

Exceptional cast announced for Ring Cycle Brisbane



Opera Australia today announced that internationally acclaimed German tenor **Stefan Vinke** will headline an exceptional collection of singers, actors, dancers and musicians when they take to the Lyric Theatre Stage at Queensland Performing Arts Centre in November 2020 for the Ring Cycle Brisbane.

Widely recognised as the world's finest performer of the Ring Cycle's demanding role of Siegfried, Vinke will lead an illustrious cast from Australia and around the world. International singers include Ukrainian bass **Vitalij Kowaljow** playing Wotan, English soprano **Allison Oakes** in the iconic role of Brünnhilde, German tenor **Andreas Conrad** as Mime and Latvian soprano **Maija Kovalevska** playing Guttrune.

Included in the 26-strong principal cast are local Brisbane singers, tenor **Rosario La Spina** and soprano **Eva Kong**, both making their role debuts as Siegmund and Woglinde respectively.

They will be joined by Australia's most renowned Wagner interpreters, many reprising their roles from OA's previous Ring Cycle in particular, Helpmann Award Winners **Warwick Fyfe** as Alberich and **Jacqueline Dark** as Fricka along with **Jane Ede**, **Luke Gabbedy**, **John Longmuir**, **Michael Honeyman**, **Sian Sharp** and **Dominica Matthews**.

Also returning to the Ring Cycle is one of Opera Australia's Young Artist Program singers, soprano **Anna-Louise Cole**, this time making her debut in the far more demanding role of Sieglinde, and signalling that she is a star on the rise.

Taking this extraordinary cast through their paces, along with the Queensland Symphony Ring Cycle Orchestra, will be French conductor **Philippe Auguin**, who has conducted 13 complete Ring Cycles and is renowned for his Wagner performances around the world.

Opera Australia's Artistic Director Lyndon Terracini is thrilled to have assembled such a fine cast for Queensland's first Ring Cycle.

"Creating a Ring Cycle is an extraordinary adventure, it's exhilarating, challenging, stimulating and incredibly rewarding for all those involved, whether in the audience or on the stage or behind the scenes, it's an amazing ride for everyone.

"And for Brisbane 2020 we've amassed an incredible team to bring this production to the stage. Not least our fantastic Director, Shi-Zheng Chen, along with a cast of the finest singers, specialists in their interpretations of Wagner's characters, and an amazing orchestra that we have created in partnership with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra and the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University.

"Together this group of artists and creative geniuses will produce the most innovative and exciting production of the Ring Cycle ever staged, anywhere in the world," said Terracini.

Tourism Industry Development Minister Kate Jones said she looked forward to welcoming the Ring Cycle cast to Queensland's magnificent capital city.

"We're thrilled to be hosting this ground-breaking event in Brisbane, which is renowned as a world-class event host," Ms Jones said.

“The world’s very best talent will perform this epic opera, entertaining fans from around the globe in November and December next year,” she said.

“Opera-lovers will also have the opportunity to explore the city and surrounding regions during their visit and see for themselves why Queensland has firmly established itself as Australia’s major events capital, offering unique and diverse tourism experiences to augment the event experience.”

Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner said he was thrilled Brisbane would be hosting the Ring Cycle’s world-class cast.

“The Ring Cycle will unite hundreds of talented artists and attract an audience from around the world to Brisbane. We look forward to welcoming them to our fantastic river city and showcasing all there is to see and do,” Cr Schrinner said.

“Major events like this inject more than \$150 million into Brisbane’s economy each year. They shine a spotlight on our wonderful city, draw interstate and international visitors, fill hotel rooms and boost hospitality, retail and service industries.”

The Ring Cycle - Brisbane, Queensland is supported by the Queensland Government via Tourism and Events Queensland and Brisbane City Council via Brisbane Marketing.

Opera Australia, in association with Queensland Performing Arts Centre, Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University, Opera Queensland, Travel Associates and Queensland Symphony Orchestra, presents the Ring Cycle Brisbane, Queensland.

Creatives

Conductor **Philippe Auguin**
 Director & Production Designer **Shi-Zheng Chen**
 Assistant Production Designer **Fufan Zhang**
 Digital Content Designer **Leigh Sachwitz**

Costume Designer **Anita Yavich**
 Lighting Designer **John Rayment**
 Assistant Directors **Constantine Costi, Tama Matheson**

Cast

Wotan **Vitalij Kowaljow**
 Brünnhilde **Allison Oakes**
 Siegfried **Stefan Vinke**
 Alberich **Warwick Fyfe**
 Mime **Andreas Conrad**
 Siegmund **Rosario La Spina**
 Sieglinde **Anna-Louise Cole**
 Fasolt/Hagen **Daniel Sumegi**
 Gunther **Luke Gabbedy**
 Gutrune **Maija Kovalevska**
 Loge **John Longmuir**
 Fricka **Jacqueline Dark**
 Fafner/Hunding **Donald Thomson**

Donner **Michael Honeyman**
 Froh **Dean Bassett**
 Freia/Helmwige **Mariana Hong**
 Erda **Liane Keegan**
 Woglinde **Eva Kong**
 Wellgunde/Gerhilde **Jane Ede**
 Flosshilde/Rossweisse **Dominica Matthews**
 Ortlinde/Third Norn **Olivia Cranwell**
 Waltraute **Deborah Humble**
 Schwertleite/Second Norn **Sian Sharp**
 Siegrune **Ileana Rinaldi**
 Grimgerde/First Norn **Angela Hogan**
 Woodbird **Stacey Alleaume**

Opera Australia Chorus
Opera Queensland Chorus
Queensland Symphony Ring Cycle Orchestra

STRATEGIC PARTNERS



UNIVERSITY PARTNER



PRESENTING PARTNERS



TRAVEL PARTNER



PATRON-IN-CHIEF
DR HARUHISA HANDA



OPERA AUSTRALIA PARTNERS



Dates 2020

Cycle 1

Das Rheingold

Tuesday 10 November 7pm

Die Walküre

Thursday 12 November 5pm

Siegfried

Saturday 14 November 1pm

Götterdämmerung

Monday 16 November 4pm

Cycle 2

Das Rheingold

Tuesday 19 November 7pm

Die Walküre

Saturday 21 November 1pm

Siegfried

Tuesday 24 November 5pm

Götterdämmerung

Thursday 26 November 4pm

Cycle 3

Das Rheingold

Saturday 28 November 7pm

Die Walküre

Tuesday 1 December 5pm

Siegfried

Thursday 3 December 5pm

Götterdämmerung

Saturday 5 December 1pm

Approximate running times

Das Rheingold

2 hours and 30 minutes, with no interval.

Die Walküre

5 hours 45 minutes, including two intervals of 75 and 50 minutes.

Siegfried

6 hours, including two intervals of 75 and 30 minutes.

Götterdämmerung

6 hours 40 minutes, including two intervals of 90 and 35 minutes.

Sung in German with English and Simplified Chinese surtitles.

Bookings

Adult tickets from \$380 for the 4-opera cycle (fees may apply)

Opera Australia Box Office

02 9318 8200

opera.org.au

QPAC Box Office

136 246

qpac.com.au

Lyric Theatre, Queensland Performing Arts Centre

Media enquiries

Janet Glover | Public Relations Manager

02 9318 8246 | 0412 601 816

Janet.Glover@opera.org.au

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