

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**Opera Australia's NSW Schools Tour brings music into the classroom for over 40,000 students to enjoy in 2020**

Opera Australia celebrates the launch of the 2020 NSW Schools Tour with children's favourite *The Barber of Seville* to travel across the state to over 120 primary schools, performing to more than 40,000 students between 2 March – 11 September.

The NSW Schools Tour can be booked by primary schools in regional and metropolitan areas and is the perfect way to introduce children to the art of opera in a fun, engaging and interactive way.

Studies show numerous benefits of music in classrooms including improving confidence and self-expression, promoting teamwork and fostering creativity<sup>1</sup>. With over 90% of parents advocating for music education, the Schools Tour is a great opportunity to bring new initiatives into the classroom.

"My favourite character was Rosina because I liked when she was sneaking out. My other favourite part was when they were singing. I liked it a lot and enjoyed it" – Shianne, 8 years old.

Created for all ages to enjoy and appreciate, *The Barber of Seville* features a cast of 4 opera singers and runs for 60 minutes. Its flexible set design allows for performances in gymnasiums, halls and classrooms. This production of *The Barber of Seville* first premiered in 2001, and will have completed over 1,500 performances by the end of its 2020 season.

Teachers will receive curriculum-focused resource material. Learning objectives include playing instruments and musical expression, with pre-performance and post-show activities designed to enhance the children's operatic experience.

The Opera Australia Schools Touring team have delivered performances to more than 800,000 NSW students since 2000. The company continues to be committed to bringing the magic of opera to young audiences across Australia.

An essential part of the Tour is Opera Australia's Auslan Shadow Interpreting program, which brings an accessible version of the performance to NSW schools with Deaf and hard of hearing audiences. Opera Australia is one of the first performing arts companies to develop this practice, which integrates the interpreters into the live performance, allowing everyone to enjoy the essence of live music and theatre in its entirety.

**Parents, teachers and local communities with an interest in booking the NSW schools tour for their schools can visit the website <https://opera.org.au/on-tour/in-schools/new-south-wales>**

**\*\* Limited Places remaining in 2020 \*\***

**Media Enquiries and Media Comps**

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<sup>1</sup> Music Australia: [Music Education](#)