

VICTORIAN
OPERA



PIERANGELO VALTINONI

Il Mago di Oz

Artistic Director's Message

Pierangelo Valtinoni (born 1959) has produced a series of fantasy operas, including *Pinocchio*, *The Snow Queen*, *Alice in Wonderland* and *The Little Prince*.

Major European Opera Houses now regularly include his work in their seasons, including La Scala, Komische (Oper Berlin), Zurich and the Volksoper in Vienna. Some years ago I was lucky enough to see his *Pinocchio* at the Volksoper - and I was immediately captivated by its charm, musicality and its capacity to speak to an audience of all ages and engage young performers.

This operatic treatment of the *Wizard of Oz*, originally from a childrens' novel written in 1900 by Lyman Frank Baum has an Italian libretto by Paolo Madron - an investigative journalist whose subjects have included Silvio Berlusconi - which may partly explain his enthusiastic embrace of the fantastical. The plot and characters remain grounded in the original story - which provided fertile inspiration for some 14 "Oz" novels by Baum and for the uniquely famous film of 1939, starring Judy Garland with songs by Harold Arlen.

I would want to say that the quirky fantasy of these precedents finds a unique culmination in the Valtinoni/Madron opera - through the fusion of the special genius of the Italian language and the lyric qualities of the beautifully crafted score. The delightful energy of the music and text is the perfect

companion to the narrative and its tireless message of the special place of "home" in our lives. The work has also provided an occasion for Victorian Opera's young and talented emerging artists to find a place on the main stage, in a project which is sure to have a special place in the memories and affections of the young and young in heart.

Welcome and Enjoy.

RICHARD MILLS
Artistic Director



Victorian Opera presents **Il Mago di Oz**

AN EMERGING ARTISTS OPERA IN TWO ACTS

Based on Lyman Frank Baum's 'The Wonderful Wizard of Oz'

Composer **Pierangelo Valtinoni**

Librettist **Paolo Madron**

CREATIVES

Conductor **Chad Kelly**

Staging Director **Constantine Costi**

Costume Designer **Mel Serjeant**

Lighting & Projection Designer **Daniel Gosling**

Orchestra **Victorian Opera Youth Orchestra**

with **Victorian Opera Chamber Orchestra**

CAST

Dorothy **Georgia Wilkinson**

The Scarecrow **Michael Dimovski****

The Tin Man **Stephen Marsh***

The Cowardly Lion **James Emerson**

The Good Witch of the North **Amelia Wawrzon**

The Good Witch of the South **Kate Amos**

The Queen of the Field Mice **Teresa Ingrilli**

The Wicked Witch of the West **Shakira Dugan****

The Wizard of Oz/The Guardian of the Gates **Tiernan Maclaren**

Featuring Victorian Opera's Emerging Artists and Children's Chorus

The Children's Chorus is supported by the Gailey Lazarus Foundation.

*The appearance of Stephen Marsh is supported by The Family of the late Frederick R Davidson AM

**The appearances of Shakira Dugan and Michael Dimovski are made possible through the generosity of Dr Michael Stubbs and Malcolm Roberts

27 and 30 August
Palais Theatre, St Kilda

World premiere, Saturday 19 November 2016

Running time is approximately 1 hour 40 minutes, plus one interval

Sung in Italian with English surtitles

Covers

Lisette Bolton, Shania Eliassen, Janneke Ferwerda, Rachael Joyce,
Samuel Skuthorp, Syrah Torii

Chorus

Sarah Amos, Maya Charles Sedergreen, Gwyneth Cleary, Tilly Dalton, Lyla Digrazia,
Angela Edgley, Hayley Edwards, Phoebe Edwards, Georgie Grech, Elleni Habibis,
Merryn Hughes, Alisya Irawan, Chloe James, Bridgette Kelsey, Kristina Lang,
Agnieshka Markwell, Saskia Mascitti, Zoya Mclean, Sidra Nissen, Maggie Orr,
Phoebe Paine, Kate Pengelly, Leah Phillips, Charlotte Plum,
Chloe Taylor, Anushka Tiwari, Angelique Tot, Sabrina Wall,
Emilie Washington, Olivia White, Dana Zeimer, Danielle Zuccala

