

VICTORIAN
OPERA

SEASON 2025

OUR SEASON 2025

1 – 6 FEBRUARY

Follies

4 – 5 APRIL

Mansfield Park

8 – 23 MAY

The Lyrebird's Voice

12 – 16 AUGUST

Abduction

14 – 16 OCTOBER

Katya Kabanova

7 – 22 NOVEMBER

Boojum!

SPECIAL EVENTS

Ballarat Opera Festival

Victorian Opera respectfully acknowledges the
Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia.
We recognise their continuing connection to lands,
waterways and communities through song,
dance and storytelling.

We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander people and their Elders past and present.

Always was, always will be.

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Step through the door, anything can happen. That is the invitation we at Victorian Opera offer in 2025.

Victorian Opera has a proud tradition of pushing the envelope when it comes to programming. We have no complete reliance on the Top 10 operas, we always reinterpret the great operatic canon and we mix it up with pieces out of left field.

We are serious about our music making and we want to give audiences in Melbourne the chance to discover new operas, all built around the best Australian artists available. The offerings in the 2025 programme were all major revelations to me when I first heard them, and their sheer power blew me away. So, here's to more revelations for more people this year.

Our aim is for audiences to ask themselves: "How did I live without knowing this piece existed?"

Continuing Victorian Opera's commitment to re-examine the great classics of music theatre, we are proud to present one of Stephen Sondheim's most iconic works: the 1971 masterpiece *Follies*. The works of Sondheim have

made up a large part of recent Victorian Opera seasons and we are now thrilled to add the holy grail of Sondheim's achievements.

Follies has never been presented in a full-scale production in Australia. Some special concert versions live in the distant memory of many musical theatre aficionados but, of all of Sondheim's works, this is the most elusive and, therefore, on the bucket list of many theatregoers.

Follies blends the past and present. It brilliantly showcases living legends, current music theatre stars and a new generation of artists.

The set and costume of *Follies* will be designed by Tony Award-winner Roger Kirk, a master of theatrical illusion, with lighting by Gavan Swift and choreography by Yvette Lee. They'll be joined by our own Phoebe Briggs conducting Orchestra Victoria.

We look forward to bringing the *Follies* extravaganza to life, creating the faded grandeur of a soon-to-be-demolished theatre, as well as glitz, glamour and artifice. Don't miss this rare opportunity to see a legendary show.

In April, we are proud to be presenting Jonathan Dove's *Mansfield Park*, our first opera in the newly refurbished Her Majesty's Theatre Ballarat.

This intimate opera beautifully captures the essence of Jane Austen's beloved novel, merging the themes of love, societal expectations and personal growth with the added allure of an historical setting. Enjoy the hidden world of the Regency drawing room as we dive into this timeless tale of manners, marriage and money.

Each year we relish the challenge of taking the magic of opera to students from diverse backgrounds. In 2025, we will present *The Lyrebird's Voice*, a new Australian work composed by Peter Rutherford with a libretto by Jayde Kirchert. *The Lyrebird's Voice* explores themes of belonging and welcoming through the medium of the Australian bush.

We will present this powerful story in three theatres in the outer suburban ring of Melbourne, enabling new audiences to experience a piece that celebrates finding one's voice.

In August, we are delighted to present a fresh take on *The*



Abduction from the Seraglio, Mozart's early exploration of the perils facing young love. It is a virtuosic score and never fails to delight an audience with its fresh and energetic brilliance. The drama's fundamental tension of East versus West could not be more pertinent. Mozart's genius chronicles this in a sublime musical way.

Mozart's glorious score will be conducted by Chad Kelly and sung in German with spoken dialogue in English, in a new translation by director and librettist Constantine Costi.

In October, we are proud to present one of the great operas of the 20th Century, *Katya Kabanova*, by one of the greatest operatic composers of all time: Leoš Janáček. Never-before-seen in Melbourne, Janáček's searing, powerful work is as devastating as it is beautiful. It is a riveting story with lush, romantic music inspired by Slavic folk songs.

Katya Kabanova is conducted by Australian/British conductor and Janáček specialist, Finnegan Downie Dear. The orchestral scale of this work is monumental, and we are delighted to partner with the Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM), providing an opportunity for young musicians to deliver this glorious score. Young Australian director Heather Fairbairn makes her VO debut, leading an extraordinary creative team.

This is grand opera on an intimate scale.

As our final offering for the year, Horti Hall, our home, will be the setting for our VO Emerges opera: the quirky Australian Opera *Boojum!* by Martin and Peter Wesley-Smith.

Not quite an opera, not quite a musical comedy, *Boojum!* is an irresistible, contemporary snark hunt. Based on Lewis Carroll's legendary poem

The Hunting of the Snark, the piece is nothing short of a deadly serious piece of fun. This is the perfect work to showcase the rising stars of opera in Melbourne.

So please, step through our door in 2025 to find the remarkable, the innovative, the diverse and the extraordinary. Each and every production is a revelation and a celebration.

We'll see you at the opera.

Stuart Maunder AM
Artistic Director,
Victorian Opera

Music & Lyrics **STEPHEN SONDHEIM** | Book **JAMES GOLDMAN**

FOLLIES

Musical Director
PHOEBE BRIGGS

Director
STUART MAUNDER

MUSICAL

Australia's first ever fully staged production of Stephen Sondheim's most glamorous musical.

In a run-down theatre scheduled for demolition, former chorus girls reunite to honour their performances there during the interwar years. The theatre is ramshackle and the harshness of age has tarnished the rosy tint of their nostalgia. But as the women remember those glamorous years, the faded theatre is propelled back through time and transforms into its former grandeur. Sparkling ghosts of their youth perform old numbers, and the women's unfinished business soon becomes clear.

