

# OPERA FOR ALL NEWS

THE WA OPERA LOVERS SOCIETY OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY, 2026 VOL 1, ISSUE 10

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Welcome to new members and welcome back to our steadily growing membership group.

We are in the throes of preparing for an exciting year of performances, commencing with two Peppermint Grove events: a Soiree and a Secret Garden concert. Other ideas include an Italian Aria concert and some Lieder concerts.

We send Beth Redwood our very best wishes on her move to Pacific Opera in NSW and thank Shin Hyun-Jee for her term as our resident pianist. We welcome Aimee Rose Keppler to our family of young, resident artists along with our new pianist, Dr Nick Williams PhD.

Please urge your friends to attend our fine concert performances and become members so we can assist our young artists with funds and support. In addition to live opera performances, there are now many on television and film. The new *Amadeus* TV series is worth a look, remembering that it is a dramatic presentation and a bit wild with the facts! A more authentic operatic experience is the Metropolitan Opera series at Luna Cinemas. The next film is Bellini's opera, *I Puritani* on February 7 and 8.

I am Musical Director for *Pirates of Penzance* for the Gilbert and Sullivan Society production in June. Those who don't attend will be walking the plank! More information to come.

**Ian Westrip OAM**

**WA OPERA LOVERS**   
PRESENTS...  
**OPERA FOR ALL**  
**SOIRÉE**  
An Intimate Afternoon of Opera

**SUNDAY, 8<sup>TH</sup> OF MARCH | 3:00 PM**  
37 Leake Street, Peppermint Grove

Join us for a wonderful Autumn afternoon of operatic moments with our resident artists followed by an afternoon tea and bubbles

**Adults: \$55**  
**Members & Concession: \$45**  
**Students: \$25**

**TICKETS:** 

WA Opera Lovers presents  
**OPERA IN THE**  
**SECRET GARDEN**  
*In Peppermint Grove*

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2026, 4-6pm**

Join WA Opera Lovers for an Autumn afternoon of operatic arias and musical theatre songs performed by our resident singers, Emily Davis, Aimee-Rose Keppler, Ciaran McChord, Sam Claxton and Noah Humich accompanied by Nicholas Williams

Bring your own chairs for a relaxed afternoon on the lawn. Preorder cheese boards when booking and drinks will be on sale

**Adults: \$55**  
**Members & Concession: \$45**  
**Students: \$25**  
**Cheese Boards: \$20**

**Tickets:** 



## WA Opera Lovers 2026 Resident Artists

We would like to introduce our new and returning resident artists for our 2026 season. You will see them in our events throughout the year and we are delighted to have them!

See information about our 2026 artists on our website.



Emily Davis- Soprano



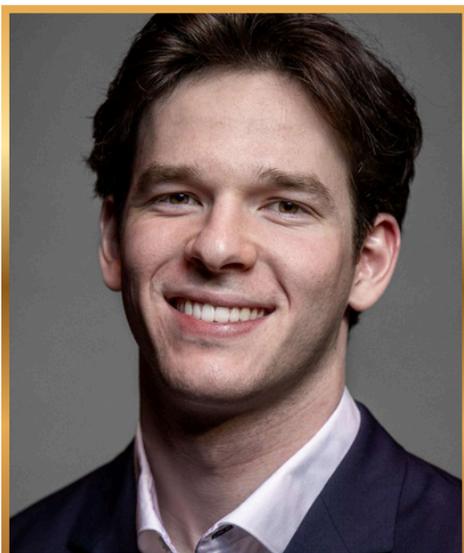
Aimee-Rose Keppler- Mezzo



Noah Humich- Tenor



Ciaran McChord- Tenor



Sam Claxton- Baritone



Nicholas Williams- Pianist

WAAPA Moves to ECU City.

The Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA), has relocated to a new, state-of-the-art campus in the heart of Perth's CBD, called ECU City. This campus is the centrepiece of the Perth City Deal, a collaboration between the Australian Government, Western Australian Government and ECU, to deliver a world-class university to the heart of Perth. The new campus houses WAAPA alongside other ECU schools like Business and Law, Kurongkurl Katitjin, ECU's Centre for Indigenous Australian Education and Research, and Creative Humanities programs from the School of Arts and Humanities, including visual arts, design, communications, broadcasting, and the WA Screen and Media Academy. It features eight public performance and rehearsal spaces, including a recital hall, playhouse theatre, and dance theatre, among others. The campus aims to provide world-class performance facilities for students and the community, fostering a vibrant hub of education, research, creativity, and technology innovation.



Wesfarmers Arts Opera 101

Whether you're already an opera lover or simply looking to learn something new, Wesfarmers Arts OPERA 101 is for you.

This adult learning series offers an insider's guide to opera's stories, music, and creative process.

Guided by industry experts, it deepens appreciation and connection to this beautiful art form. Join opera professionals, musicians, and academics in an informative, inclusive and entertaining exploration of opera.