Children's Chorus

Eliza Blacker, Maxwell Chao-Hong, Sophie Cowall, Miliyah Dee,
Flora Feldman, Isla Goding, Sophie Isaac, Jin Jin Li, Mitchell Lung,
Alec McMichael, Evelyn Mitchell-Kempe, Anderson Mokyiu,
Shayana Perera, Mathew Rigby, Michael Roskam, Syesha Sarical,
Alyssa Schiavello, Zara Tonon, Samantha Walsh, Norah Xia, Lucy Zlatkovic

Synopsis

Dorothy grows up in Kansas with her uncle and aunt. Her adventures begin the moment a dangerous tornado sweeps over the farm and carries off the house, together with Dorothy and her dog Toto, to the far-off land of the Munchkins. The house falls onto the Wicked Witch of the East, of all people, thus triggering a series of fantastical events. Admittedly, the Wicked Witch of the East's red shoes lend Dorothy magical powers, but she also has to pass the most gruelling of tests.

But Dorothy is not alone: on her journey, she encounters a scarecrow whose dearest wish is to be given a real brain rather than merely having a head full of straw. The pair also encounters a rusty

tin man who would like to have a heart. Another travelling companion is a lion, who has a powerful roar, but otherwise believes he is very cowardly.

Together, they set off to find the mysterious Wizard of Oz in the Emerald City, who is supposed to help Dorothy find her way home. They are repeatedly threatened by the Wicked Witch of the West, and even the powerful Wizard of Oz ultimately turns out to be a fraud: his spells have no effect. But time and again, the travelling quartet, including the little dog, prove that they have kind hearts, intelligence and courage, and ultimately survive all their adventures with bravura.

Opernhaus Zürich

Production

Production Team

Stage Manager **Will Barker**
Deputy Stage Manager **Claudia Howarth**
Costume Supervisor **Tim Corne**
Technical Coordinator **Guinevere Rose**

Season Staff

Surttitle Operator **Timothy Mallis**
Chorus Manager **Marina Milankovic**
Child Chaperone **Monique Heath,**
Emma Mosley, Deana Nuelant,
Andrea Ousley
Orchestra Manager **Noah Chrapot**

Music Staff

Principal Repetiteur
Phoebe Briggs

Repetiteur
Phillipa Safey

Orchestra

Concert Master **Ben Spiers**
Violin **Candice Buchana*,**
George Vi
Violin II **Cameron Jamieson,**
Jennifer Kirsner, Xavier Richardson*
Viola **Suying Aw, Murray Kearney,**
Jared Yapp
Cello **Nils Hobiger,**
Dana Choi*, Shanna Shang*
Double Bass **Nic Synot**

Flute/Piccolo **Rachel Howie**
Oboe **Rachel Bullen**
Clarinet **Luke Carbon**
Bassoon **Colin Forbes Abrams**
Horn I **Melanie Simpson**
Horn II **Phoebe Smithies**
Trumpet (shared book)
Darcy O'Malley, Harvey de Koster*
Timpani + Cymbal **Brent Miller**
Percussion **Arwen Johnston**
Harp **Melina van Leeuwen**
Piano **Serena Zhang***
Keyboard **Phoebe Briggs**

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Anie Zanazanian
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Milliner **Phillip Rhodes**

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*Appearing courtesy of VCASS

Acknowledgements

Jo Beaumont (libretto translation)

Creative Team



Chad Kelly
Conductor

Chad emigrated to Australia at the end of 2021. Since arriving, he has received regular invitations to perform with the Australian Chamber Orchestra and Sydney Symphony Orchestra, as well as guest conducting engagements with the Australian Haydn Ensemble and Victorian Opera. In 2022 he also joined the music staff of Opera Australia, having spent several seasons at the Bavarian State Opera (Munich) and at English National Opera (London). His conducting engagements in Europe include the Bavarian State Opera, Göttingen Händelfestspiele, Vienna's Resonanzen Festival, The Globe's Sam Wanamaker Theatre, Duke of York's Theatre, and the London Handel Festival.

Chad enjoys a formidable reputation as a historical keyboard player and director, having performed at all the major Bach festivals in Germany, and working often with Sir John Eliot Gardiner and Trevor Pinnock. He is a frequent collaborator with violinist Rachel Podger and enjoys regular guest directing engagements with groups such as the Academy of Ancient Music. Equally adept in the world of contemporary music, he has helped create new work by composers Thomas Adès, Hans Abrahamsen, and Mark-Anthony Turnage, as well as workshopping several new works for the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. Chad's own arrangements and compositions have been recorded on the Sony and Linn labels.



