

OPERA FOR ALL NEWS



The WA Opera Lovers Society Official Newsletter



Special points of interest:

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- * Pre opera Talks
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OPERA GALA with Emma Matthews

One of the exciting musical events of the year will occur **on Sunday October 13th** at Beasley Auditorium, Perth Modern School. Accompanied by **Lydia Lai** and with our Resident Guest Artists, **Beth Redwood, Emily Davis, Sophie Hamer, Noah Humich and James Pinneri**, **Emma Matthews**, our patron, will star as our guest in an Opera Gala.

Our resident artists will present your favourite arias, duets and ensembles, plus some other operatic gems.

This is one of our major events of the year so please join us with friends and indulge in this wonderful opera afternoon. Bookings at

www.trybooking.com/CURHW

Bookings are also now open for the

OPERA GALA
Enjoy a glass of wine and your favourite operatic moments with our resident artists and very special guest and patron, Emma Matthews A.M.

Sunday 13 October 3:00pm
Beasley Auditorium,
Perth Modern School

www.trybooking.com/CURHW

EMMA MATTHEWS A.M.

With Resident Artists

SOPHIE HAMER **BETH REDWOOD** **EMILY DAVIS**
NOAH HUMICH **JAMES PINNERI** **LYDIA LAI**

Cost is \$130 per head Members
\$140 per head Non Members

There is seating up to 70, so book early to ensure your place.

Book now on

www.trybooking.com/CUZAL

WAOL Christmas Dinner

WA Opera Lovers Christmas Dinner, to be held at the UWA University Club, on **Friday 29th November** at 6.30pm This is always a fun event with entertainment by special guests, raffles and first class cuisine, by way of a 3 Course meal and drinks.



Pre Opera talks —keeping us informed

A select group of WA Opera Lovers' members and friends were treated to an insightful Rusalka pre-performance talk by Conductor and Artistic Director, Chris van Tuinen, delivered with his usual aplomb. This talk greatly enhanced our enjoyment of the opera.

Many thanks to Chris, WA Opera and the Arts and Culture Trust for allowing WA Opera Lovers to host this exclusive event in the Upper Lounge at His Majesty's Theatre. Many more such events are planned for the future.
Gail Spiers

Olivia Ferguson, Ian Westrip and Beth Redwood at Rusalka talk.



Opera of the Month, Orpheus and Eurydice (Gluck)

WA Opera's presentation 24 October - 2 November 2024 promotes the opera thus.

Thrilling acrobatics and striking video design combine to take us to hell and back in Circa's award-winning production. Set to some of the most stirring music ever written, this is opera like you've never seen before.



Orpheus and Eurydice in Palais Garnier, Paris. Their names are in Greek, ΟΡΦΕΥΣ (Orpheus) and ΕΥΡΥΔΙΚΗ (Eurydice).

Heartbroken Orpheus has been granted the chance to bring Eurydice, his dead wife, back to life from the underworld. However, there is one condition; he must not look back at her, not even for a moment, on their long

journey back or she will be condemned to the underworld forever. Can Orpheus resist the temptation to look into the eyes of his true love? ***"Of course he can't resist, this is opera! A spectacular production not to be missed."*** Ian Pre opera talk on Tuesday 29th at 6.30 (to be confirmed) up stairs in HMT. We will confirm by email.

WA Opera in the Quarry. Thursday Nov 14th
Another operatic evening at the quarry amphitheatre with WA Opera stars.

**"Don't miss our
WAOL pre opera
drinks talk, usually
on the Tuesday
opera performance
at 6.30 pm, by a
special guest
speaker"**

WAAPA Aria Competition

WAAPA continues to have successful singers in their bachelor Courses and under the guidance of Emma Matthews, continues to supply opera singers potentially to the profession.

Over the years apart from its well known music theatre graduates, it has had great success in the classical field with such graduates as Emma Matthews, Luke Gabbedy, Aldo Di Toro, Rachelle Durkin

(Metropolitan Opera Competition winner), Fiona Campbell, Elena Peroni, and more recently, young singers starting on what will be exciting careers, Samantha Clarke, Euan Macmillan, Jacob Correia, Ben Borrello, Jake Bigwood, Brett Peart, Ruth Burke, Laurence Westrip, Lachlan Lawton, Chelsea Burns, etc. And the list goes on.
The Aria Competition is supported financially by WAOL and is a free

event for attendees. To be held on **Sat 23rd November at WAAPA at 3.30 pm at Richard Gill Auditorium**

Thankyou to the donor of \$1000 at our **Opera for All** first concert.
You can also support us by tax deductible donation and be assured that all funds go towards assisting young singers on their journey to be professionals.
Ian Westrip OAM

OPERA Dates for Your Calender

Please note, dates and times may vary as we proceed due to availability of venues and artists. Please check regularly.

Thursday 12th September, Enchanted Encounters, Liberty Theatre 10.30 am, 6.30 pm

Sunday 13th October, WAOL OPERA GALA Beasley Auditorium, Perth Modern School, 3pm

**WA OPERA
24 Oct – 2 Nov, Orpheus and Eurydice,
Pre opera Talk 6.30pm
Tuesday 29th October
His Majesty's Theatre**

**Saturday 23rd November
WAOL Aria Competition
WAAPA 3.30 pm**

**Thursday, 28th – Saturday, 30th Nov
DON GIOVANNI (sold out)**

**Opera
Lovers**

**Friday 29th NOVEMBER
WAOL Christmas Dinner
UWA Club**

**Tues 14 th January Opera
for All Dalkeith Church
Hall**

**TBA February Barber of
Seville Act 1 Workshop
performances**

"Enchanted Encounters" return season

Enchanted Encounters is back for its third run, this time, produced by West Australian Opera. This new concert features three of our Resident Artists - Noah Humich (director, tenor), James Pinneri (baritone) and Sophie Hamer (soprano) - as well as WAO young artist Brett Peart (baritone) and will have two performances on **12 September at 10:30am and 6:30pm**. See below for description.