Presented by West Australian Opera and The UWA Conservatorium of Music

**Session One: 2026 Themes**

10.30am – 12pm, Thursday 19 February  
Callaway Auditorium

**Session Two: Casting - On and Off Stage**

6.30pm – 8pm, Thursday 7 May  
Tunley Lecture Theatre

**Session Three: What does the East/Far East Offer the Artform?**

10.30am – 12pm, Thursday 2 July  
Callaway Auditorium

**Session Four: Opera in the New World**

6.30pm – 8pm, Thursday 10 September  
Callaway Auditorium



**IAN'S OPERA TRIVIA!**

- *I Puritani* is Bellini's 10th opera. Bellini and his student Madalena were in love (it happens!) but forbidden to be married by her parents. They swore allegiance to each other, swearing to join each other in life or death, after his 10th opera. The parents relinquished once Bellini was successful, however Bellini wavered in his commitment! Madelena died heartbroken. Bellini, remorseful, died after the first performance of his 10th opera, *I Puritani!*
- I noticed in a production of *La Traviata* in which I was involved Alfredo's father, Georgio Germont, actually never looked at Violetta during the Act 2 confrontation. The Director explained to me that it is suggested Georgio was in fact a customer of hers and could not look at her until his forgiveness in the last Act.
- According to Schober, Schubert's friend, Schubert introduced the group of songs known as *Die Winterreise* to his friends by singing through the cycle himself. He knew they were quite gloomy, as was he, and they weren't well received. Schubert thought that they would come to like them, as they did. This was Schubert's 'swan song' as he was a sick man.

A Winter's Journey



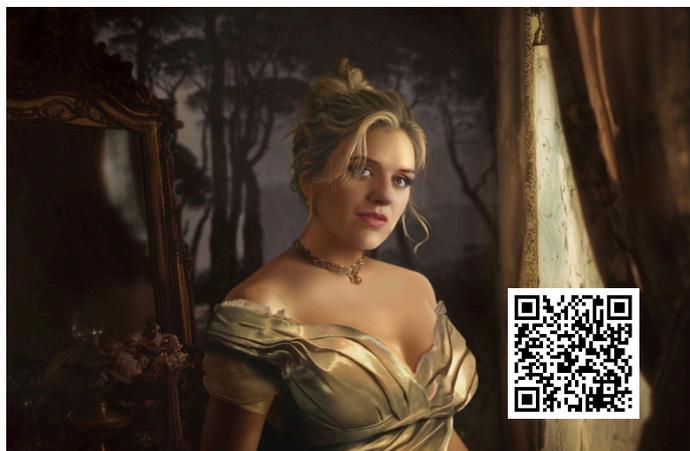
Friday, 13 February, 7:30pm - The Regal Theatre, Subiaco

*A Winter's Journey* is a reimagining of Franz Schubert's *Winterreise*, a collection of songs mapping a winding path from love to despair, anger and hope.

Lindy Hume directs acclaimed British tenor Allan Clayton and Australian pianist Kate Golla. Central to the drama are video projections created by David Bergman (*The Picture of Dorian Gray*, *Dracula*) who uses iconic artist Fred Williams' glowing visions of Australia to create a landscape of the emotions.

<https://premier.ticketek.com.au/shows/show.aspx?sh=AWJMVA26>

La Traviata



14th- 28th March, 7:30pm- His Majesty's Theatre

In one of the greatest love stories, Violetta, a glamorous courtesan, and Alfredo, an idealistic aristocrat, fall into a passion that defies society and ultimately destroys them. Alfredo's father, Giorgio Germont, demands Violetta leave Alfredo to protect his family's honour and she agrees to make the ultimate sacrifice. Her love, her freedom, and her life. From dazzling party scenes to moments of devastating stillness, Verdi's music propels every beat of this tragedy, rich with emotion and unforgettable melody.

Director Sarah Giles' bold, emotionally charged production returns to West Australian Opera with Jessica Blunt as Violetta.

<https://www.waopera.asn.au/book/whats-on/la-traviata>

The Trial



17 - 21 February, 7:30pm - Forrest Chase, Level 3, Wellington Street, Karboordup / Perth

Contemporary thriller meets operatic fever dream in this Australian premiere of Philip Glass' *The Trial*. Under a blaze of fluorescent lights and with the shuffle of endless paperwork, the action unfolds in a chilling maze of a forgotten office space in Forrest Chase.

Franz Kafka's nightmarish world of accusation and authority and Phillip Glass' hypnotic score coils around Josef K, arrested on his 30th birthday for an unnamed crime and swept through a carnival of clerks, courts and witnesses. Oscar-winning dramatist Christopher Hampton's razor-sharp libretto lets a stellar cast slip between roles, while the West Australian Symphony Orchestra drives the drama with propulsive clarity. Lachlan Higgins will perform as Josef K, leading an all-star cast including one of WA Opera Lovers' resident tenors, Noah Humich. Directed by Melissa Cantwell, this stark bureaucratic dystopia crackles with Kafka's black comedy, while conductor Mark Coughlan shapes the music's luminous repetitions into waves of suspense, tenderness and bitter irony.

Presented by Lost and Found Opera and Perth Festival in association with West Australian Opera and West Australian Symphony Orchestra.

<https://www.perthfestival.com.au/program/season-2026/the-trial>

**Visit us online:**

 Opera Lovers WA

**Our recently updated website:**

<https://www.operaloverswa.com.au/>



**If you have any news items for the next issue, contact Sophie Elston (editor) ([sophie.elstonyt@gmail.com](mailto:sophie.elstonyt@gmail.com)) (0429 552 477)**