

SEASON 2024

VICTORIAN
OPERA

Victorian Opera respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the unceded land on which we work and live: the people of the Eastern Kulin Nation. We acknowledge these original owners and custodians of the lands and waterways and their enduring cultural practices of caring for Country.

We pay respect to their Elders past and present.

OUR SEASON 2024

8 – 10 FEBRUARY

Candide

10 – 18 MAY

Parrwang Lifts the Sky

4 – 6 JULY

English Eccentrics

8 – 10 AUGUST

La Rondine (The Swallow)

14 – 21 SEPTEMBER

Sweeney Todd

16 – 19 OCTOBER

Eucalyptus

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2024 Victorian Opera Season, my first as the incoming Artistic Director of this mighty company.

I have long admired Victorian Opera's bold repertoire choices, championing of new Australian work, formidable record of collaborating with other arts companies, commitment to showcasing Australian artists, and for pushing the boundaries of our extraordinary art-form. I am proud to be a part of a company that relishes the challenge of taking opera to students, creating opportunities for a new generation of opera practitioners to learn and develop, while still exploring the riches of the great canon of opera and music theatre.

2024 marks the centenary of Giacomo Puccini's death, and to mark the occasion we're delighted to present the Melbourne premiere of his late masterpiece, *La Rondine*. Sumptuous waltzes and tangos blend with Puccini's extraordinary gift for melody, his signature passion and heart-breaking intensity, to make *La Rondine* unique in the output of arguably the greatest composer of Romantic opera. *La Rondine*

also provides a spectacular showcase for two of the most exciting young Australian opera stars currently on the world stage, the radiant Kiandra Howarth and tenor Kang Wang, under the baton of celebrated Puccini specialist Tobias Ringborg. This new production, my first as Artistic Director, will feature the exquisite designs of Richard Roberts. *La Rondine* is grand opera at its most intimate; powerful, sumptuous, stylish and compelling.

Continuing Victorian Opera's commitment to reexamining the great classics of music theatre, we are proud to present Leonard Bernstein's classic take on Voltaire's satirical tale of mindless optimism, *Candide*. Sparkling with wit and humour, *Candide* is part opera, part musical and entirely irreverent, drawing on everything from European operetta to Latin American dance rhythms. This "best of all possible worlds" Broadway Operetta with a capital 'O' comes to life on the Palais stage in a spectacular new production by Dean Bryant, featuring a seriously brilliant cast of Australian music theatre and operatic royalty. Orchestra Victoria, upfront and onstage

under Melbourne's own Benjamin Northey, will delight in Bernstein's justly famous score, all audacity and brilliance.

VO Emerges will present the quirky and strangely moving *English Eccentrics*, by the great Australian composer Malcolm Williamson. The opera displays Williamson's theatricality, wit and versatility; a pageant of odd, deliciously eccentric characters in a musical journey that ranges from joyous choral fox-trots to tender and compassionate anthems. *English Eccentrics* will showcase the best of Australia's emerging talent in an Australian opera of which Williamson said, "...my music is Australian. Not of the bush or the deserts, but the brashness of the cities. The sort of brashness that makes Australians go through life pushing doors marked 'pull.'"

The most powerful tool an opera company possesses is the magical moment when the lights go down, the orchestra begins, the curtain rises. Each year we give that first experience to school children from all across the state. In 2024 we will present Deborah Cheetham Fraillon's joyous retelling of a



First Nations creation story, *Parrwang Lifts the Sky*. This VO commission, directed by Elizabeth Hill-Cooper and conducted by Aaron Wyatt, builds on the company's history of nurturing and premiering new Australian works, including those by First Nations artists. *Parrwang*, in association with Short Black Opera, was previously produced online in the Covid-affected 2021 season, and again as part of NAIDOC week in 2023 at Arts Centre Melbourne. We are proud to be able to present this creation story in the Malthouse so a whole new audience can finally experience a piece that celebrates our rich multicultural heritage, and recognise that it is our greatest source of strength.

2015 saw the culmination of Victorian Opera's Stephen Sondheim Trilogy with our production of his masterpiece, the gothic horror tale *Sweeney Todd*. Since then this VO and

New Zealand Opera co-production has played Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Perth, Adelaide and, most recently, a sell-out season at the Sydney Opera House. 2024 is Melbourne's turn to once again experience the most terrifying musical thriller ever written.

As our final offering for the year we present a co-production with Perth Festival, Brisbane Festival and Opera Australia of Sir Jonathan Mills' haunting retelling of Murray Bail's classic novel *Eucalyptus*. This is a modern fairytale lovingly brought to life with a stellar Australian cast and with the formidable team of director Michael Gow, designer Simone Romaniuk and conductor Tahu Matheson. This is Australian opera at its most compelling, a moving and fascinating examination of our time and place.

Please join us in 2024 as

we strengthen our ties with you, our loyal, passionate audience, and give new and diverse audiences the chance to discover this extraordinary artform. Nothing can match the feeling that is created by gathering people together in one place to experience the human voice, the indefinable power of music and the gift of storytelling. There is nothing like the power of opera, to move, to exalt, to thrill... and the ability of opera to make people feel something deeply and strongly within themselves. This is the reason we do what we do.

We'll see you at the opera.

