

CASTING BRIEF – *HAPPY END*

Victorian Opera is calling for submissions from artists who wish to audition to be a member of the ensemble in its production of *Happy End*, a comedy with music in three acts. The work is composed by Kurt Weill, with libretto by Bertolt Brecht after the original book by Elisabeth Hauptmann.

Rehearsals commence in Melbourne on Monday 21 February, with performances at the Playhouse Theatre, Arts Centre Melbourne from Wednesday 23 March to Saturday 25 March 2022.

Artists are required to be Melbourne based for the duration of the production period.

BACKGROUND TO *HAPPY END*

Happy End is set in America at the beginning of the twentieth century and focuses on a gang of Chicago criminals and a group of preachers from the Salvation Army, both trying to find their way in the capitalist machine. It involves a love story, a bank heist, debauchery, and music in cabaret style where songs directly engage with the audience.

There are 12 principal roles plus an ensemble of 8 performers. This audition is for the ensemble members (SATB) who will be the preachers and people of Chicago. The ensemble is in all three acts of the musical and feature in 8 musical numbers, and play characters including members of the Salvation Army, members of the Salvation Army's fold, and residents of Chicago who are tricked by the gang of criminals.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

Victorian Opera seeks to work with the very best talent available. We value diversity, regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, physical ability, cultural background and ethnicity, and encourage all to apply.

HOW TO APPLY

Please send through a CV or an outline of previous experience in singing, acting, music theatre, cabaret, or opera, and a headshot to auditions@victorianopera.com.au with the subject line "Happy End - Audition EOI" stating your desire to audition.

The cut off for submissions is **12:00pm Friday 19 November 2020**.

Audition dates are Tuesday 30 November 2021 and Wednesday 1 December 2021. Please only submit an application if you are fully available for the entire production period and all or part of the audition dates. Notification of audition date and time will then be sent to you approx. 1 week prior to audition dates.

Victorian Opera will provide you with a music and dialogue extract from *Happy End* to be prepared for the audition. A piano backing track will be made available by Victorian Opera to assist in your preparation, and a pianist will be provided on the audition day. Please also prepare a song of your choice in the style of the show. Sheet music must be provided on the day in the correct key.

WHO ELSE IS INVOLVED IN *HAPPY END*

Music Director: Phoebe Briggs

Director: Matthew Lutton

Set and Costume Designer: Marg Horwell

Lighting Designer: Paul Jackson

Current Cast: Ali McGregor, Kurt Kansley, Ras-Samuel Welda'abzgi, Jennifer Vuletic, Richard Pyros, Lucy Maunder and Chiew-Jin Khut.

WHO WILL BE AT THE AUDITION?

The auditions will be led by Music Director Phoebe Briggs and Director Matthew Lutton.

ACCESS

Victorian Opera prioritises the physical, psychological, and cultural safety of all its staff and artists. If you have any access requests or requirements, please note them in your EOI email and we will make every effort to accommodate them.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Luke Hales

Company Manager

03 9001 6409

lukeh@victorianopera.com.au