Join us as we enter Stephen Sondheim's world of 1971 Broadway and experience the iconic, rallying cry of "I'm still here!" filling St Kilda's Palais Theatre. Sondheim's score is a loving tribute to show music from the 1920s, '30s and '40s, while also turning old ideas about musical theatre on its head.

This performance features both Australian musical theatre royalty and emerging stars, with Tony Award-Winning designer Roger Kirk creating the exquisite set and costumes.

CREATIVE TEAM

Musical Director
Phoebe Briggs

Director
Stuart Maunder

Set & Costume Designer
Roger Kirk

Choreographer
Yvette Lee

Lighting Designer
Gavan Swift

Sound Designer
Samuel Moxham

Sally Durant Plummer
Antoinette Halloran

Phyllis Rogers Stone
Marina Prior

Benjamin Stone
Adam Murphy

Buddy Plummer
Alexander Lewis

Carlotta Campion
Geraldine Turner

Hattie Walker
Geraldene Morrow

Stella Deems
Rhonda Burchmore

Emily Whitman
Colette Mann

Solange La Fitte
Evelyne Krape

Heidi Schiller
Merlyn Quaife

Roscoe
Stephen Smith

with Orchestra
Victoria

CAST

Book by
James Goldman

Music and Lyrics by
Stephen Sondheim

Produced originally by **HAROLD PRINCE**

Orchestrations by **Jonathan Tunick**

By special arrangement with Cameron Mackintosh

Licensed exclusively by Music Theatre International (Australasia)

FEBRUARY
Sat 1, 7.30 pm
Tue 4, 7.30 pm
Wed 5, 7.30 pm
Thu 6, 7.30 pm

PALAIS THEATRE, ST KILDA
2 h 15 m, plus interval
Sung in English
In-Theatre Tickets
\$39-\$180

Subscribe and save 20%
See p. 31 for more details

Composed by JONATHAN DOVE
Libretto by ALASDAIR MIDDLETON

MANSFIELD PARK

Conductor
PHOEBE BRIGGS

Director
STUART MAUNDER

CHAMBER OPERA

Composed by Jonathon Dove
Libretto by Alasdair Middleton
Adapted from the novel by Jane Austen

Intimate, Regency-era performances of marriage, manners and money.

Published in 1814, Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park* tells the story of Fanny Price who, as a girl, was sent from her impoverished family to live with her wealthy relatives in their opulent manor. As a young woman of marrying age, Fanny must navigate her new social environment, including the romantic entanglements and moral dilemmas of her cousins.

Jonathan Dove's musical adaptation of *Mansfield Park* invites guests to be a fly on the wall in Jane Austen's world of family drama, marriage negotiations, class and flirtation. Intimate performances will be held in the lavish rooms of historic homes such as Ripponlea and Werribee Mansion, accompanied by four hands on a grand piano. Another performance will be held in the iconic Her Majesty's Theatre Ballarat, with a full orchestral score.

Featuring some of Australia's finest performers, this production will sparkle with style, wit, and Georgian decorum.

CREATIVE TEAM

Conductor
Phoebe Briggs

Director
Stuart Maunder

Set and Costume Designer
Louisa Fitzgerald

Lighting Designer
Robert Brown

with Victorian Opera
Chamber Orchestra

APRIL

Fri 4, 7.30 pm
Sat 5, 2.00 pm

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, BALLARAT

1 h 45 m, including
interval

Sung in English

In-Theatre Tickets
\$39-\$90

Subscribe and save 20%
See p. 31 for more details

THE LYREBIRD'S VOICE

Libretto & Lyrics by JAYDE KIRCHERT
Additional Music by PETER RUTHERFORD

Conductor
CARLOS DEL CUETO

Director
ELIZABETH HILL-COOPER

FAMILY SHOW

NEW WORK

A story developed by Peter Rutherford and six youth participants of the New Work Opera Studio 2023: Asmira Adams, Xavier Grindlay, Alexis King, Agnieszka Markwell, Amelia Mason and Anushka Tiwari

*Libretto & Lyrics by Jayde Kirchert
Additional Music by Peter Rutherford*

A family-friendly opera about the power of your voice.

Have you ever heard a lyrebird's call? You may have, but mistaken it for something else – these ornate birds are expert copycats, mimicking all sorts from kookaburras to camera shutters.

In this family-friendly opera, one trickster lyrebird goes a step too far and gets in trouble with their friends in the flock. The other birds banish the lyrebird and curse them: never again will the lyrebird be able to use their own voice. From now on, it's mimicry only.

Alone in the bush, the lyrebird meets a quirky assortment of Australian animals, where they discover the power of being different. With performances in the outer suburban ring of Melbourne, audiences will meet beetles, a wombat, a kangaroo, a ringtail possum, a jittery emu, all manner of native birds, and a cunning cat.

This sweet story was developed by Peter Rutherford and six youth participants of the New Work Opera Studio 2023. Told with colour, Australian spirit and a big dose of humour, this opera imparts important lessons on identity and the ways in which we use our voice.