Stuart Maunder AM
Artistic Director,
Victorian Opera

LEONARD BERNSTEIN

CANDIDE

BROADWAY OPERETTA

A Comic Operetta in Two Acts

Music by Leonard Bernstein,

Book by Hugh Wheeler after Voltaire,

*Lyrics by Richard Wilbur, with additional lyrics by Stephen Sondheim,
John La Touche, Lillian Hellman, Dorothy Parker and Leonard Bernstein.*

Orchestrations by Leonard Bernstein and Hershy Kay;

Musical continuity and additional orchestrations by John Mauceri,

Licensed by Hal Leonard Australia, exclusive agent for Boosey & Hawkes Music Publishers Ltd

Voltaire's satirical tale of mindless optimism springs to life through a brilliant score from famed *West Side Story* composer Leonard Bernstein.

Filled with sparkling wit and humour, *Candide* is a unique fusion of opera and musical theatre, utterly irreverent, drawing inspiration from European operetta to Latin American dance rhythms.

Join us on an adventure as we follow our hero and his beloved, Cunégonde, through a world gone mad, inhabited by an endless array of vicious, greedy, lustful, and manipulative characters. Portraying this vibrant cast of characters is a versatile and talented Australian ensemble, led by the multi-talented music theatre Renaissance man, Eddie Perfect, and award-winning star of *Hamilton*, Lyndon Watts.

Prepare to witness St Kilda's iconic Palais Theatre transformed into "The Best of All Possible Worlds" in this thrilling new production, directed by Dean Bryant and designed by Dann Barber, with lighting by Matt Scott. The symphonic magic of this brilliant score will be conjured by maestro Benjamin Northey with Orchestra Victoria.

CREATIVE TEAM

Conductor

Benjamin Northey

Director

Dean Bryant

Set & Costume Designer

Dann Barber

Lighting Designer

Matt Scott

Sound Designer

Samuel Moxham

Assistant Conductor

Phoebe Briggs

Associate Designer

Savanna Wegman

CAST

Voltaire / Pangloss

Eddie Perfect

Candide

Lyndon Watts

Cunégonde

Katherine Allen

Old Lady

Maria Mercedes

Maximilian

Euan Fistrovic Doidge

Paquette

Melanie Bird

Cacambo

Eddie Muliaumaseali'i

Governor / Vanderdenur

Alexander Lewis

Martin

Troy Sussman

with Orchestra Victoria

FEBRUARY

Thu 8, 7.30 pm

Fri 9, 7.30 pm

Sat 10, 7.30 pm

PALAIS THEATRE, ST KILDA

3 h, including interval

Sung in English

In-Theatre Tickets

\$39-\$150

Subscribe and save 20%
See p. 23 for more details

PRESENTING PARTNER



DEBORAH CHEETHAM FRAILLON AO

PARRWANG

LIFTS THE SKY

FAMILY SHOW

Composer and Librettist Deborah Cheetham Fraillon AO

Did you know that magpies created the first dawn?*

Victorian Opera is once again proud to present *Parrwang Lifts The Sky* as part of its family and education program.

A long time ago...

The sky was a blanket on the land. The earth was in darkness and the people were afraid. If not for the courage of Parrwang the magpie, determined to assist her newfound friends, this blanket may still be with us today.

Tjatjarrang (Big Sister) and Koki (Brother) are young, adventurous and tired of living in the dark. When they manage to climb to the highest branches of an ancient gum tree, they discover a world of colour and light and a friend in Parrwang (Magpie).

Parrwang decides to help her new friends lift the blanket of darkness from the young humans world. The plan is devised but Parrwang must first convince the Great Council of Birds led by Bunjil (Eagle). Will the council agree?

*Based on an original creation story from Wadawurrung Country.

CREATIVE TEAM

Conductor

Aaron Wyatt

Director

Elizabeth Hill-Cooper

Cultural Set Design

BJ O'Toole

Cultural Costume Design

Deanne Gilson

Set & Costume Construction

Designer

Mel Serjeant

Lighting Designer

Peter Darby

CAST

Featuring students from
University of Melbourne

with Victorian Opera
Chamber Orchestra

MAY

Fri 10, 1.00 pm (R)
Sat 11, 2.00 pm, 5.00 pm
Mon 13, 6.30 pm
Tue 14, 6.30 pm
Fri 17, 6.30 pm
Sat 18, 2.00 pm

MALTHOUSE,
MERLYN THEATRE

50 m, no interval
Sung in English and
Wadawurrung

In-Theatre Tickets \$39
Digital Access \$30

Subscribe and save 20%
See p. 23 for more details

PERFORMANCE PARTNER



short black
opera

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
Melbourne Conservatorium
of Music, University of
Melbourne

GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY
Jane Hemstrich OA

RELAXED PERFORMANCE
IS SUPPORTED BY

Marian & E H Flack Trust
William Angliss Charitable Trust

MALCOLM WILLIAMSON, AO (HON) CBE

ENGLISH ECCENTRICS

VO EMERGES

An Operatic Entertainment

Music by Malcolm Williamson, AO (HON) CBE

Libretto by Geoffrey Dunn, based on the book by Edith Sitwell

Where English wit and Australian larrikinism converge, *English Eccentrics* offers a whimsical glimpse into a gallery of thirty-nine eccentric characters from English society.

This production champions Victorian Opera's new shining stars as part of our ongoing VO Emerges series, our commitment to fostering new talent. Come and be thoroughly entertained by an array of characters that continually one-up the last in peculiarity, in a revolving door of aristocrats, tradesmen, maids and clergy, exploring the idiosyncrasies that lie within them.

Edith Sitwell could easily have counted herself among these famous eccentrics, and there's an unmistakable touch of eccentricity in Malcolm Williamson as well. Williamson's music brims with pastiche, ranging from Mozart to Gershwin, and even with a twist of rumba.

Prepare to revel in the joyous, moving and zany world crafted by this great Australian composer.

