

MEDIA RELEASE**Massenet | Revival Direction by Hugh Halliday | Conducted by Guillaume Tourniaire**
No case for mistaken identity – legendary Don Quichotte, Ferruccio Furlanetto, brings his signature role to Australia for the first time

16– 28 March | Joan Sutherland Theatre | Sydney Opera House
Starring | Ferruccio Furlanetto | Elena Maximova



While Jules Massenet’s would-be knight-errant Don Quichotte has a tendency to mistake a cluster of windmills as hostile foes, there is no mistaking Ferruccio Furlanetto as the pre-eminent artist to portray the troubled comic hero.

Staging *Don Quichotte* for the first time, Opera Australia has gathered a stellar international and home-grown cast to bring this quirky interpretation of the famous *comédie-héroïque* to Australian audiences.

“Ferruccio Furlanetto is the most wonderful Don Quichotte you could ever hope to see or hear,” said Lyndon Terracini, Artistic Director of Opera Australia. “He was born to play this role and we are thrilled that he is performing it in Sydney and in Melbourne. He is arguably the greatest operatic bass in the world and these will be performances not to be missed.”

Massenet’s composition distils the essence of the original sprawling 1000+ page classic story of Don Quixote into a strikingly beautiful score that tells the troubled tale of a man out of time and out of touch. But it takes a special performer to make you fall in love with the eccentric Don Quichotte, and Ferruccio Furlanetto, arguably the world’s finest bass, is just that.

Lending his award-winning voice once again to the title role, which has become his signature piece, Furlanetto’s Don is full of fancy and bursting with bravery, capturing all the colours of Massenet’s lush score under Tourniaire’s masterful direction. He takes the whimsies of the famous knight-errant and paints an earnest and endearing portrait of a hero like the knights of old, pursuing the dreams the world forgot.

Joining Furlanetto in this production is the exciting young Russian mezzo-soprano Elena Maximova playing the flirtatious Dulcinée, as well as an all-star cast of Australian performers including mezzo soprano Sian Pendry, soprano Jane Ede, baritone Warwick Fyfe and tenors Graeme Macfarlane and John Longmuir.

Don Quichotte is a colourful and charming opera that touches the heart and tickles the senses. This is a wonderful opportunity to see this quirky opera performed by the world’s best.

Creatives

Conductor **Guillaume Tourniaire**
 Revival Director **Hugh Halliday**
 Set Designer **Ralph Funicello**
 Costume Designer **Missy West**
 Assistant Director **John Sheedy**
 Choreographer **Tomás Dietz**

Cast

Don Quichotte **Ferruccio Furlanetto**
 La Belle Dulcinée **Elena Maximova**
 Sancho Panza **Warwick Fyfe**
 Rodriguez **Graeme Macfarlane**
 Juan **John Longmuir**
 Pedro **Jane Ede**
 Garcias **Anna Dowsley**

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

Performance information

Evenings at 7.30pm

March 16, 19, 21, 26, 28

Saturday Matinee at 1:00pm

March 24

Running time

Approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes
 including one interval

Sung in French with English surtitles.

Bookings

Tickets from \$46 (fees may apply)

Group and concession prices available
 for most performances.

Student Rush available for most
 performances: \$50 (fees may apply)

Opera Australia Box Office
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www.opera.org.au

A San Diego Opera Production

**Joan Sutherland Theatre, Sydney
 Opera House**

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