CREATIVE TEAM

Conductor
Carlos del Cueto

Director
Elizabeth Hill-Cooper

Designer
Truscott Price Recipient, 2025

with Victorian Opera
Chamber Orchestra

MAY

Thu 8, 6.30 pm
Sat 10, 2.00 pm

THE ROUND NUNAWADING

Wed 14, 6.30 pm
Fri 16, 6.30 pm

DAREBIN ARTS CENTRE

Wed 21, 6.30 pm
Fri 23, 6.30 pm

FRANKSTON ARTS CENTRE

Duration TBC

Sung in English

In-Theatre Tickets

\$42

Digital Access \$30

GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY



IN ASSOCIATION WITH
Melbourne Conservatorium
of Music, University of
Melbourne

GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY
Jane Hemstritch OA

RELAXED PERFORMANCE
IS SUPPORTED BY

Marian & E H Flack Trust
William Angliss Charitable Trust

Composed by WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART | Libretto by GOTTLIEB STEPHANIE

ABDUCTION

Conducted by
CHAD KELLY

Directed and text reimagined by
CONSTANTINE COSTI

FULLY-STAGED OPERA

Composed by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Libretto by Gottlieb Stephanie with reimagined text from Constantine Costi

Based on Christoph Friedrich Bretzner's 'Belmont und Constanze, oder Die Entführung aus dem Serail'

Almost 250 years after its debut in Vienna, Mozart's masterpiece remains as thrilling as ever.

The Abduction from the Seraglio is the epitome of Mozart's musical genius. With bold, contemporary staging and updated libretto, Victorian Opera is reimagining this opera for modern audiences.

The darkly comic opera tells the story of Konstanze and Blonde, who are kidnapped by the mysterious Pasha Selim. He holds them captive and falls desperately in love with Konstanze.

Konstanze's fiancé Belmonte attempts a daring rescue with the help from his trusted right-hand man Pedrillo, Blonde's sweetheart. But their efforts are thwarted by Pasha Selim's villainous offside Osmin.

Weaved between the drama of heroism and suffering are moving moments of unrequited love, unshakeable loyalty, and even a few laughs. Mozart's score is rich with feeling, nuance and breathless energy. It is a historic masterpiece of theatre that everyone should see at least once, if they have the chance.

CREATIVE TEAM

Conductor

Chad Kelly

Director

Constantine Costi

Set Designer

TBC

Costume Designer

TBC

Lighting Designer

Paul Jackson

CAST

Belmonte

Kyle Steggall

Pedrillo

Douglas Kelly

Osmin

Luke Stoker

Blonde

Katherine Allen

Konstanze

Cleo Lee-McGowan

with Orchestra Victoria

AUGUST

Tue 12, 7.30 pm

Thu 14, 7.30 pm

Sat 16, 7.30 pm

PALAIS THEATRE, ST KILDA

2 h, 50 m, including interval

Sung in German with
English surtitles.

In-Theatre Tickets
\$39-\$170

Digital Access \$30

Subscribe and save 20%

See p. 31 for more details

GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY



Composer LEOŠ JANÁČEK | Librettist VINCENC ČERVINKA

KATYA KABANOVA

Conductor
FINNEGAN DOWNIE DEAR

Director
HEATHER FAIRBURN

FULLY-STAGED OPERA

20TH CENTURY OPERA

Composer and librettist Leoš Janáček
Based on 'The Storm' by Alexander Ostrovsky

This is opera at its most raw.

In a provincial town, Katya's dull, loveless life is made worse by her tyrannical mother-in-law, Kabanicha. She longs for freedom and, when her husband leaves on business, she is swept into a brief but passionate romance with an outsider, Boris, who has loved Katya from afar. When her husband returns, she finds herself tormented by her guilty conscience and the pressures of society.

Katya Kabanova is a turbulent love story by Czech composer Leoš Janáček that does not shy away from raw, human feeling. Anguish, resolve, guilt and love are put on full, inescapable display via impressive audio-visual effects and powerful performances from the cast.

Janáček's score is famously lyrical. Inspired by Slavic folk songs, the score captures beauty and tragedy in equal measures and will remain with you long after the curtain has fallen.

CREATIVE TEAM

Conductor
Finnegan Downie Dear

Director
Heather Fairburn

Set and Costume Designer
Savanna Wegman

Lighting Designer
Niklas Pajanti

Video Designer
Robert Brown

Assistant Director
Ben Sheen

CAST

Boris Grigorjevič
Alexander Lewis

**Marfa Ignatěvna Kabanová
(Kabanicha)**
Antoinette Halloran

Tichon Ivanyč Kabanov
Michael Petruccelli

Katya (Katerina)
Desiree Frahn

Váňa Kudrjaš
Douglas Kelly

Varvara
Emily Edmonds

Dikoj
Adrian Tamburini

with ANAM
(Australian National
Academy of Music)

PERFORMANCE PARTNER

ANAM
AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL
ACADEMY OF MUSIC

OCTOBER

Tue 14, 7.30 pm
Thu 16, 7.30 pm

PALAIS THEATRE, ST KILDA

2 h, 15 m, including interval

Sung in Czech with
English surtitles

In-Theatre Tickets
\$39-\$170

Subscribe and save 20%
See p. 31 for more details

Composed by MARTIN WESLEY-SMITH | Libretto by PETER WESLEY-SMITH

BOOJUM!

Conductor
WARWICK STENGÅRDS

Director
ELIZABETH HILL-COOPER

VO EMERGES

Composed by Martin Wesley-Smith
Libretto by Peter Wesley-Smith
Based on Lewis Carroll's 'The Hunting of the Snark'

"But oh, beamish nephew, beware of the day; If your Snark be a Boojum! For then; You will softly and suddenly vanish away" - Lewis Carroll: *The Hunting of the Snark*

With dark twists and humorous turns, *Boojum!* blends the much-loved tale of *Alice in Wonderland* with Lewis Carroll's nonsensical poem *The Hunting of the Snark*.