CREATIVE TEAM

Conductor

Susan Collins

Director

Stuart Maunder

Set and Costume Designer

Louisa Fitzgerald

CAST

Featuring VO Emerges artists


with Victorian Opera

Chamber Orchestra

JULY

Thu 4, 7.30 pm

Fri 5, 7.30 pm

Sat 6, 2.00 pm, 7.30 pm 

**UNION THEATRE,
UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE
(PARKVILLE)**

2 h 30 m, including
interval

Sung in English

**In-Theatre Tickets
\$39-\$75**

Subscribe and save 20%
See p. 23 for more details

GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY



The family of the late Frederick R
Davidson AM: Victorian Opera's
Opera Prize

Dr Michael Stubbs & Malcolm Roberts:
Victorian Opera's Opera Prize

LA RONDINE

GIACOMO PUCCINI

(THE SWALLOW)

LYRIC OPERA

Lyric comedy in three acts

Composed by Giacomo Puccini

Libretto by Giuseppe Adami

***La Rondine* is a poignant, wistful and romantic masterpiece from the composer of *La bohème*, Giacomo Puccini.**

Puccini's gift for mesmerising melodies captures the essence of romance and love at first sight between a Parisian courtesan, Magda, and her naive and ardent admirer Ruggero. Magda, a metaphorical swallow, is torn between the life she needs and the life she knows.

Puccini's exquisite score is warm and sensually delicate. It vividly shapes the characters and choruses, evoking the beguiling essence of Parisian life. *La Rondine* navigates a spectrum of emotions from the gaiety of the City of Love, the bittersweet sorrow of regret, and the sensuality of young love.

Puccini's late masterpiece, brimming with themes of youth, passion and heartbreak, will rekindle your understanding of what it truly means to be alive and in love.

CREATIVE TEAM

Conductor

Tobias Ringborg

Director

Stuart Maunder

Set and Costume Designer

Richard Roberts

Lighting Designer

Gavan Swift

Associate Designer

Louisa Fitzgerald

CAST

Magda

Kiandra Howarth

Ruggero

Kang Wang

Lisette

Nina Korbe

Rambaldo

Teddy Tahu Rhodes

Victorian Opera Chorus

with Orchestra Victoria

AUGUST

Thu 8, 7.30 pm

Sat 10, 7.30 pm

PALAIS THEATRE, ST KILDA

2 h, 20 min including
interval

Sung in Italian with English
surtitles

In-Theatre Tickets

\$39-\$180

Subscribe and save 20%
See p. 23 for more details

GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY

Peter & the late Anne Laver

STEPHEN SONDHEIM

SWEENEY TODD

THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET
A MUSICAL THRILLER

MUSICAL

"And what if none of their souls were saved? They went to their maker impeccably shaved."

Once, there was a barber who had it all — a happy life, a beautiful wife. But it all ended in a savage act of betrayal. Enter Sweeney Todd, *"the demon barber of Fleet Street"*.

From the maestro of musical theatre Stephen Sondheim, and the storytelling genius of Hugh Wheeler, comes a gripping tale of tragedy and revenge set in the depths of London. Sweeney Todd poses a suave and perilous figure with his rising desire for vengeance. Alongside the beguiling and eccentric Mrs. Lovett, they hatch a twisted plan — equal parts genius and ghastly. Mrs Lovett's reputation of serving the best pies in town may be short-lived as Sweeney's thirst for vengeance teeters on the razor's edge.

Considered one of the most powerful, dramatic and theatrical horror tales ever set to music, this masterpiece of musical theatre will leave hearts racing and spines tingling long after the final curtain falls.

CREATIVE TEAM

Conductor
Phoebe Briggs

Director
Stuart Maunder

Set and Costume Designer
Roger Kirk

Lighting Designer
Philip Lethlean

Sound Designer
Jim Atkins

CAST

To be announced

with Victorian Opera
Chamber Orchestra

Music and Lyrics by
STEPHEN SONDHEIM

Book by
HUGH WHEELER

From an Adaptation by
CHRISTOPHER BOND

Originally Directed by **HAROLD PRINCE**

Orchestrations by **JONATHAN TUNICK**

Originally produced on Broadway by Richard Barr,
Charles Woodward, Robert Fryer, Mary Lea Johnson, Marlin Richards
In association with Dean and Judy Manos

Licensed exclusively by Music Theatre International (Australasia).

SEPTEMBER

Sat 14, 2.00 pm Preview
Sat 14, 7.30 pm
Tue 17, 7.30 pm
Wed 18, 7.30 pm
Thu 19, 7.30 pm
Fri 20, 7.30 pm ^{AF}
Sat 21, 2.00 pm, 7.30 pm

**ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE,
PLAYHOUSE**

2 h 45, including interval
Sung in English

In-Theatre Tickets
\$39-\$180

Subscribe and save 20%
See p. 23 for more details

JONATHAN MILLS EUCALYPTUS

WORLD PREMIERE

*Presented by Victorian Opera and Opera Australia, with Perth Festival and Brisbane Festival
An opera by Jonathan Mills.*

Libretto by Meredith Oakes, based on the novel by Murray Bail

Stories in the trees

Weave them out of bark and leaves

Eucalyptus is a new opera by Jonathan Mills, based on Murray Bail's beloved novel. It is part Australian fairy tale, part sonorous evocation of the Australian bush. In this dappled landscape lurks both beauty and wonder. The score is mysterious and colourful, with moments of dramatic intensity and hushed beauty. The libretto by Meredith Oakes is poetic and spare.

Eucalyptus is an ageless story of love and longing, about a daughter and a father – Ellen and Holland.

