

MEDIA RELEASE

4 September 2019

Young artists shine in Mozart's hilarious yet seductive masterpiece – The Marriage of Figaro

Opera Australia's Young Artist Program has proved enormously successful in discovering and developing Australian singers, with seven of the program's talented alumni to perform in Sir David McVicar's celebrated production *The Marriage of Figaro*.

Sparkling soprano **Stacey Alleaume** continues her meteoric rise after entering the program in 2016, taking the stage in her role debut as clever servant Susanna. She shares the role with **Julie Lea Goodwin**, who has recently enjoyed critical acclaim as Wendy in *Whiteley*.

Bass **Richard Anderson**, a mainstay on the opera stage, joined the program in 2003 and plays the role of Dr. Bartolo, with 2010 recipient **Jane Ede** reprising the role of the Countess. Traditional pants role Cherubino is performed by crowd favourite **Anna Dowsley** while Baritone **Andrew Moran**, fresh from OA's National Tour, plays Antonio. **Dominica Matthews** once again takes the stage as Marcellina.

Artistic Director Lyndon Terracini says it is a great privilege to foster young singers in Australia and see them perform professionally on the Sydney Opera House stage.

"Our Young Artist Program has developed many wonderful opera singers who have gone on to perform internationally on the world's most famous stages. It's so rewarding to see six of our alumni together in this production, each with a successful and bright career," Mr Terracini said.

Performing alongside our local talent is master of comedy **Paolo Bordogna** in his signature role as Figaro. **Andrei Bondarenko** reprises his commanding performance as the wayward Count Almaviva with Russian soprano **Ekaterina Sadovnikova** making her Opera Australia debut as the Countess.

This ultimate ensemble opera - with trios, quartets, and a sextet – is performed under the brilliance of maestro Guillaume Tourniaire.

In this second instalment of his three Mozart trilogies for Opera Australia, internationally renowned director **Sir David McVicar** stages this sharp cat-and-mouse comedy set in the mid-1600s, a little more than a century before Mozart wrote the opera.

The luxurious costumes and set designs are faithful period reproductions thanks to the attentive eye of Tony Award-winning designer **Jenny Tiramani**, who presents the silks and marbles of the era with incredible authenticity. **David Finn's** lighting cleverly transitions the stage from day to night with sunlight and moonbeams designed to illuminate from the overarching windows.

Between the witty, fast-moving libretto and the melodic, charming music, it's easy to understand why *The Marriage of Figaro* is as entertaining today as it was when it debuted in Vienna in 1786. This comic romp is a classic domestic spectacle that pits Master against Servant in an archetypal tale as old as time. Based on a play that was initially banned for its anti-aristocratic undertones, the opera makes a hero of the underclass, highlights the class divisions of the time and foreshadows the French Revolution that was brewing on the near horizon.

Creatives

Conductor | Guillaume Tourniaire
Director | Sir David McVicar
Revival Director | Andy Morton
Set & Costume Designer | Jenny Tiramani
Lighting Designer | David Finn

Cast

Count Almaviva | Andrei Bondarenko, Shane Lawrence
Countess | Ekaterina Sadovnikova, Jane Ede
Susanna | Stacey Alleaume, Julie Lea Goodwin
Figaro | Paolo Bordogna, Andrew Jones
Cherubino | Anna Dowsley
Marcellina | Dominica Matthews
Dr. Bartolo | Richard Anderson
Don Basilio | Benjamin Rasheed
Don Curzio | Graeme Macfarlane
Barbarina | Kate Amos
Antonio | Andrew Moran
First Bridesmaid | Phoebe-Celeste Humphreys
Second Bridesmaid | Anna Yun

Performance Details

October 18 – November 2, 2019
 Joan Sutherland Theatre, Sydney Opera House
 Performed in Italian with English Surtitles
 Running time: approximately 3 hours & 35 minutes, including one interval.

Bookings

Single adult tickets from \$47 (fees may apply)
 Group and concession prices available for most performances.
 Opera Australia Box Office
 02 9318 8200
opera.org.au

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