Constantine Costi
Staging Director

Constantine Costi is a Sydney based writer, opera and theatre director. His recent projects include directing the revival *La Traviata* in Sydney and Melbourne for Opera Australia, and the Red Line Productions Kurt Weill double bill *Mahagonny Songspiel* and *The Seven Deadly Sins*.

Previous projects include the directing of the film *A Delicate Fire* (Pinchgut Opera), *La Traviata* on Sydney Harbour (OA), co-directing *Werther* (Opera Australia) the award-winning production of *Bittersweet Obsessions*, Händel's *Messiah* and co-directing *Karakorum* (Australian Brandenburg Orchestra)

Constantine also directed Puccini's *Suor Angelica* for Opera Projects Sydney; directed Puccini's *Il Tabarro* at Alfie's Sydney; and directed *The Space between the Fuel and the Fire* for NIDA.



Mel Serjeant
Costume Designer

Mel is a multi-disciplinary practitioner with an arts career spanning 35 years. Mel's first arts practice was in dance, working in the Australian commercial dance industry in the 1980s-90s.

Expanding her creative practice, Mel studied Fashion Design at The National Arts School, Sydney Institute of Technology; majoring in fashion history, costume adaptation and textile design. Working in the arts for over 30 years, Mel has developed a formidable reputation for bridging the gap between fashion, costume and art that has seen her land diverse and challenging roles within film, live performance and the education sectors.

Mel also holds her Masters in Cross-Disciplinary Art & Design from the University of New South Wales. Exhibited and published internationally and throughout Australia, Mel has received numerous highly-acclaimed awards for her work.



Daniel Gosling
Lighting & Projection Designer

Daniel has been with Victorian Opera for almost a decade in a number of behind-the-scenes roles across a number of their productions, as well as working throughout the industry across Australia and Southeast Asia as an award-winning lighting and projection designer and sought-after production manager. Whether it's painting with light, digital imagery, or building sets, Daniel has had a vast and varied career across theatre, dance, commercial touring, live broadcast, and opera.

Il Mago di Oz marks Daniel's first role in the designer's chair for Victorian Opera and he hopes you enjoy the journey through which he and the fabulous cast and creatives will take you this evening.



Cast



Georgia Wilkinson
Dorothy

Winner of the 2019 Herald Sun Aria Competition, Georgia Wilkinson is ascending on the operatic stage. Graduating from Melbourne Conservatorium, Georgia undertook her professional debut as Sophie in MasterClass, to rave reviews. Georgia studied opera in Italy, Germany, the UK and the US. Her international debut was as Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte* in Weimar, Germany. Engaging companies include Victorian Opera, Left Bauer Productions, Weimar Lyric Opera Studio (Germany), Royal Carribean and Opera Australia. Recent highlights include Sydney's Carols in the Domain, starring in Victorian Opera's *Alice Through the Looking Glass*, performing *Arts Bravo Cruise* and *Jekyll and Hyde*. In 2021, Georgia sang the title role of *Sleeping Beauty* for Victorian Opera and understudied the role of Christine Daaé in *Phantom of the Opera* for Opera Australia.



Michael Dimovski
The Scarecrow

A Melbourne based tenor who graduated from the University of Melbourne in 2017, Michael is the recipient of the 2022 Victorian Opera Michael Stubbs and Malcolm Roberts Opera Prize as well as the recipient of Melbourne Opera's Rotary NGSE scholarship to perform and experience Germany. Michael's most notable engagements include: Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni* at the Opern Akademie Henfenfeld, Germany, featured soloist at the Holzhäuser Musiktage Meisterkurse in Ammerland, Germany, touring nationally throughout Australia as a member of the Ten Tenors throughout 2021, Malcolm in Verdi's *Macbeth*, Melbourne Opera, Froh (Cover) in *Das Rheingold*, Melbourne Opera and Jaquino in Beethoven's *Fidelio*, Melbourne Opera.