Ellen's overprotective father has created a safe haven from the world – a forest of eucalypts. But is the forest a sanctuary? Or is Ellen, like Rapunzel, imprisoned?

Ellen encounters a Stranger amongst her father's trees – a storyteller with enchanting tales of far-away lands...

Renowned Australian playwright Michael Gow directs this co-production for Victorian Opera, Opera Australia and the Perth and Brisbane Festivals, with designs by Simone Romaniuk. Desiree Frahn and Simon Meadows create the roles of Ellen and Holland, with Orchestra Victoria and the Victorian Opera Chorus conducted by Tahu Matheson.

CREATIVE TEAM

Conductor

Tahu Matheson

Director

Michael Gow

Set and Costume Designer

Simone Romaniuk

CAST

Ellen

Desiree Frahn

Holland

Simon Meadows

The Stranger

Michael Petruccelli

Cave

Samuel Dundas

Sprunt Sisters

Olivia Cranwell

Dimity Shepherd

Victorian Opera Chorus

with Orchestra Victoria

PERFORMANCE PARTNERS

Brisbane Festival

Perth Festival

O|PERA AUSTRALIA

GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY

Phillip Bacon, AO and

Carol Colburn Grigor, CBE



OCTOBER

Wed 16, 7.30 pm

Fri 18, 7.30 pm

Sat 19, 7.30 pm

PALAIS THEATRE, ST KILDA

Duration TBC

Sung in English

In-Theatre Tickets

\$39-\$125

Digital Access \$30

Subscribe and save 20%
See p. 23 for more details

COMMISSIONED BY


Opera Australia and

Victorian Opera




CALENDAR

Book your tickets online or by phone.
For subscription pricing see p. 27

CANDIDE
Palais Theatre, St Kilda
In-Theatre Tickets \$39-\$150

Thursday 8 FEB	7.30 pm	
Friday 9 FEB	7.30 pm	
Saturday 10 FEB	7.30 pm	

PARRWANG LIFTS THE SKY
Malthouse, Merlyn Theatre
In-Theatre Tickets \$39
Digital Access \$30


Friday 10 MAY	1.00 pm	
Saturday 11 MAY	2.00 pm	
Saturday 11 MAY	5.00 pm	
Monday 13 MAY	6.30 pm	
Tuesday 14 MAY	6.30 pm	
Friday 17 MAY	6.30 pm	
Saturday 18 MAY	2.00 pm	






Victorian Opera Company Limited (Victorian Opera) is committed to complying with the Live Performance Australia Ticketing Code of Practice. Visit victorianopera.com.au/privacy for more information.

ENGLISH ECCENTRICS
Union Theatre, University of Melbourne
In-Theatre Tickets \$39-\$75



Thursday 4 JUL	7.30 pm	
Friday 5 JUL	7.30 pm	
Saturday 6 JUL	2.00 pm	
Saturday 6 JUL	7.30 pm	

LA RONDINE (THE SWALLOW)
Palais Theatre, St Kilda
In-Theatre Tickets \$39-\$180

Thursday 8 AUG	7.30 pm	
Saturday 10 AUG	7.30 pm	

-  Patrons' Pre-Show Reception
-  Livestream Available
-  Audio Described and Tactile Tour Performance
-  Relaxed Performance
-  World Premiere

**SWEENEY TODD:
THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET
A MUSICAL THRILLER**
Arts Centre Melbourne, Playhouse
In-Theatre Tickets \$39-\$180
Preview Tickets \$39-\$122

Saturday 14 SEP	2.00 pm [Preview]	
Saturday 14 SEP	7.30 pm	
Tuesday 17 SEP	7.30 pm	
Wednesday 18 SEP	7.30 pm	
Thursday 19 SEP	7.30 pm	
Friday 20 SEP	7.30 pm	
Saturday 21 SEP	2.00 pm	
Saturday 21 SEP	7.30 pm	

KEY DATES

- Monday 23 October 2023**
2024 Subscriptions on sale priority period
- Thursday 26 October 2023**
Single Tickets on sale – *Candide*
- Monday 13 November 2023**
Single Tickets on sale – All productions

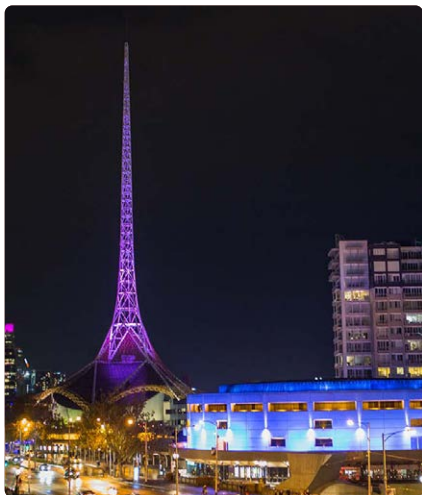
EUCALYPTUS 
Palais Theatre, St Kilda
In-Theatre Tickets \$39-\$125
Digital Access \$30

Wednesday 16 OCT	7.30 pm	
Friday 18 OCT	7.30 pm	 
Saturday 19 OCT	7.30 pm	

BOOKING DETAILS

- Concessions apply, full details p. 27
- Subscriptions**
In-theatre and Digital Access
1300 822 849
victorianopera.com.au/subscriptions
- Single Tickets**
Arts Centre Melbourne – Playhouse
1300 182 183
artscentremelbourne.com.au
Ticketmaster – Palais
ticketmaster.com.au
Malthouse
03 9685 5111 (select option 2 for Box Office)
malthousetheatre.com.au/tickets
Union Theatre
03 9001 6400
<https://umsu.unimelb.edu.au/express-yourself/theatre/whats-on/>
- Digital Access**
03 9001 6400
victorianopera.com.au/digital-access

VENUES



ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE

100 St Kilda Road, Melbourne
1300 182 183

artscentremelbourne.com.au

Public Transport

- Train: Get off at Flinders Street Station and walk along St Kilda Road over Princess Bridge.
- Tram: Trams that stop in front of Arts Centre Melbourne: 1, 3, 3a, 5, 6, 16, 64, 67 and 72.