Meanwhile, it provides an imagined insight into the writer and the sensational world he created. *Boojum!* will transport you into his psyche as he grapples with his dual identities: the Reverend Charles Dodgson, and his pen name Lewis Carroll, the beloved children's author. It will introduce you to an array of characters from both these worlds. It follows a young Alice as she meets folk from Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland* series, and it examines the relationship between Dodgson and the real-life inspiration for Alice, Alice Liddell.

Sitting somewhere between opera and musical comedy, *Boojum!* will be performed as part of our VO Emerges program.

And what is a Snark? What is a Boojum? Well, that's up to you.

CREATIVE TEAM

Conductor
Warwick Stengårds

Director
Elizabeth Hill-Cooper

Set and Costume Designer
TBC

CAST

Featuring David Hobson in the roles of Lewis Carroll and Rev. Charles Dodgson.

With emerging artists.

**with Victorian Opera
Chamber Orchestra**

NOVEMBER

Fri 7, 7.30 pm
Sat 8, 7.30 pm
Fri 14, 7.30 pm
Sat 15, 7.30 pm
Fri 21, 7.30 pm
Sat 22, 7.30 pm

HORTI HALL, HEMSTRITCH STUDIO

1 h 40 m, no interval
Sung in English

**In-Theatre Tickets
\$65**

Subscribe and save 20%
See p. 31 for more details

GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY



EMERGING ARTIST OPERA PRIZE
SUPPORTED BY

Mary Davidson & the family of
the late Frederick R Davidson AM
Joy Selby-Smith

Dr Michael Stubbs &
Malcolm Roberts

BALLARAT OPERA FESTIVAL

SPECIAL EVENTS

For booking details, visit victorianopera.com.au

Chamber Opera

MANSFIELD PARK

APRIL

Fri 4, 7.30 pm

Sat 5, 2.00 pm

In an exclusive offering for Ballarat, Jonathan Dove's *Mansfield Park* will be brought to life in the iconic Her Majesty's Theatre.

The story, based on Jane Austen's beloved 1814 novel, centres on Fanny Price as she manages family dynamics of marriage, money, flirtation and, ultimately, moral dilemmas. The performances of this Regency-era production will be accompanied by the full orchestral score, and fully staged with some of Australia's finest opera singers. Don't miss out – *Mansfield Park* will not be seen anywhere else at this scale.

Ballarat Arts Foundation Fundraiser

CELEBRATION IN SONG

Date TBC

Ballarat Opera Festival Recital

Victorian Opera's Emerging Opera Prize winners will feature in an intimate performance of operatic favourites and musical theatre classics.

Celebrating the essential work of Ballarat Arts Foundation, this recital will help raise funds to sponsor creative endeavours in Ballarat. Join us for our *Celebration in Song*, and delight in the talents and breathtaking range of opera's upcoming stars.

Community Event

THE BIG SING

NOVEMBER

Sun 30, 2.00 pm

Now in its third year, *The Big Sing* has become a hallmark of Ballarat's event calendar.

This popular community event encourages the audience to sing along with featured artists and local performers. Held in partnership with local arts organisations, the concert will showcase musical theatre favourites, renowned opera choruses, arias and duets. Join in and find your inner voice.

PRESENTING PARTNER



EMERGING ARTIST OPERA PRIZE
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the late Frederick R Davidson AM

Joy Selby-Smith

Dr Michael Stubbs &
Malcolm Roberts

CALENDAR

Book your tickets online, by phone, or by post.

For subscription pricing see p. 31.

FOLLIES

Palais Theatre, St Kilda

In-Theatre Tickets \$39-\$180

Sat 1 FEBRUARY	7.30 pm	
Tue 4 FEBRUARY	7.30 pm	
Wed 5 FEBRUARY	7.30 pm	
Thu 6 FEBRUARY	7.30 pm	

THE LYREBIRD'S VOICE

The Round, Nunawading (May 8 – 10)

Darebin Arts Centre (May 14 – 16)

Frankston Arts Centre (May 21 – 23)

In-Theatre Tickets \$42

Digital Access \$30

Thu 8 MAY	6.30 pm	
Fri 9 MAY	1.00 pm	
Sat 10 MAY	2.00 pm	
Wed 14 MAY	6.30 pm	
Fri 16 MAY	6.30 pm	
Wed 21 MAY	6.30 pm	
Fri 23 MAY	6.30 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.

MANSFIELD PARK

Her Majesty's Theatre, Ballarat

In-Theatre Tickets \$39-\$90

Fri 4 APRIL	7.30 pm	
Sat 5 APRIL	2.00 pm	

ABDUCTION

Palais Theatre, St Kilda

In-Theatre Tickets \$39-\$170

Digital Access \$30

Tue 12 AUGUST	7.30 pm	
Thu 14 AUGUST	7.30 pm	 
Sat 16 AUGUST	7.30 pm	

 Patrons' Pre-Show Reception

 Livestream Available

 Relaxed Performance

 World Premiere

KATYA KABANOVA

Palais Theatre, St Kilda

In-Theatre Tickets \$39-\$170

Tue 14 OCTOBER	7.30 pm	
Thu 16 OCTOBER	7.30 pm	

BOOJUM!

Horti Hall, Hemstitch Studio

In-Theatre Tickets \$65

Fri 7 NOVEMBER	7.30 pm	
Sat 8 NOVEMBER	7.30 pm	
Fri 14 NOVEMBER	7.30 pm	
Sat 15 NOVEMBER	7.30 pm	
Fri 21 NOVEMBER	7.30 pm	
Sat 22 NOVEMBER	7.30 pm	

BOOKING DETAILS

Concessions apply, full details p. 31.