Stephen Marsh
The Tin Man

Stephen Marsh is a 31-year-old Baritone who resides in Geelong, Australia. He currently studies under the tutelage of the Welsh/Australian Baritone, Roger Howell. Stephen made his professional debut in Victorian Opera's *Sleeping Beauty* in 2017 and was a developing artist for the company for both the 2017/2018 seasons. He has performed several roles with the company, which include: Zurga in *Les Pêcheurs de Perles* (Bizet), The Woodcutter in *Sleeping Beauty* (Respighi), Peter in *Hänsel und Gretel* (Humperdinck) and The Giant in the Australian premiere of *The Selfish Giant* by Simon Bruckard and Emma Muir-Smith. In 2021 Stephen also made his European debut as Marcello in Puccini's *La Bohème* at the Verbier Festival in Switzerland. Stephen was a scholar with the prestigious Melba Opera Trust Programme for 2018/2019 as well as an inaugural member of Melbourne Opera's Richard Dvall Emerging Artist Program. He is the recipient of several other awards, including an Ian Potter Cultural Trust Scholarship, the Australia Council Sir Robert Askin Operatic Scholarship, and the inaugural winner of the Michael Stubbs and Malcolm Roberts Opera Prize.



James Emerson
The Cowardly Lion

Bass baritone, James Emerson has performed in professional operatic productions and concerts for several years and has won numerous awards from many Eisteddfods and vocal competitions, and recently was a finalist in the 2021 Herald Sun Aria competition.

James has completed his Master of Music in Opera Performance at The University of Melbourne where he performed roles such as Friedrich Bhaer and Gideon March (*Little Women*), Papageno (*Die Zauberflöte*) and Seneca (*L'incoronazione di Poppea*).

In 2022, James has joined Melba Opera Trust as one of their artists.



Amelia Wawrzon
The Good Witch of the North

Amelia completed her BMus (Performance) and MMus (Opera Performance) at the MCM and is a member of Melbourne Opera's Richard Dvall Emerging Artists Programme. She has earned a scholarship place at the prestigious Royal Academy of Music, London (2022/23) and was a recipient of the Joan Sutherland and Richard Bonyngel Bel Canto Award. Roles performed include Pamina (Mozart), Lauretta (Puccini), Miss Wordsworth (Britten), Soeur Constance (Poulenc), Cupid and Juno (Offenbach) and Susanna (Mozart). Amelia was a soloist with the Melbourne Opera Orchestra in the *Bel Canto Spectacular* and *Mozart by Moonlight*. Other highlights include performing with the Melbourne Welsh Male Choir, on 3MBS Fine Music, the QANTAS ad, Hugh Jackman's Arena Tour and Channel 9's Carols by Candlelight.



Kate Amos
The Good Witch of the South

Melbourne-born lyric coloratura Kate Amos is one of Australia's most artistically versatile and highly sought-after young sopranos. Kate holds a BMus with Honours, Dip. Lang (Italian) and Masters of Music (Opera Performance) from The University of Melbourne. Kate returned from Cardiff in 2017 after graduating from the Welsh International Academy of Voice on scholarship under the tutelage of Dennis O'Neill. In 2014 Kate was selected to join the Victorian Opera Young Artist Program performing many leading and supporting roles including Cendrillon and The Dew Fairy. Kate made her principal artist main-stage debut with Opera Australia in 2019 in the world premiere of the Australian opera *Whiteley* at the Sydney Opera House as Arkie Whiteley. She also performed the role of Barbarina in Sir David McVicar's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, also at the SOH. Kate has extensive training in acting and classical ballet. She is thrilled to be singing the iconic role of Glinda in *Il Mago di Oz*.

Cast



Teresa Ingrilli
The Queen of
the Field Mice

Teresa Ingrilli (soprano) has performed both locally and internationally in opera, operetta and oratorio. She is an emerging artist for Melbourne Opera's Richard Divall Emerging Artist Program, a Victorian Opera chorus member and was recently a semi-finalist for the Herald Sun Aria and the Sydney Eisteddfod Opera Scholarship. In 2020, Teresa graduated from the University of Melbourne Conservatorium with a Masters of Music (Opera Performance). Teresa is a co-founder of Balcony Opera, created during the 2020 lockdowns. Balcony opera appeared in *The Age*, Channel 7's *Weekend Sunrise*, ABC Radio Melbourne and on BBC Proms - *A night at the Opera*.



Shakira Dugan
The Wicked Witch
of the West

Shakira made her professional operatic debut with Victorian Opera, performing the role of Hansel in *Hansel and Gretel* in 2017. Since then, starring and covering roles in *The Magic Pudding* the Opera, *Der Rosenkavalier*, Rossini's *Otello*, *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Alice Through the Opera Glass*, *Mahagonny* and *Parsifal* as well as numerous concert performances, and making her international debut as Cherubino in Australian International Productions' *Le Nozze di Figaro*.