Parking

- Arts Centre Melbourne is open 24 hours a day and is accessible from Kavanagh Street. The car park is a cash-free facility. Ensure you have a valid credit or debit card for payment.



PALAIS THEATRE

Lower Esplanade, St Kilda
03 8537 7677

palaistheatre.com.au

Public Transport

- Train: Sandringham Line to Balaclava Station. Take Tram 16 to Acland Street.
- Tram: Trams that stop in front of the Palais Theatre: 16, 3a, 96.
- Bus: Bus routes that stop near Palais Theatre: 246, 600, 606, 623, 922, 923.

Parking

- There are many parking options near Palais Theatre. Visit the Palais Theatre website for full details.

Your health and safety are important. Our venue partners have worked diligently to develop venue specific safety plans and procedures. Visit victorianopera.com.au/venues for more information. Our venue partners retain the right to refuse entry to anyone who does not follow their health and safety measures.



UNION THEATRE, UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

Level 2 Arts & Cultural Building (building 159)
761 Swanston St, Parkville

umsu.unimelb.edu.au/express-yourself/theatre/whats-on

Public Transport

- Catch any Swanston St tram to Stop 1 – Melbourne University tram stop and walk up to the Monash Rd entrance (Gate 4). Walk down Monash Rd; the Arts & Cultural building will be on your left.

Parking

- There are no car parks available directly outside Union House. For details of the public car parks on campus, see the Uni's Parking on Campus webpage (about.unimelb.edu.au/news-resources/campus-services-and-facilities/transport-and-parking/parking-on-campus)
- In the evenings there is often free street parking, but allow extra time to drive around and find a park, and be prepared to walk from your car to the venue. Please note that Grattan Street (between Royal Parade and Leicester Street) and Barry Street (between Pelham Street and Grattan Street) are closed to vehicles for up to five years due to the Metro Tunnel Project.



MALTHOUSE THEATRE, MELBOURNE

113 Sturt St, Southbank
03 9685 5111

malthousetheatre.com.au

Public Transport

- Trams: Trams that stop in front of the Malthouse: 1. Or take any tram down St Kilda Road, get off at Grant Street (Stop 17) and walk for 3 minutes.
- Train: Any train to Flinders Street, then a 12-minute walk to the venue through Melbourne's Arts Precinct.
- Cycling: Ride your bike to the venue and secure it with a rack outside the foyer. Melbourne Bike Share has a station outside the theatre. Helmets can be hired from the IGA on Sturt Street.

Parking

- Limited on-street parking is available on Grant Street, Sturt Street and Dodds Streets. Two disabled parking spaces are just outside The Malthouse entrance on Sturt Street.
- The closest secure car parks are the Arts Centre Melbourne Car Park (enter from Kavanagh Street) and The Australian Ballet Centre Car Park (2 Kavanagh Street).

ACCESSIBILITY

Victorian Opera is committed to producing opera and musical theatre for everyone. We work diligently to ensure our entire audience can enjoy our productions and get the most out of their experience at every point. We offer a wide range of initiatives and resources to provide an accessible experience for our whole audience.

VISION, HEARING AND MOBILITY

- Surtitles or scene descriptors
- Audio description and tactile tours (select performances)
- Assisted listening devices (select venues)
- Relaxed Performance (*Parrwang Lifts the Sky*)
- Wheelchair-accessible car parking and venue access
- Accessible toilet facilities
- Wheelchair and limited mobility seating
- Assistance animals are welcome in all of our venues

TICKETING

- A wide range of prices to suit every budget
- Accessible pricing for Pension and Health Care Card holders, Full-time Students, Seniors, Children, 30 Years and Under, Arts Access Victoria
- Companion Card ticketing
- Complimentary programmes for all performances
- Live and on-demand streaming options

MORE INFORMATION

victorianopera.com.au/access
03 9001 6400

For venue-specific accessibility details
victorianopera.com.au/venues

RELAXED PERFORMANCE IS SUPPORTED BY

The Marian & E.H. Flack Trust
William Angliss Charitable Fund

RELAXED PERFORMANCE

PARRWANG LIFTS THE SKY

Fri 10 May, 1.00 pm

Malthouse, Merlyn Theatre

50 min, no interval

Sung in English and Wadawurrung
Language with scene descriptors

Relaxed Performances are for anyone who would benefit from a more relaxed environment. This can include, but is not limited to, people with autism, sensory sensitivities, Tourette's syndrome, learning disabilities or dementia, as well as people living with anxiety or people who have experienced trauma.

AUDIO DESCRIBED AND TACTILE

TOUR PERFORMANCES

ENGLISH ECCENTRICS

Sat 6 July, 7.30 pm

Union Theatre, The University of Melbourne
(Parkville)

SWEENEY TODD

Fri 20 September, 7.30 pm

Arts Centre Melbourne, Playhouse

SUBSCRIPTIONS 2024

IN-THEATRE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscribe to Season 2024 and receive exclusive benefits, including a 20% discount, a priority booking period, dedicated customer service, true flexibility with free, no hassle exchanges, and on-demand viewing of Digital Access performances included for no additional cost.