Subscriptions

In-theatre and Digital Access

1300 822 849

victorianopera.com.au/subscriptions

Single Tickets

Palais / Ticketmaster

03 8537 7677 (Palais) | ticketmaster.com.au

Her Majesty's Ballarat

03 5333 5888 | hermaj.com

Horti Hall | Hemstitch Studio

03 9001 6400 | victorianopera.com.au

The Round

03 9262 6555 | www.theround.com.au

Darebin Arts Centre

03 8470 8280 | arts.darebin.vic.gov.au

Frankston Arts Centre

03 9784 1060 | artscentre.frankston.vic.gov.au

Digital Access

03 9001 6400

victorianopera.com.au/digital-access

KEY DATES

Monday 7 October

2025 Subscriptions on sale priority period

Monday 7 October

Single Tickets on sale – *Follies*

Monday 28 October

Single Tickets on sale – All productions

VENUES



PALAIS THEATRE

Lower Esplanade, St Kilda 3182
03 8537 7677
palais theatre.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.



HORTI HALL – HEMSTRITCH STUDIO

31 Victoria St, Melbourne 3000
03 9001 6400 (Option 1)
victorianopera.com.au

Public Transport

- Train: Melbourne Central Station is the most convenient train station near Horti Hall (10-minute walk).
- Tram: Trams that run along Swanston Street and La Trobe Street are a short walk from the venue.

Parking

- There are several parking options near Horti Hall, including metered street parking and paid car parks.
- Patrons are responsible for checking ticket machines at time of the parking ticket purchase. Don't forget to check closing times of undercover car parks.



HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, BALLARAT

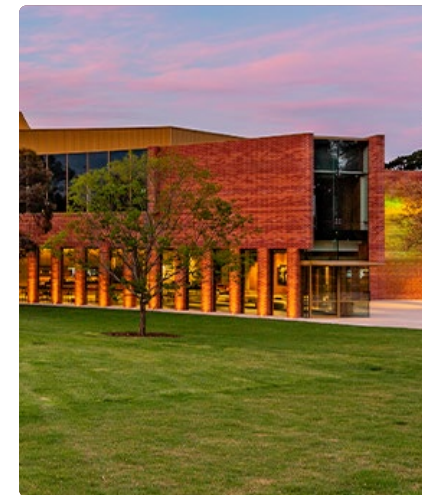
17 Lydiard St S, Ballarat Central 3350
03 5333 5888
hermaj.com

Public Transport

- Train: Her Majesty's Theatre is within walking distance of Ballarat Railway Station.

Parking

- Parking at Her Majesty's is mostly on street in Lydiard Street, Dana Street, Sturt Street and Armstrong Street.
- There is some parking available in Lewis Street and Albert Street to the rear of the building.



THE ROUND

379–399 Whitehorse Rd, Nunawading 3131
03 9262 6555 (Option 1)
theround.com.au

Public Transport

- Train: There are nearby train stations on the Belgrave and Lilydale line. The closest train station is Nunawading Station, which is approximately 1km or a 10-minute walk from The Round.
- Alternatively, you can take a taxi, ride-sharing service, or catch a connecting bus.
- Bus: The McCulloch St/Whitehorse Rd stop on the 901 route is the closest bus station to The Round. It is only a short walk from the bus stop to venue. The nearby Nunawading Station can also be accessed by the 273, 902 and 735 route.

Parking

- The Round offers convenient and free on-site parking facilities, ensuring easy access for all ticket holders.
- The spacious car parks are a short stroll from the main entrance.



DAREBIN ARTS CENTRE

401 Bell St, Preston 3072
03 8470 8280 (Option 1)
arts.darebin.vic.gov.au

Bicycle or Walking

- Darebin Arts Centre is conveniently located along the St Georges Road shared path, which is ideal for cycling or walking.

Public Transport

- Train: Take the Mernda Line to Bell Station, and it's a five-minute walk from there.
- Tram: The Route 11 (get off at stop 40) and Route 86 (get off at stop 45) are both within a 10-minute walk.
- Bus: Routes 513 and 903 are a two-minute walk to the venue from the corner of Bell Street and St Georges Road.

Parking

- Darebin Arts Centre's car park is accessible from Peter Street and St Georges Road. It has 136 unrestricted parking spaces, including four accessible spaces.
- There is a service lane directly in front of the main foyer entrance for taxis and ride-share to pull up for passengers to alight.



FRANKSTON ARTS CENTRE

27-37 Davey Street, Frankston 3199
03 9784 1060
artscentre.frankston.vic.gov.au

Public Transport

- Train: Frankston Arts Centre is a six-minute walk from the Frankston Train Station (Frankston Line).
- Bus: Take you directly to the Frankston Arts Centre's Davey Street entrance (Bus Routes 775, 776, 782, 783).

Parking

- Frankston Arts Centre all day, undercover car park is easy to access and centrally located near Bayside.

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.



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 (select performances)
- Assisted listening devices (select venues)
- Relaxed performance (*The Lyrebird's Voice*)
- Wheelchair-accessible car parking and venue access
- Accessible toilet facilities
- Wheelchair and limited mobility seating
- Assistance animals are welcome in most 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/your-visit/accessibility
03 9001 6400 (Option 1)

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

THE LYREBIRD'S VOICE

Fri 9 May, 1.00 pm

The Round, Nunawading

School Performance 50 min, no interval
Sung in English 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

For the most up-to-date information, visit victorianopera.com.au/your-visit/accessibility.

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Subscription savings are based on Single Ticket prices for 2025. Tickets must be purchased as a package in one transaction.

