

MEDIA RELEASE**Wagner** | Conducted by **Pinchas Steinberg****Parsifal****9 – 14 August** | Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House**Starring** | Jonas Kaufmann | Michelle DeYoung and an all-star Opera Australia cast

The world's greatest tenor **Jonas Kaufmann** will make his Australian operatic debut this August when he takes to the Concert Hall stage to perform the title role in **Wagner's Parsifal**, known as one of opera's most challenging roles.

Described by The Guardian as 'the man with the golden voice and golden smile', this rare semi-staged opera performance by Kaufmann will be an extraordinary event.

"This is the big attraction of the year. I love the piece, it's one of my favourite operas. It's more like a religious experience than going to the opera. To have **Jonas Kaufmann** in his best role singing in the Concert Hall really will be something special," said Opera Australia Artistic Director Lyndon Terracini.

"*Parsifal* is a remarkable work - it's the music, it's philosophically what the piece is saying - fundamentally the music takes you to another place. It's unbelievably beautiful music. You sit there and genuinely feel that you are transported and it's an amazing thing. Everyone should see and hear *Parsifal* at least once in their life. Everyone."

The power and majesty of Wagner's music needs massive orchestral forces, and released from the orchestra pit to fill the stage, the Opera Australia Orchestra under conductor **Pinchas Steinberg** will be something to behold.

In a story drawn from the Arthurian legends of holy relics, enchanted maidens and faithful knights, the fate of the knights rests on the shoulders of a pure fool, *Parsifal*. **Kaufmann** describes the opera as a "transcendent journey led by the music".

"From the first, unsettling notes of the prelude, the music makes you believe in *something*," he says, and it doesn't really matter what. "It's written perfectly."

"Wagner takes your hand and leads you into this mysterious world, and you stay there for hours but you don't realise the time has gone by."

"Lean back, give in to the music, and something extraordinary can happen," says **Kaufmann**.

An incredible all-star cast will bring this semi-staged production to life on the Concert Hall stage including international superstars **Michelle DeYoung** and **Kwangchul Youn**, along with Australia's finest singers, **Michael Honeyman**, **Warwick Fyfe**, **David Parkin**, **Stacey Alleaume**, **Jane Ede**, **Anna Dowsley**, **Eva Kong**, **Julie Lea Goodwin**, **Anna Yun**, **Dominica Matthews**, **Simon Kim**, **Dean Bassett**, **Alexander Hargreaves** and the indefatigable **Graeme Macfarlane** all performing alongside the **Opera Australia Orchestra** and **Opera Australia Chorus**.

Creatives

Conductor **Pinchas Steinberg**

Cast

Parsifal **Jonas Kaufmann**

Kundry **Michelle DeYoung**

Amfortas **Michael Honeyman**

Klingsor **Warwick Fyfe**

Gurnemanz **Kwangchul Youn**

Titirel **David Parkin**

Flower Maidens

Stacey Alleaume

Jane Ede

Anna Dowsley

Eva Kong

Julie Lea Goodwin

Dominica Matthews

Alto Solo **Anna Yun**

First Esquire **Eva Kong**

Second Esquire **Anna Dowsley**

Third Esquire **Graeme Macfarlane**

Fourth Esquire **Simon Kim**

First Knight **Dean Bassett**

Second Knight **Alexander Hargreaves**

**With the Opera Australia Chorus and
Opera Australia Orchestra**

Performance information

Evenings at 6pm

Wednesday 9 August

Monday 9 August

Matinee at 2pm

Saturday 12 August

Running time

Five hours and thirty minutes
including two thirty-minute intervals.

Performed in German with English
surtitles.

Bookings

Adult tickets from \$145 (fees may
apply)

Group and concession prices
available for most performances.

Opera Australia Box Office
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