Enchanted Encounters - Songs of the Supernatural
"Explore the eerie side of opera, art song and music

theatre in an entrancing experience with the supernatural. Following hit sold-out seasons, including *Fringe World*, don't miss this immersive production at the iconic Liberty Theatre!"

Tickets at:

[https://](https://www.waopera.asn.au/shows/events/enchanted-encounters/)

www.waopera.asn.au/shows/events/enchanted-encounters/

Thursday 12 September at 6:30pm

The Liberty Theatre,
81 Barrack Street Perth WA 6000

Group Bookings & School Group Bookings:

For every 9 paid tickets you will receive the 10th ticket free, to make a group booking please email education@waopera.asn.au



DON GIOVANNI—"Break a leg!"

The opera season of Don Giovanni has been postponed due to an accident at the final rehearsal. It seems the Don took the words "break a leg" too seriously. Our thoughts are with Brett for a quick recovery. Here is the message from Adele, Freeze Frame Administrator.

Freeze Frame Opera made the difficult decision

to postpone its production of Don Giovanni earlier this month. Brett Peart sustained an injury and was unable to perform. The new show dates are November 28th to 30th at The East Workshops, Fremantle Prison. The show is sold out, but there is a waitlist for those who want to attend. For information contact Adele gm@freezeframeopera.com



DON GIOVANNI Cast

Don't forget to book for Gala Concert, Sunday 13th October. An event not to be missed with Guest Artist Emma Matthews

DID YOU KNOW

Did you know

An excellent **Opera radio station** from New York permanently puts out opera works. You can access it in on line at www.wqxr.com/operavore

Did you know

Penny Shaw has a radio programme on a regular basis with interviews and music

Radio Fremantle 107.9fm

Did you know

Luna Theatre in Leederville regularly shows films direct from the Metropolitan Opera in New York at various times. Here is an update on direct film broadcasts.

The Tales of Hoffmann October 19th

Grounded November 1st

Tosca December 14th. Future operas include *Aida*, and *Fidelio*.

Did you know

Grounded is an opera by Tesori and Brant adapted from Brant's play about a pilot having to deal with drone warfare. It received mixed reviews when first presented as it did not clearly make an anti war statement as it set out to do.

You can see this opera on Nov 1st at Luna, direct from the Metropolitan Opera.

The WA Opera Lovers Society (Inc)

Membership Secretary, Robin Evans
rr_evans@hotmail.com
0416 251 265

Email: operaloverswa@outlook.com
Or
President Ian Westrip OAM
Email: concert@iinet.net.au

OPERA FOR ALL. New members welcome for 12 month membership from day of joining. From \$10 std, \$50 full Gifts tax deductible.

The Society exists to promote opera and assist young artists in their studies. It provides funds toward further study and to projects and groups who have a similar goal.

Towards this end it presents evenings, concerts, workshops and events to raise funds.

'Opera For All' is its motto and creed.

We welcome any assistance and support either in kind or financially that you are happy to give towards these goals and our volunteer committee. For any further information please contact the membership secretary or through our web site.

Thank you to Nigel Penfold who, after 20 yrs voluntary service, has decided to leave the committee. His work has been greatly appreciated. Ian

www.operaloverswa.com.au



WA Artist Profile Rachelle Durkin

Rachelle is a WA singer and had her beginnings with my West Coast Singers and WAAPA. Here is her current cv from her agent

Australian/American soprano Rachelle Durkin began her career in Australia winning three of that country's major vocal competitions: The Herald Sun Aria, The Marianne Mathy Scholarship and The Metropolitan Opera Award. She was a recipient of the prestigious Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and accepted into the Lindemann Young Artist Development Program. Rachelle subsequently became an established solo artist at the Met, singing

leading roles for many years – Norina in *Don Pasquale* Lisa in *La sonnambula* Clorinda in *La Cenerentola* (recorded live Sirius Radio and DVD release), Miss Schlesen in Phillip Glass' *Satyagraha* Frasquita in *Car-men*, Masha in *Pique Dame*, First Flower Maiden in *Parsifal* (also at Salzburg Festival under the baton of Maestro Levine), and *Young Girl* in *Moses und Aron*. Most recently, she sang Violetta in *La traviata* for Victory Hall Opera (the subject of the documentary *UNSUNG*), Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni* for Pittsburgh Opera and the title role in *Tosca* for Opera Queensland. 2021/2022 engage-

ments included Tytania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and The Governess (*The Turn of the Screw*) in Adelaide, Morgana (*Alcina*) in Canberra and Musetta (*La bohème*) in Perth; in 2023, she returns to Opera Australia as Mrs Schlesen, to Perth as Musetta. A highly adept interpreter in a wide range of repertoire spanning from the baroque to modern masterpieces, Rachelle's other noteworthy performances include: *Kumudha* in John Adams' *A Flowering Tree* for The Perth International Arts Festival; the title role in *Alcina* (c: Richard Hickox), Armida in *Rinaldo* (c: Trevor Pinnock) and Angelica in *Orlando* for Opera Australia.