2021 saw Shakira as a Principal Artist with Victorian Opera, creating the role of Cassandra in Simon Bruckard's new opera, *Cassandra*, and *The Cuckoo* in Respighi's *La bella dormente nel bosco*. Shakira is a recipient of the 2022 Michael Stubbs and Malcolm Roberts Opera Prize.



Tiernan Maclaren
The Wizard of Oz/The
Guardian of the Gates

Beginning with Victorian Opera's Youth Chorus Ensemble at 16, Tiernan took part in numerous concerts and participated in *Parsifal* (2019, Victorian Opera). They studied acting at 16th Street Actors Studio, and voice with Angela Wasley. Their professional debut came in 2019 as Frid in Stephen Sondheim's *A Little Night Music* (Victorian Opera). Following Covid-19, Tiernan was eager to perform again, first as King Pandion/Captain in *Love of the Nightingale* (2021, Simran Giria). Most recently, Tiernan performed *Tartuffe* in Molière's *Tartuffe* (2022, Celeste Cody). When not performing, Tiernan is a mechanist and studies a Bachelor of Aerospace Engineering/Commerce at Monash University.



Dorothy



The Scarecrow



The Tinman



The Cowardly Lion



**The Good Witch
of the North**



**The Good Witch
of the South**



**The Queen of
the Field Mice**



**The Wicked Witch
of the West**



The Wizard of Oz

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Victorian Opera is the state opera company of Victoria. We make creative, accessible and affordable work for everyone while adventurously evolving our art form.

Since the company was founded in October 2005, Victorian Opera has entertained hundreds of thousands of people with our imaginative approach to opera and musical theatre. Each year we premiere at least one new Australian opera, and have commissioned 32 new works since our formation.

We employ hundreds of people across the creative industries, recruit some of the finest local singers, and collaborate with Australia's leading companies, venues and learning institutions.

The next generation of talent is developed from the ground up through the Victorian Opera Youth Chorus Ensemble (VOYCE) and our innovative Access All Areas: Livestream Program.

We also stage opera in Tasmania biennially to share the joy of our art form even further.

Recognised for our unique contribution to the country's operatic landscape, Victorian Opera proudly became an Australian Major Performing Arts company in 2019. In 2021 we transitioned to the newly formed National Performing Arts Partnership Framework (NPAPF).

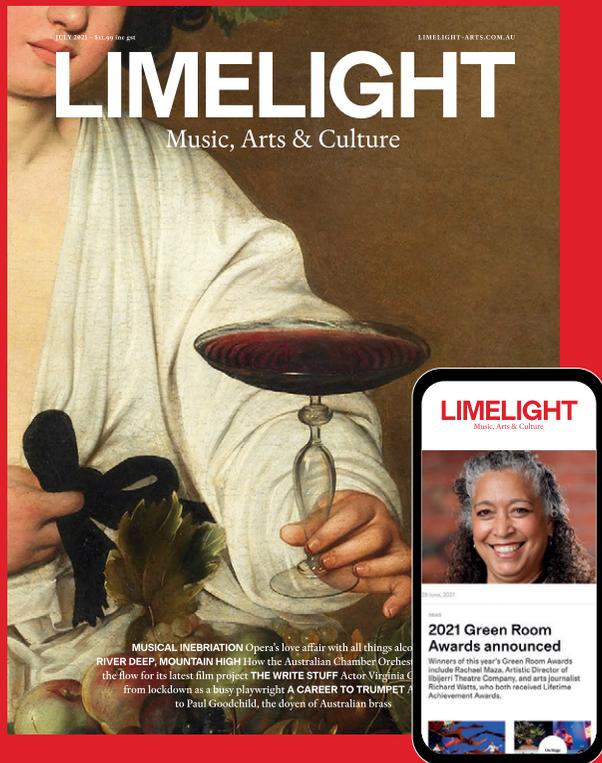
As the world went into lockdown, we got to work, sharing our passion far and wide with a range of web series and online performances. Returning home to the stage, we embrace the new normal and will continue to perform in Victoria's finest theatres and concert halls to give our audiences the best possible and safest experience.

Be it live or online, Victorian Opera is here to inspire you.



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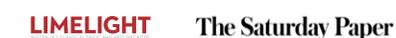


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