Season 2025 subscription packages are available from Monday 7 October and subscribers receive priority booking access.

SEASON 2025 SUBSCRIPTION PRODUCTIONS

- *Follies*
- *Mansfield Park (Ballarat)*
- *Abduction*
- *Katya Kabanova*
- *Boojum!*

Additionally, all subscribers will be able to purchase tickets to our Family Show, *The Lyrebird's Voice*, at the subscription price directly from the venue at your preferred location (Nunawading, Darebin, Frankston).

CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE

2025 Concessions include: Pension and Health Care Card holders, full-time Students, and MEAA members. Other discount prices available: Senior, 30 Years and Under, and Child (14 years and under) for select performances. Companion Card ticketing available.

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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.

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

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- *The Lyrebird's Voice*
- *Abduction*

For more information on digital access, visit victorianopera.com.au/digital.

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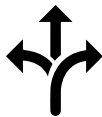
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Buy early to lock your savings. Subscription tickets attract a 20% saving compared to Single Ticket pricing. Subscribers will also receive dedicated pricing for Season 2025 special events.



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For subscription assistance, call 1300 822 849 to speak to our Subscriptions ticketing team (Monday to Friday, 10.00 am – 4.30 pm) or email subscriptions@victorianopera.com.au.

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Season 2025 subscriptions attract no additional processing fee. A delivery fee may apply depending on the mode of delivery selected.

Purchasing a subscription for more than one person

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Provide the contact details for each person when booking, including relevant Concession or Seniors card numbers and dates of birth. Indicate whether your co-subscribers would like to opt-in to our mailing list. Due to privacy legislation, the confirmation of booking and tickets will be sent to the Primary Subscriber only for each booking.

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English Eccentrics, 2024

SUBSCRIPTION PRICING

Buy two or more shows to save 20%. Digital Access subscriptions are available for \$24 per show.
Pricing displayed below is for full-priced subscription tickets. Subscription discounts are calculated on full-priced Single Tickets.

2025 Concessions include: Pension and Health Care Card holders, full-time Students, and MEAA members. **Other discount prices available:** Other discount prices available: Senior, 30 Years and Under, and Child (14 years and under*) for select performances. Companion Card ticketing available.

PRODUCTION	TICKET TYPE	PREMIUM	A	B	C	D	ONE RESERVE
FOLLIES Palais Theatre, St Kilda 1-6 Feb	Adult	\$144	\$124	\$79	\$52	\$35	
	Concession	\$136	\$116	\$71	\$44	\$35	
	Senior	\$140	\$120	\$75	\$48	\$35	
	30yrs & U		\$30	\$30	\$30	\$30	
	Child (up to 14)	\$24	\$24	\$24	\$24	\$24	
MANSFIELD PARK Her Majesty's Theatre, Ballarat 4-5 April	Adult		\$72	\$52	\$35		
	Concession		\$64	\$44	\$35		
	Senior		\$68	\$48	\$35		
	30yrs & U		\$30	\$30	\$35		
	Child (up to 14)		\$24	\$24	\$24		
THE LYREBIRD'S VOICE The Round, Darebin Arts Centre, Frankston Arts Centre 8-23 May	Adult						\$33
	Concession						\$28
	Senior						\$29
	30yrs & U						\$24
	Child (up to 14)						\$22
ABDUCTION Palais Theatre, St Kilda 12-16 Aug	Adult	\$136	\$112	\$79	\$52	\$35	
	Concession	\$128	\$104	\$71	\$44	\$35	
	Senior	\$132	\$108	\$75	\$48	\$35	
	30yrs & U		\$30	\$30	\$30	\$30	
	Child (up to 14)	\$24	\$24	\$24	\$24	\$24	
KATYA KABANOVA Palais Theatre, St Kilda 14-16 Oct	Adult	\$136	\$112	\$79	\$52	\$35	
	Concession	\$128	\$104	\$71	\$44	\$35	
	Senior	\$132	\$108	\$75	\$48	\$35	
	30yrs & U		\$30	\$30	\$30	\$30	
	Child (up to 14)	\$24	\$24	\$24	\$24	\$24	
BOOJUM! Horti Hall, Hemstrich Studio 7-22 Nov	Adult						\$52
	Concession						\$44
	Senior						\$48
	30yrs & U						\$30
	Child (up to 14)						\$24

* Accompanied by an adult ticket holder over 18.

EDUCATION

ACCESS ALL AREAS: LIVESTREAM PROGRAM

Victorian Opera's renowned Access All Areas: Livestream Program returns in 2025, 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 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 *The Lyrebird's Voice* – a new work created by Peter Rutherford and Jayde Kirchert via New Work Opera Studio. Performances and workshops will take place at The Round (Nunawading), Frankston Arts Centre and Darebin Arts Centre – 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

Education Team

03 9012 6659
education@victorianopera.com.au

THIS PROGRAM IS GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY



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

SCHOOL PERFORMANCES

THE LYREBIRD'S VOICE

May

Fri 9

10.30am, 1.00 pm 

THE ROUND (NUNAWADING)

Thu 15

10.30 am, 1.00 pm

DAREBIN ARTS CENTRE

Thu 22

10.30 am , 1.00 pm

FRANKSTON ARTS CENTRE

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

 Livestreamed performance.



Parrwang Lifts the Sky, 2024

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, 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/voyce

Education Team

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.

An annual dedicated production is programmed to allow emerging practitioners to explore their artform. These practitioners work with experts and mentors before presenting their work to audiences.