There is a price level to suit all budgets, including Adult, Concession, Senior, Child, and 30 Years and Under. The full range of benefits apply to all subscription packages. Subscription savings are based on Single Ticket prices for 2024. Tickets must be purchased as a package in one transaction.

Season 2024 subscription packages are available from Monday 23 October 2023 and subscribers receive priority booking access.

SEASON 2024 SUBSCRIPTION PRODUCTIONS

- *Candide*
- *Parrwang Lifts the Sky*
- *English Eccentrics*
- *La Rondine (The Swallow)*
- *Sweeney Todd*
- *Eucalyptus*

30 YEARS AND UNDER

Our 30 Years and Under audience save up to 70% on full-priced tickets. All tickets in this dedicated subscription package are only \$30 in A, B, C or D-Reserve.

REFUNDS AND EXCHANGES

Victorian Opera is committed to complying with the Live Performance Australia Ticketing Code of Practice. Visit victorianopera.com.au/privacy-policy for more information.

DIGITAL ACCESS SUBSCRIPTIONS

View high quality streams of select Season 2024 performances. Watch when you want, as many times as you want.

Digital access can be purchased as a subscription package or for individual performances.

Performances can be viewed live on the day and/or on-demand for six months from the original date. Performances include:

- *Parrwang Lifts the Sky*
- *Eucalyptus*

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victorianopera.com.au

SUBSCRIBER BENEFITS

BEST PRICING

Buy early to guarantee your savings. All subscription tickets attract a 20% discount compared to single ticket pricing.

PRIORITY TICKETING

Subscribers have first access during the priority period. Book a subscription to guarantee priority treatment. This is the easiest way to secure your preferred seats at the best price for your choice of shows.

FLEXIBILITY AND CONVENIENCE

Buy your tickets in advance; if your plans change, simply choose another date. Subscribers have the exclusive advantage of easy, fee-free ticket exchanges to suit any change in circumstances.

PRICES GUARANTEED

Subscription prices will not change throughout the season. Single Ticket prices may vary.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY DISCOUNT

Share the joy of a Victorian Opera performance with your friends and family. Purchase additional tickets to all shows with a 10% discount.

COMPLIMENTARY DIGITAL ACCESS

Love the show? Watch it again at your convenience. All subscribers receive free on-demand Digital Access viewing for relevant performances purchased as part of their in-theatre subscription (see page 23 for included performances).

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La Cenerentola, 2023

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PRODUCTION	TICKET TYPE	PREMIUM	A	B	C	D	ONE RESERVE
CANDIDE Palais Theatre, St Kilda 8-10 Feb	Adult	\$120	\$96	\$72	\$52	\$35	
	Concession	\$112	\$88	\$64	\$44	\$35	
	Senior	\$116	\$92	\$68	\$48	\$35	
	30yrs & U		\$30	\$30	\$30	\$30	
	Child (up to 14)	\$24	\$24	\$24	\$24	\$24	
PARRWANG LIFTS THE SKY Malthouse, Merlyn Theatre 11-18 May	Adult						\$31
	Concession						\$27
	Senior						\$27
	30yrs & U						\$24
	Child (up to 14)						\$24
ENGLISH ECCENTRICS Union Theatre, University of Melbourne (Parkville) 4-6 Jul	Adult	\$60	\$48	\$44	\$35		
	Concession	\$52	\$40	\$36	\$35		
	Senior	\$56	\$44	\$40	\$35		
	30yrs & U		\$30	\$30	\$30		
	Child (up to 14)	\$24	\$24	\$24	\$24		
LA RONDINE (THE SWALLOW) Palais Theatre, St Kilda 8-10 Aug	Adult	\$144	\$112	\$76	\$52	\$35	
	Concession	\$136	\$104	\$68	\$44	\$35	
	Senior	\$140	\$108	\$72	\$48	\$35	
	30yrs & U		\$30	\$30	\$30	\$30	
	Child (up to 14)	\$24	\$24	\$24	\$24	\$24	
SWEENEY TODD Arts Centre Melbourne, Playhouse 14-21 Sep	Adult	\$140	\$108	\$60	\$35		
	Concession	\$132	\$100	\$52	\$35		
	Senior	\$136	\$104	\$56	\$35		
	30yrs & U		\$30	\$30	\$30		
	Child (up to 14)	\$24	\$24	\$24	\$24		
EUCALYPTUS Palais Theatre, St Kilda 16-19 Oct	Adult	\$100	\$84	\$72	\$52	\$35	
	Concession	\$92	\$76	\$64	\$44	\$35	
	Senior	\$96	\$80	\$68	\$48	\$35	
	30yrs & U		\$30	\$30	\$30	\$30	
	Child (up to 14)	\$24	\$24	\$24	\$24	\$24	

EDUCATION

ACCESS ALL AREAS: LIVESTREAM PROGRAM

Victorian Opera's renowned Access All Areas: Livestream Program returns in 2024, providing Primary School students an exciting backstage pass to the opera.

Four interactive workshops, livestreamed direct to classrooms across Victoria, allow students to meet and hear the opera singers starring in the production, explore the story, discover how the director shapes the action on stage, observe an orchestral rehearsal and learn about the creation of the costumes, sets and lighting designs.

The four-week program concludes with a performance of Deborah Cheetham Frailon's *Parwang Lifts the Sky* in the Merlyn Theatre at Coopers Malthouse – live on stage or available to livestream.

Victorian Opera's Access All Areas: Livestream Program is supported by a downloadable Education Resource that aligns to the Victorian Curriculum Learning Areas of Music and Drama as well as the Literacy, Intercultural and Personal, and Social General Capabilities.

