dr Michael McLaughlin, Mr Russell Fortescue, Mr Liam Gaskin, Dr Ruth Gough & Prof Ian Gough AM, Dr Pamela Greet, Ms Valmay Hill & Mr Russell Mitchell, Dr Annette Kortlucke[†] & Dr Peter Kortlucke[†], Mrs Andrea Kriewaldt & Mr Martin Kriewaldt, Prof Andrew Lister & Ms Kate Lister, Mrs Gay Lohse, Ms Katie McNamara, Mr Richard Mills AO, Mr Patrick Nolan, Ms Lyn Parsons, Mr William Rivers, Mr Philip & Mrs Jackie Rouse, Dr Beverley Rowbotham AO[†], Mr Robert Sanderson, Mr Allen Smith & Mrs Mitzi Smith, Mr Adam Tucker, Dr Phillip & Ms Marisa Vecchio AM, Anonymous 3

BRONZE DONORS \$500–\$999

Mr Roger Bagley, Mr Geoffrey Beames, Ms Zoe Connolly, Mrs Judith Cush, Mr Terence Daubney, Emeritus Prof Robert Gilbert, Ms Jody Gosling, Mr Ross Lamont & Ms Sophie Lamont, Mr Dan Law, Dr Ranjeny Loneragan, The Hon Justice Margaret McMurdo AC[§], Ms Marion Pender, Mr Henry Smerdon AM, Ms Robyn Wenck, Anonymous 1

PIANO KEY CAMPAIGN

Dr Philip Aitken, Ms Linda Apelt, Dr John Bashford & Ms Deborah Sinnott, Mr Sebastian Burgman, Emeritus Prof Peter Coaldrake AO, Ms Anne Cross AM, Mr Robert Cumming, Ms Patricia Dempsey, Mr David Gow & Dr Kirsten Gow, Dr Damien Foong, Prof Ian Frazer AC & Mrs Caroline Frazer, Dr Colin Furnival & Dr Isobel Furnival, Prof Frank Gannon & Mrs Mary Gannon, Dr Peter Kortlucke, Mr Hien Le, Ms Judy Mather, Ms Katie McNamara, Mr Douglas Murphy KC & Mrs Gerry Murphy, Mr Patrick Nolan, Mr Iain Saul, Emeritus Prof David Siddle & Emeritus Prof Christa Critchley, Dr Susan Urquhart, Ms Janine Walker AM, Dr Mark Walker, Ms Natasha Woodward, Brisbane Racing Club, Cisco Systems Australia, Data#3, Diamond Experiences, Hanworth House, Wagner Corporation

[†] The Medical Chapter [§] The Legal Chapter

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THANK YOU

With their visionary support, Opera Queensland's philanthropic community allows the company to reveal the beauty and share the transformative power of opera.

This year our Annual Appeal celebrated the extraordinary range of Opera Queensland's work. From mainstage performances in Brisbane, regional and community activities right across the state to innovative new productions telling diverse Queensland stories, our annual program was a significant contributor to the cultural landscape of Queensland. A special thank you to the Mather Foundation and the Wagner Family Group (incorporating Wagner Corporation and Wagners) generously matching donations to significantly amplify the opportunities available to all our artists.

The exceptional generosity of the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation is the foundation of our regional programming. Our touring production, *Do We Need Another Hero?*, 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.

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.

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FINANCIAL REPORT

A four-year summary of results is presented below. The full version of the 2024 Financial Statements can be found on the Opera Queensland website.

