

**MEDIA RELEASE**

16 July 2019

**Bright star Stacey Alleaume leads an exceptional cast in Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour, *La Traviata* 2020**

With tickets on sale to the public today, Opera Australia has announced that **Stacey Alleaume** will lead a cast of exceptional performers who will inspire seasoned operagoers and new audiences alike on its famous over-water stage for *La Traviata*, the story that inspired *Moulin Rouge*.

The Australian-Mauritian soprano continues her impressive upward trajectory with this role debut as Parisian courtesan Violetta.

Speaking from Bregenz, Austria, where she is performing as Gilda in *Rigoletto*, Stacey says she is excited to play Violetta on the Sydney Harbour stage.

“It brings me great joy to be singing this most treasured role. Violetta’s story is one of great emotion, sacrifice and unconditional love but it is also heartbreakingly tragic. Performing in a harbour production is always special and I am so excited to step onto that stage for *La Traviata*,” she says.

Sicilian soprano **Jessica Nuccio**, who has performed internationally on the greatest stages, shares the principal role of Violetta. **Ramé Lahaj**, who sang the role of Alfredo in 2015 at the Sydney Opera House to resoundingly positive reviews, once again returns to wow Australian audiences. The Kosovan tenor, known for his burnished tone, cuts a dashing figure with his inimitable Alfredo. He shares the role with Australian tenor **Paul O’Neill** who makes his role debut.

Giorgio Germont will be played by Australian baritone **Michael Honeyman**, who this week won a Helpmann Award for Best Male Actor in an Opera for his performance in *Wozzeck*. Argentine-Australian baritone **José Carbó** returns to share his signature role which earned him nominations for the Helpmann Award and Green Room Award in 2017.

Crowd favourite **Dominica Matthews** will take the stage as Flora, alongside **Danita Weatherstone** as Annina and **Nicholas Jones** as Gastone. Baron Douphol will be played by **David Parkin**, **Graeme Macfarlane** is Marquis d’Obigny and **Christopher Hillier** plays Doctor Grenvil. Conductor Brian Castles-Onion returns to the over-water stage to lead the Opera Australia Orchestra.

Opera Australia’s Artistic Director Lyndon Terracini believes this iconic opera has something for everyone.

“This incredibly high-calibre cast shows just what Opera Australia is all about – we’ve got impressive new stars, long time favourites, and multiple award winners. This talented cast is definitely going to impress!” Mr Terracini said.

Minister for Tourism Stuart Ayres said Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour is always a must-see show.

“I have no doubt next year’s performance of *La Traviata* will continue to attract audiences from every corner of the globe who will be blown away by a brilliant production with a harbour backdrop which is second to none,” Mr Ayres said.

Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour is supported by the NSW Government via its tourism and major events agency Destination NSW and Dr Haruhisa Handa through the International Foundation for Arts and Culture.

## Creatives

**Based on an original production by Francesca Zambello**

**Conductor** | Brian Castles-Onion

**Director** | Constantine Costi

**Set Designer** | Brian Thomson

**Original Costume Designer** | Tess Schofield

**Lighting Designer** | John Rayment

## Cast

**Violetta Valéry** | Stacey Alleaume, Jessica Nuccio

**Alfredo Germont** | Rame Lahaj, Paul O'Neill

**Giorgio Germont** | Michael Honeyman, José Carbó

**Flora Bervoix** | Dominica Matthews

**Annina** | Danita Weatherstone

**Gastone** | Nicholas Jones

**Baron Douphol** | David Parkin

**Marquis d'Obigny** | Graeme Macfarlane

**Doctor Grenvil** | Christopher Hillier

## Performance Details

27 March – 26 April 2020

Excluding Good Friday on 10 April

Performed in Italian with English and Simplified Chinese subtitles

Runtime 2 hours 35 minutes including one interval

## Bookings

**Tickets on sale to the public 16 July 2019**

Single adult tickets from \$99 (fees may apply)

Group and concession prices available for most performances

Opera Australia Box Office | 02 9318 8200

## Media Enquiries

For interview and image requests please contact:

Publicist | Emma O'Brien

+61 2 9318 8242 | +61 423 453 307

[emma.o'brien@opera.org.au](mailto:emma.o'brien@opera.org.au)

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