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 forms a major component of this prize and is awarded to an emerging artist to assist them in developing their operatic career. The winner of the Opera Prize is due to be announced in December 2024.

Victorian Opera is grateful to Dr. Michael Stubbs & Malcolm Roberts, Mary Davidson & the Family of the Late Frederick R Davidson AM, and Joy Selby-Smith for their generous support of Victorian Opera's Emerging Artist Opera Prize and the VO Emerges Program.



English Eccentrics, 2024

JOIN OUR CHORUS OF PATRONS

Victorian Opera greatly values the generosity of our Chorus of Patrons. Each year we welcome new members into our ever-growing circle of Patrons through our dynamic Patrons' Engagement Program.

As Victoria's state opera company and a key player in the National Performing Arts Partnership Framework, we recognise that Patrons are pivotal to our continued growth and ensure our future success. By making an annual contribution at a membership level of their choosing, Patrons join an exclusive network of likeminded supporters and gain access to unique opportunities within our Patrons' Engagement Program.

In 2025 we are thrilled to offer our Patrons even more unique activities and events, providing a greater variety of bespoke and customised opportunities.

The 2025 Patrons' Engagement Program will include:

REHEARSAL SERIES

Enjoy an exclusive sneak peek into our rehearsal process at Horti Hall, Victorian Opera's home and creative hub. Experience firsthand how a production comes to life, from the early stages of rehearsal to the grand opening night. This new series allows Patrons to see our talented artists and technicians in action, and to experience firsthand how their support fuels our work.

OPERA PRIZE WINNER RECITALS

Welcome the two new recipients of the Dr Michael Stubbs & Malcolm Roberts Opera Prize and the Mary Davidson & the family of the late Frederick R Davidson AM Opera Prize, generously supported by Joy Selby-Smith. Each winner will perform an intimate recital exclusively for Patrons at Horti Hall.

EDUCATION AND YOUTH PROGRAMS

Discover how our Education and VO Emerges Programs are nurturing the next generation of artists. Patrons gain an insight into the impact of their support in the developing careers of artists, creatives and theatre technicians.

PATRONS NIGHT

Patrons holding tickets to our productions may attend a special Patrons' evening before or after a performance. This function provides the opportunity to meet fellow supporters and hear

from our Artistic Director or key members of the Victorian Opera creative team.

All Patrons' Engagement Program activities are shared on our website and via our monthly Patrons' Prelude e-newsletter.

By making an annual gift of \$500 or more, you'll become an essential voice in our Chorus of Patrons, working together to nurture emerging talent and sustain the vibrant art form we all hold dear.

ENCORE SOCIETY

Leaving a Gift in Will is a beautiful way for your donation to resonate for generations to come. It's a powerful statement of your commitment to our work, and a practical way to ensure that Victorian Opera remains a company of artistic excellence. After securing the future of your loved ones, we invite you to consider making a Gift to Victorian Opera. Your contribution will help us continue to inspire and delight audiences, ensuring that our music remains an enduring part of the community well into the future.

MORE INFORMATION

victorianopera.com.au/patrons-engagement program or contact:

Zoe Drummond, Patrons Coordinator

zoe@victorianopera.com.au

PATRONS' ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM RECEPTIONS

Sat 1 FEB, 6.15 pm	FOLLIES Palais Theatre, St Kilda
Fri 4 APR, 6.15 pm	MANSFIELD PARK Her Majesty's, Ballarat
Thu 14 AUG, 6.15 pm	ABDUCTION Palais Theatre, St Kilda
Thu 16 OCT, 6.15 pm	KATYA KABANOVA Palais Theatre, St Kilda
Sat 8 NOV, 6.15 pm	BOOJUM! Horti Hall, Hemstritch Studio

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Ian Merrylees
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Bequestors

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Lesley Bawden
Frank & Danielle Chamberlin
Peter Hordern
Peter Hourigan
Jane Kunster
Richard Laslett & Colin Gunther
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La Rondine (The Swallow), 2024

ABOUT US

We are Victoria's state opera company.
Your opera company.

While honouring opera's centuries-long traditions, we also strive to evolve. Victorian Opera prides itself on productions that are accessible, relevant, and hold true to the artform's boundless creativity.

Forefront to our mission is the commitment to presenting new Australian opera and musical theatre. We identify topical material, commission and workshop new scores and text, before producing never-before-seen productions. Victorian Opera premieres at least one new Australian opera or music theatre work each year, with 37 new works commissioned since the company formed in 2005.

Another core focus is to create opportunities for emerging artists across the sector, from singers to designers. Through our Emerging Artists Opera Prize, the VO Emerges season presentation, our Technical Training Program and the Victorian Opera Youth Chorus Ensemble (VOYCE), we provide professional experiences, education and training to engage all and develop practical skills.

In recognition of our unique contribution to Australian theatre, Victorian Opera joined the National Performing Arts Partnership Framework in 2021. This rightfully positions Victorian Opera alongside national companies in the country's performing arts arena.

We continue to 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 continue to perform in the grandest theatres and concert halls to give you the best possible experience.

