

MEDIA RELEASE – FRIDAY 19 DECEMBER 2014

Opera Australia to tour a new *Figaro* across regional Australia in 2016

Opera Australia announces plans for 2016 Regional Tour



Photos from Opera Australia's 2014 Regional Tour by Aidan Corrigan

Opera Australia is pleased to announce that a new production of Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* will embark on a tour of regional Australia, starting in **Dandenong, Victoria** on **15 July 2016**. This will follow on from the two-year tour of *The Magic Flute* which began in 2014 and continues into 2015. As with *The Magic Flute*, this next touring opera will retain the music and storyline of Mozart's original; however, it will be performed in English with a Chamber Orchestra. The Opera Australia Regional Touring production of *The Marriage of Figaro* is designed to entertain people of all ages, during its tour across 21 regional centres in Victoria, New South Wales, ACT and Tasmania in 2016.

The Marriage of Figaro is one of Mozart's comedic masterpieces and retells a hilarious account of one household's adventures over a single day of madness. With dress-ups and dressings down, this is the *Downton Abbey* of opera.... but a lot more fun!

With over 500 performances in over 100 different locations having already been performed across Australia over the past twenty years, Opera Australia plans to continue to tour Regional Australia with large scale, high-quality productions for decades to come.

"At Opera Australia we're committed to performing to as many people and in as many places as possible and the Regional Tour enables communities and opera lovers in regional areas the opportunity to experience this wonderful art form," said Opera Australia's Artistic Director Lyndon Terracini AM.

"Over the past few years we've had an overwhelmingly positive response to our touring productions from the audience and our presenting partners. The performances and the delivery of these productions is at the same level you would receive at the Sydney Opera House.

“*The Marriage of Figaro* is a great opera to tour and with the Australian creative team we have in mind to take on this opera, this will be a show regional audiences won’t want to miss!” he said.

Building upon the successes of the 2014 tour of *The Magic Flute*, which carries on into 2015, Opera Australia will continue its community engagement program, providing over 500 children the opportunity to be trained and perform with Opera Australia through the Regional Children’s Chorus program.

The Regional Children’s Chorus program was piloted and well received in 2014 and it provided local children the opportunity to learn songs from the opera and then perform on stage with Opera Australia Artists. In 2014 475 children participated in this program, as part of 31 performances across 24 locations, aided by 28 local Choir Masters.

“The inclusion of the Children’s Chorus added interest and excitement to the performance and many parents that we do not normally see at performances of this type were in the audience. We believe that this provided a great opportunity for “non-opera going” people to participate in opera,” said Penny Hargrave, Manager – Arts Culture & Events, Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre.

Secondary students will also have the opportunity to further their operatic talents with the Regional Student Scholarship program (which began in 2014) continuing for another tour. Winners receive professional training from artistic, music, language and drama coaches at Opera Australia, as well as spending time backstage at the Sydney Opera House. In this inaugural year, over 100 students auditioned for this program, with four winners taking up their scholarships next month.

Opera Australia continues to present a range of ways for students and families to connect with opera, both as audiences and as performers-in-waiting.

The Regional Tour for *The Marriage of Figaro* will run from 15 July to 6 September 2016. Details of venues and dates to be announced.

Media enquiries

Imogen Corlette
National PR & Communications Manager
(02) 9318 8327
imogen.corlette@opera.org.au

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



PRINCIPAL PARTNER