MORE INFORMATION

www.victorianopera.com.au/learning-pathways/education/primary-school

Tim Ryan, Education Manager
03 9012 6659
education@victorianopera.com.au

THIS PROGRAM IS GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY



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The Marian & E.H. Flack Trust **William Angliss Charitable Fund**

Victorian Opera acknowledges the support of the Victorian Department of Education through the Strategic Partnership Program.

SCHOOL PERFORMANCES

PARRWANG LIFTS THE SKY

May

Fri 10

10.30am , 1.00 pm

Mon 13

10.30 am

Tue 14

10.30 am

Wed 15

10.30 am, 1.00 pm

Thur 16

10.30 am, 1.00 pm

Fri 17

10.30 am

MALTHOUSE, MERLYN THEATRE

*This performance is a Relaxed Performance and is ideal for audience members with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Down syndrome and those sensitive to sensory variance.



The Grumpiest Boy in the World, 2023

PATHWAYS

VOYCE / YOUTH OPERA PROGRAM

The Victorian Opera Youth Chorus Ensemble (VOYCE) re-imagines the potential of opera and classical music for aspiring singers. Bringing together like-minded and equally passionate young people, VOYCE rehearses a range of operatic repertoire to develop skills essential to opera chorus roles.

Throughout the school year, participants have access to professional singers, répétiteurs and directors from the performing arts industry who provide educational and performance-based expertise. Members also have the chance to perform in Victorian Opera's Youth Opera, which allows the practical application of skills learnt and strengthens the pathway into the company's newly established VO Emerges Program.

Directed by opera singer, composer and music educator Angus Grant, VOYCE provides weekly training for secondary school and tertiary students between the ages of 13-20.

MORE INFORMATION

victorianopera.com.au/youth

Tim Ryan, Education Manager
03 9012 6659
education@victorianopera.com.au

VO EMERGES PROGRAM

The VO Emerges Program encourages and supports emerging singers, composers, designers and directors with less than 10 years of professional practice in the industry.

This vibrant program allows artists to explore new commissions or reimagine works rarely performed by the major companies. In 2024 we are excited to perform in the newly built Union Theatre at The University of Melbourne.

VICTORIAN OPERA EMERGING

ARTIST OPERA PRIZE

This program is run in conjunction with the VO Emerges Program and enables recipients to work in residence with Victorian Opera for up to a year, providing opportunities to perform in the company's productions and recitals. Recipients also receive private coaching from Victorian Opera's Artistic Director and music staff.

The Opera Prize is awarded to an emerging artist to assist them in developing their operatic career. The 2024 Opera Prize Scholarship is due to be announced in December 2023.

Victorian Opera is grateful to Dr. Michael Stubbs & Malcolm Roberts and the Family of the Late Frederick Davidson AM for their generous support of Victorian Opera's Emerging Artist Opera Prize.



Melbourne, Cheremushki, 2023

PATRONS PLAY THE PRINCIPAL ROLE

Victorian Opera is fortunate to be able to have soloists from the world of opera and musical theatre join us across our year. The discussion around the importance of our audiences, and the connection between the artists on stage and the audience witnessing this extraordinary event, is front and centre of our mind.

Our Patrons play the principal role in supporting the work we do through their commitment in making a donation to Victorian Opera, ensuring we continue to thrive as a company and build upon our reputation as one of Australia’s leading arts organisations.

In 2024 our Patrons’ Engagement Program will focus on delivering another year of surprising and captivating opportunities, where they experience first hand how their investment in Victorian Opera is utilised. The support of Patrons not only helps bring our mainstage season to the stage but our education, youth and special events. Each donation makes a significant impact and ultimately helps to bring opera and music theatre to the stage.

With Patrons playing the principal role, we remain committed to the future of this artform.

Join our Patron family and...

- meet our young singers forging a career in the industry through our Opera Prize project
- listen to new works taking shape in the studio and follow their development through the eyes of the composer and librettist;
- preview the design and hear from the director as they talk through their vision for each production
- get to know how our education and youth programs and Victorian Opera Youth Ambassadors are making an impact in our community
- play a vital role in supporting Victorian Opera and the creative industries in Victoria.

Patrons’ Engagement Program activities are on our website and will also be shared via

our monthly Patrons’ Prelude e-newsletter. By joining our Patron family with an annual, tax-deductible gift of \$500 or above, you will be making a real difference to the vitality, quality and future of opera and music theatre.

Encore Society

Leaving a Gift in your Will is another wonderful way to make a donation that will have a lasting impact. It is a powerful statement of your desire to support the work of Victorian Opera and a practical way to ensure that this company plays a permanent role for the people of Victoria, well into the future. Once you have provided for those closest to you, please consider a Gift to Victorian Opera.

MORE INFORMATION

victorianopera.com.au/patrons-engagement-program

Louise Lemke

Head of Development

PATRONS’ ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM RECEPTIONS

Fri 9 FEB, 6.15 pm	CANDIDE Palais Theatre, St Kilda
Sat 11 MAY, 1 pm	PARRWANG LIFTS THE SKY Malthouse, Merlyn Theatre
Fri 5 JUL, 6.15 pm	ENGLISH ECCENTRICS Union Theatre, University of Melbourne (Parkville)
Sat 10 AUG, 6.15 pm	LA RONDINE (THE SWALLOW) Palais Theatre, St Kilda
Sat 14 SEP, 6.15 pm	SWEENEY TODD Arts Centre Melbourne, Playhouse
Fri 18 OCT, 6.15 pm	EUCALYPTUS Palais Theatre, St Kilda

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Peter Hourigan
Len de Kievit and the late Graeme Bawden
Jane Kunstler
Richard Laslett & Colin Gunther
Gregory J Reinhardt AM
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Secret Admirers (6)

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Idomeneo, 2023

ABOUT US

Victorian Opera is the state opera company of Victoria. Your state company. We make creative, accessible and relevant work for everyone while acknowledging the traditions and evolving our artform.

