

MEDIA RELEASE | Monday 13 July 2015

AOBO Concertmaster to make debut at Opera Australia's *Don Carlos*



Considered a prodigy, violinist Professor Jun Yi Ma has performed for three US presidents, three Australian Prime Ministers and has a long and illustrious career as a solo violinist and Concertmaster.

This Tuesday, 14 July at the Opening Night of Opera Australia's *Don Carlos*, Jun Yi Ma will perform for the first time in his newly appointed role with the Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra.

Opera Australia is excited to have the highly accomplished and talented Concertmaster working with Conductor Andrea Licata for the *Don Carlos* season, and for many productions in the future.

"It is with great joy that I welcome Jun Yi Ma as Concertmaster and Artistic Advisor of the Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra. His demonstrated passion for the operatic art form and for this orchestra is inspiring for everyone who has the privilege of working with him. Jun's appointment is a shining example of the extremely high standard of musicianship now being demonstrated by the AOBO," said Lyndon Terracini, Artistic Director of Opera Australia.

Born in China in 1972, Jun began violin studies at the age of six, under the tuition of Professor Ding at the Shanghai Conservatorium. By 12 he was performing for Ronald Reagan at the White House, representing China as a 'Little Ambassador'.

Also present at this performance was Jascha Heifetz, who then took Jun on as a student. In 1990, Jun made the move to Australia, studying with Professor Jan Sedivka and joining the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra as a year 11 student. In 1993, Jun took up studies with Charmian Gadd at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, and joined the AOBO on a three year contract. In 1996 he became a member of the First Violin section of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. He was appointed Concertmaster of the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra in 2002, and for a 3 year period held the same position with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra. Jun has been a regular Guest Concertmaster with the Melbourne Symphony, Adelaide Symphony, Orchestra Victoria and the San Antonio Symphony.

“Jun Yi Ma is an outstanding Concertmaster and brilliant player. Classical ballet contains some of the most difficult soli of the orchestral repertoire and is an extremely difficult genre to lead. The Australian Ballet could not be more delighted at the appointment of an artist of his calibre and looks forward to collaborating with him in the years to come,” said Nicolette Fraillon, Music Director and Chief Conductor of The Australian Ballet.

Academically, Jun has tutored and mentored hundreds of students since becoming a Professor of Violin at the University of Tasmania in 2006. Along with this, Jun has made numerous CD recordings featuring the music of Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Sarasate, Bruch, Saint-Saëns and Britten. He often records solo and chamber music for broadcast on ABC Classic FM.

“We are all delighted to welcome Jun to the Opera Australia family as our new Concertmaster for the Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra. Jun's reputation within Australia and internationally precedes him and it is especially pleasing to welcome Jun back to the orchestra he first joined when he began his studies at the Sydney Conservatorium. This appointment is a great vote of confidence in the musical standards of Opera Australia,” said Craig Hassall, Chief Executive of Opera Australia.

Performance information

Don Carlos Opening Night

Tuesday 14 July, 2015. Performance commences at 7pm.

Performed in Italian.

Media enquiries

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