

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**JULY 2019**

# **Superstar Jonas Kaufmann returns to the Sydney Opera House for *Andrea Chénier*: In Concert**



The world's most famous tenor, Jonas Kaufmann, makes a welcome return to Australia next month for a concert performance of Umberto Giordano's tragic love story *Andrea Chénier* at the Sydney Opera House.

For two performances only, superstar Jonas Kauffmann will be joined on stage by an exceptional cast including internationally celebrated singers Eva-Maria Westbroek and Ludovic Tézier, both making their Opera Australia debuts.

Opera Australia director Lyndon Terracini is delighted to welcome back the industry heavyweight who was last here for *Parsifal* in 2017.

"*Andrea Chénier* is a fantastic opera but it's difficult to stage. It requires a great singer and a great artist to sing Chenier. Kaufmann does it wonderfully well, certainly better than anyone alive. Together with Westbroek and Tézier, this is the best cast in the world." Mr Terracini said.

Kaufmann is described as the 'king of tenors' exhibiting supremacy in Italian, French and German, and a repertoire wider than any other singer in the world.

Internationally acclaimed soprano Eva-Maria Westbroek takes the stage as Maddalena, a role she loves to perform. "I'm so excited, I just can't wait. Her story is amazing and so relevant now with our refugee crisis and the fear that we're all living with," she says. Over her 20 year career, the Dutch singer has firmly established herself as one of the world's most versatile and recognizable star sopranos, and is an ambassador for outreach charity Musicians without Borders.

World-leading baritone Ludovic Tézier has performed at many of the great opera venues across the globe and will perform at Sydney Opera House for the first time.

Released from the orchestra pit, the 55-piece Opera Australia Orchestra will take centre stage led by critically acclaimed conductor Pinchas Steinberg, one of the foremost conductors in the industry also making a welcome return to the Opera House stage.

Set in the social-political upheaval of the French Revolution, *Andrea Chénier* is a passionate tale about romance, liberty, and the high cost of both. Based on the real life story of poet and philosopher Andrea Chénier, it received 20 curtain calls and rave reviews when first performed in Milan in 1896. Despite this, *Andrea Chenier* has become a rarity in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, along with much of Giordano's operas, and is therefore a not-to-be-missed event for opera lovers.

## Creatives

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**Conductor** | Pinchas Steinberg

## Cast

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**Andrea Chénier** | Jonas Kaufmann

**Maddalena** | Eva-Maria Westbroek

**Carlo Gérard** | Ludovic Tézier

**Bersi** | Sian Sharp

**Madelon** | Anna Dowsley

**The Incredible** | Benjamin Rasheed

**Roucher** | Richard Anderson

**Mathieu** | Luke Gabbedy

**Contessa Di Coigny** | Dominica Matthews

**The Abbé** | Graeme Macfarlane

**Fléville** | Christopher Hillier

**Major-Domo/Dumas** | Jonathan Alley

**Fouquier-Tinville/Schmidt** | Alexander Hargreaves

## Performance Details

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Thursday August 8, 7pm

Sunday August 11, 1pm

Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House

Performed in Italian with English surtitles

Running time: approximately 2 hours 20 minutes, including one interval.

## Bookings

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Single adult tickets from \$119 (fees may apply)

Opera Australia Box Office 02 9318 8200

[Purchase tickets online](#)

## Media Enquiries

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