

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**Opera for everyone, sign up now for \$20 tickets in 2020**

Opera Australia (OA) announced today that the Susan and Isaac Wakil Foundation Access Program that offers first time opera-goers tickets for just \$20 each, has been extended for the Sydney and Melbourne 2020 season.

OA is committed to making opera accessible to as many people as possible and thanks to the generosity of the Susan and Isaac Wakil Foundation, more than 8,700 people have experienced a production for the very affordable price of \$20.

The program launched in 2015 when philanthropists Isaac and his late wife Susan Wakil generously donated \$1.5 million to OA to support a program to encourage first time opera-goers. Their donation has allowed OA to offer heavily subsidised tickets via a ballot system, making opera more accessible and affordable.

Since the program started, OA has issued more than double the number of tickets initially hoped for by the Wakil's, filling the Joan Sutherland Theatre nearly six times over.

Opera Australia CEO Rory Jeffes is thrilled that so many people have been able to experience opera for the first time through this program.

"We're delighted by the success of the program and are enormously thankful to Isaac and his late wife Susan for their generosity and love of the arts, in helping us to share the joy of opera with new audiences," he said.

Tickets are offered in the form of a ballot system to people who have pre-registered on the OA website.

A number of \$20 tickets are available for productions throughout the year, including Sir David McVicar's highly acclaimed production of *Don Giovanni*, currently playing at the Sydney Opera House until February 27.

**Details:**

For more information on how to enter The Susan and Isaac Wakil Foundation Access Program ballot for tickets, follow the link here: <https://opera.org.au/buytickets/twenty-dollar-tickets>

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