Recognised for our unique contribution to the country's operatic landscape, Victorian Opera joined the National Performing Arts Partnership Framework in 2021. Alongside other companies, Victorian Opera holds its rightful position in the national performing arts arena.

Commitment to the development and presentation of new Australian opera and musical theatre is forefront to our mission. We identify relative and topical material, commission and workshop new scores and librettos, and ultimately produce new productions. Victorian Opera premieres at least one new Australian opera or music theatre work each year, and have commissioned 36 new works since the company's formation.

The next generation of talent is developed from the ground up through our Emerging Artists Programs – The Victorian Opera Youth Chorus Ensemble (VOYCE), our VO Emerges project and our Emerging Artists Opera Prize scholarship. Creating future pathways for artists, artisans and technicians has become a driving focus for our organisation.

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

We embrace the new normal and continue to perform in exceptional theatres and concert halls to give you the best and safest experience. Join us to experience the human voice, the indefinable power of music and storytelling at its finest.

And please, come as you are.



Elizabeth Hill-Cooper
Victorian Opera CEO

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31 Victoria Street

Melbourne VIC 3000

Telephone 03 9001 6400

info@victorianopera.com.au

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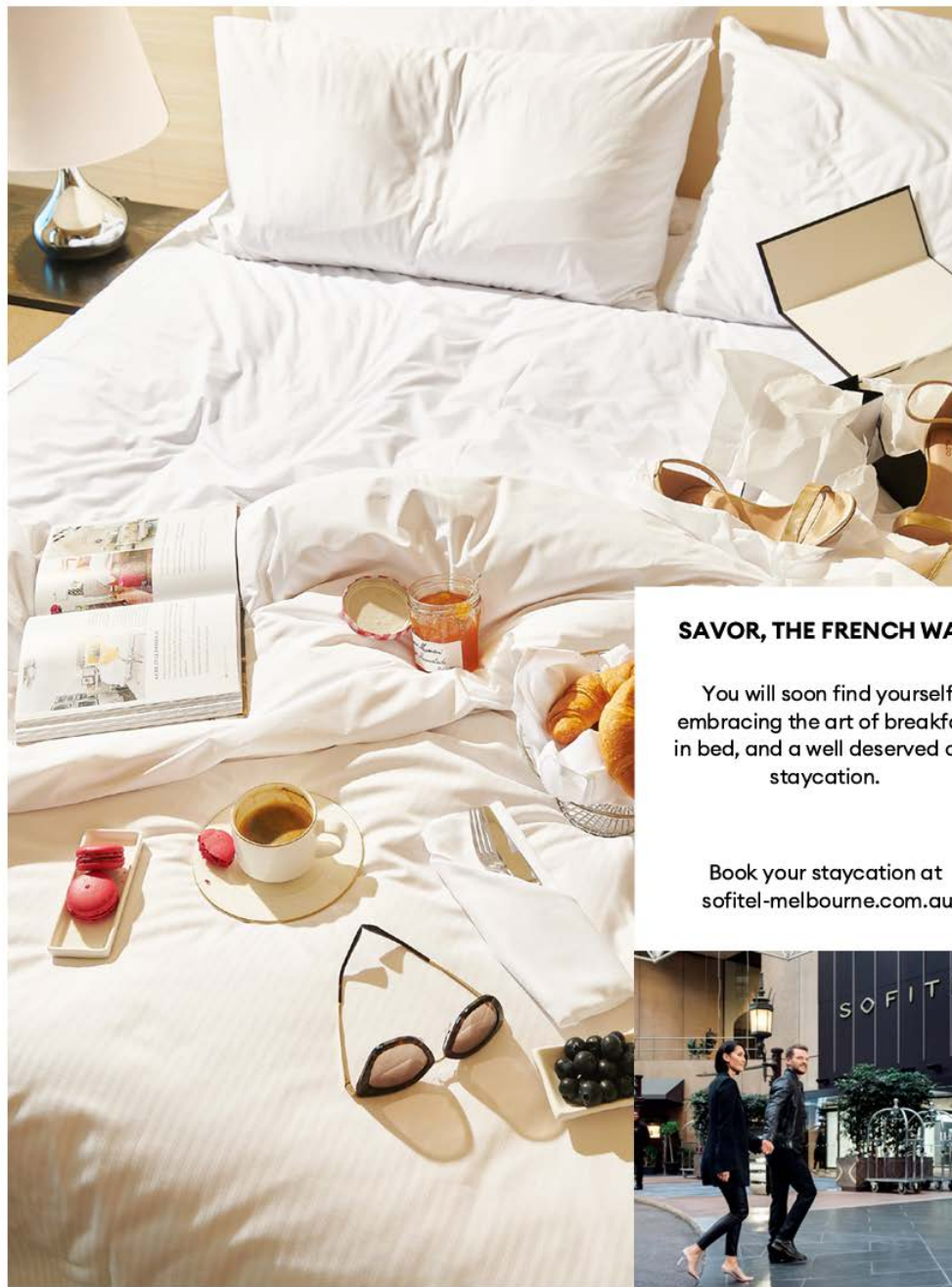
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