

**MEDIA RELEASE**

17 June 2019

**Opera Australia celebrates 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Auslan Shadow-Interpreting with special performance at Melbourne Recital Centre**



Opera Australia and Melbourne Recital Centre present an Auslan Shadow-Interpreted performance of the hugely successful schools touring production of ***The Barber of Seville*** on Friday 12 July.

This all-ages public performance marks the 10 year anniversary of Opera Australia’s Auslan Shadow-Interpreting Program: a key component of its annual Schools Tour.

The initiative is specially designed to ensure Deaf, hard of hearing and hearing audiences have access to enjoy opera with their friends and families in an inclusive performance style. With additional support of Production Coordinator Maxine Buxton from Hand-in-Hand Collaborations, Auslan-interpreters join the performers on stage in costume shadowing their dynamic movements and expressions to deliver the best live music and theatre experience possible.

Opera Australia’s CEO Rory Jeffes highlights the company’s responsibility of providing diverse audiences across the nation with ongoing and accessible opportunities to experience fully-staged professional operas.

“We are delighted to celebrate 10 years of Auslan Shadow-Interpreted performances and we look forward to upholding our long-term commitment of making opera enjoyable and inclusive for everyone,” says Jeffes.

Co-presenter, Melbourne Recital Centre, also celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and is excited to showcase this community friendly Auslan Shadow-Interpreted performance in support of Opera Australia’s Schools Touring Program.

Rossini’s ***The Barber of Seville*** is one of the most popular operas ever written and tells the cunning tale of the emotional rollercoaster that comes with falling in love at first sight. This production premiered in 2001, and will have completed 1,500 performances by the close of its 2020 season.

Opera Australia recognises the significant impact that music has on childhood learning and development shown by numerous studies and has continued to run the Victorian Schools Tour annually for more than four decades. In this time, Opera Australia has delivered live performances to more than 2.4 million students nationally.

Tickets are now on sale. Visit [melbournerecital.com.au](http://melbournerecital.com.au) or phone 03 9699 3333.

**Elisabeth Murdoch Hall, Melbourne Recital Centre**

**11:30am Friday 12 July 2019 | Tickets from \$26 + transaction fee between \$5.50-\$8.00**

**Running time: approximately one hour (no interval)**

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