The 2024 result reflects increased investment in productions and touring, including employment of artists and arts workers as well as increased income from production hiring and wardrobe services for other companies.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE	2024	2023	2022	2021
	\$	\$	\$	\$
OPERATING REVENUE				
Event Income	1,897,166	1,641,686	1,612,336	1,415,857
Sponsorships & Donations	2,115,666	2,246,728	1,876,535	1,236,631
Grant Income	4,525,494	4,105,296	4,347,595	4,815,247
Other Income	1,278,407	649,401	531,187	465,847
Total Operating Income	9,816,733	8,643,111	8,367,654	7,933,582
OPERATING EXPENSES				
Production & Touring Costs	6,960,310	5,819,227	5,767,161	4,770,818
Marketing & Business Development	1,435,822	1,362,270	1,488,690	1,385,589
Infrastructure and Administration	1,569,698	1,407,176	1,227,358	1,324,069
Total Operating Expenses	9,965,830	8,588,673	8,483,210	7,480,476
Net Result from Operating Activities ¹				
	(149,097)	54,438	(115,556)	453,106
Bequests & Endowments	-	-	317	550
Fair value adjustment	337,088	114,876	(166,348)	449,262
Reserves Matched Funding	-	-	-	100,000
Total Income from Restricted Items ²	337,088	114,876	(166,031)	549,812
COMPREHENSIVE RESULT				
	187,991	169,314	(281,587)	1,002,918

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 and managed funds) attributed to the donation and endowment reserve and other investments
- Reserves matched funding from Creative Australia

BALANCE SHEET	2024	2023	2022	2021
	\$	\$	\$	\$
ASSETS				
Cash and cash equivalents	1,780,299	3,317,627	3,696,657	3,396,366
Trade receivables and other assets	430,013	829,533	187,526	258,497
Total Current Assets	2,210,312	4,147,160	3,884,183	3,654,862
Property, plant and equipment	887,564	941,014	828,637	914,079
Other investments	4,518,608	2,121,102	2,006,226	3,087,477
Total Non-Current Assets	5,406,172	3,062,116	2,834,863	4,001,556
Total Assets	7,616,484	7,209,276	6,719,046	7,656,418
LIABILITIES				
Trade and other payables	319,352	286,899	143,956	431,534
Employee benefits	181,723	185,931	153,012	155,609
Lease liabilities	48,976	45,036	64,714	62,785
Other	605,443	380,284	228,339	509,867
Total Current Liabilities	1,155,494	898,150	590,021	1,159,796
Employee benefits	57,182	46,334	36,152	57,448
Lease liabilities	56,830	105,806	103,200	167,914
Total Non-Current Liabilities	114,012	152,140	139,352	225,362
Total Liabilities	1,269,506	1,050,289	729,373	1,385,158
NET ASSETS				
	6,346,978	6,158,987	5,989,673	6,271,260
ACCUMULATED FUNDS				
Subordinated loan	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Restricted donation and endowment reserve	3,401,331	3,132,456	3,017,580	3,183,611
Restricted reserve	-	-	-	1,000,000
Accumulated surplus	2,745,647	2,826,531	2,772,093	1,887,649
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS	6,346,978	6,158,987	5,989,673	6,271,260

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 2024 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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GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



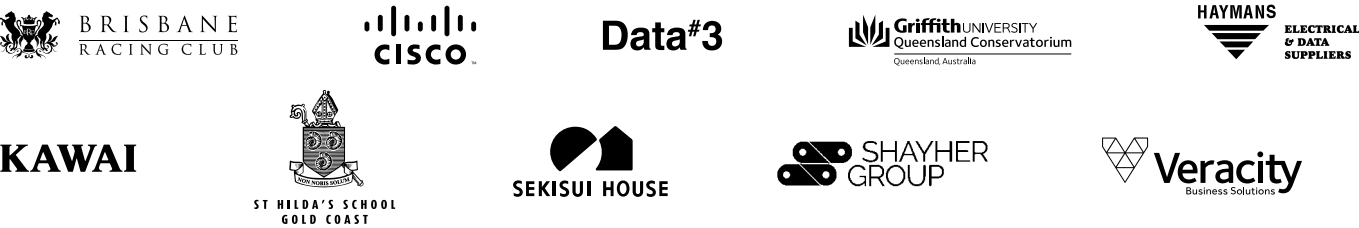
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