Join us to experience the strength of 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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Melbourne VIC 3000
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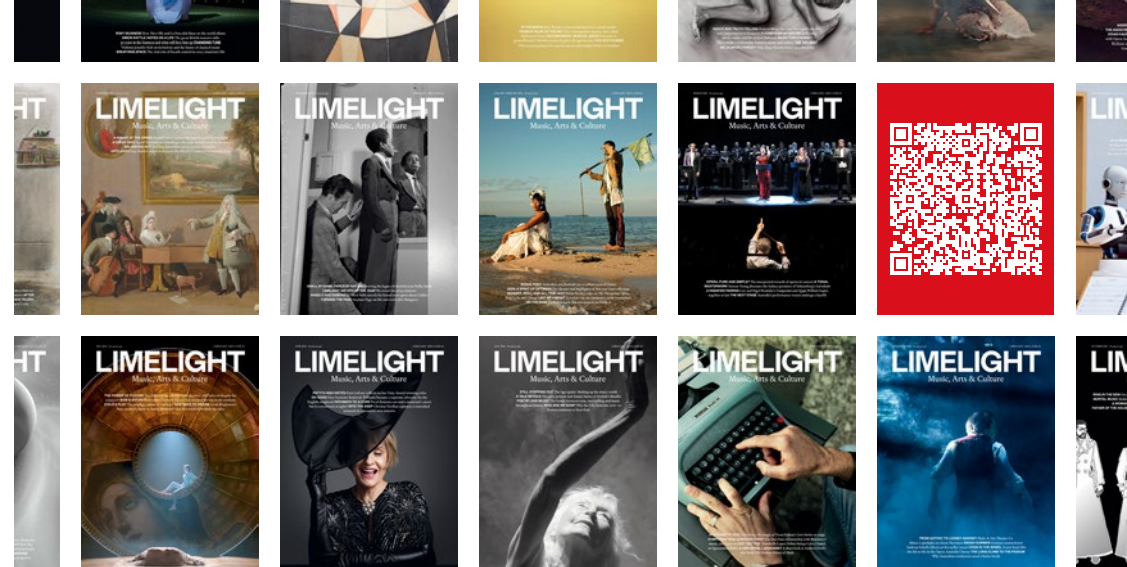


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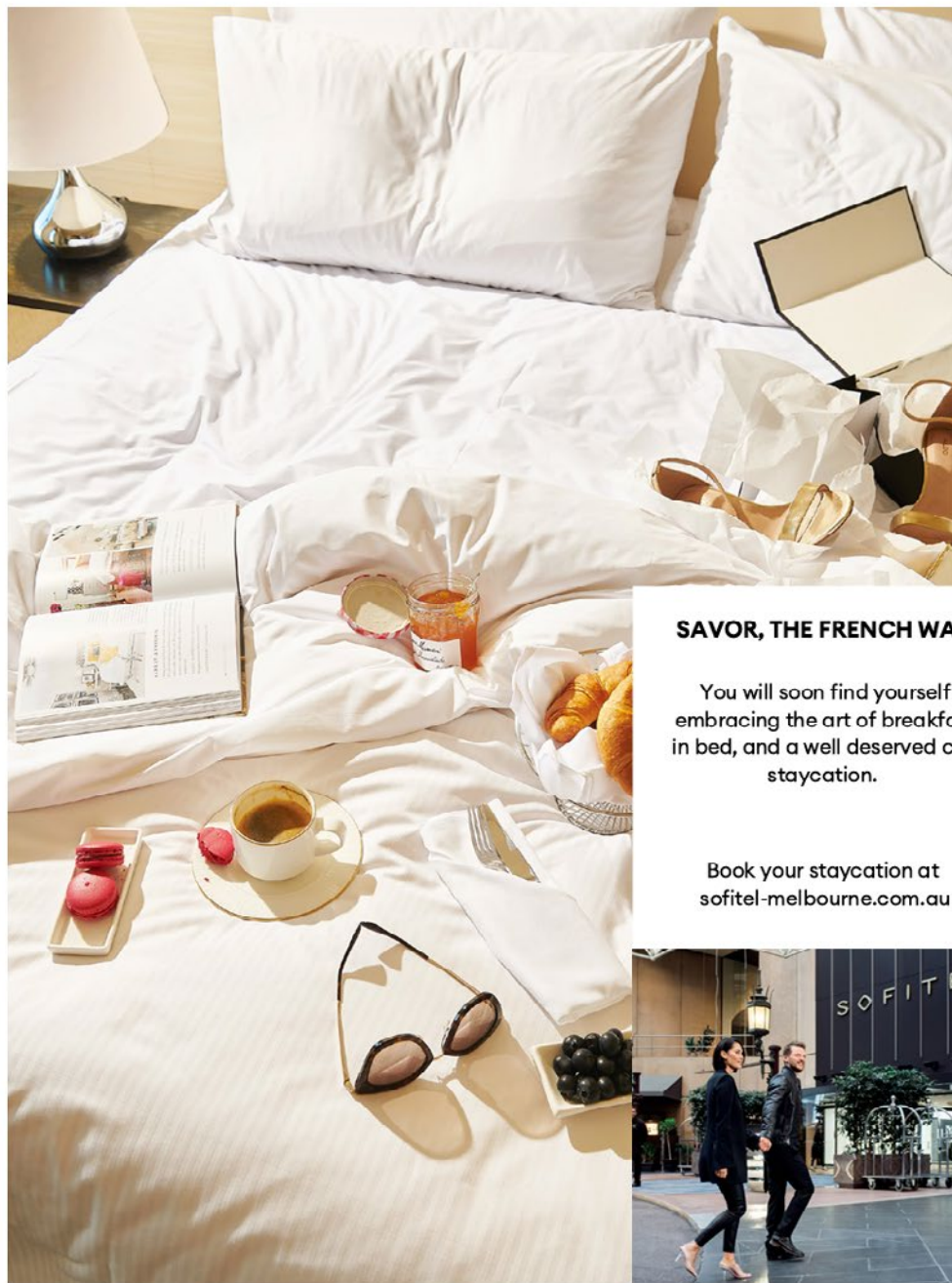
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www.coriole.com



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