

Opera Australia marks six months to opening of world's first fully digital Ring Cycle in Brisbane



Opera Australia today marked six months until the opening of its highly anticipated world-first, fully digital Ring Cycle in Brisbane.

Originally scheduled for 2020, but postponed twice due to the COVID pandemic, Wagner's epic opera will finally open at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre on Friday 1 December 2023.

Recognised as the pinnacle of opera, *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, known as the Ring Cycle, comprises 15 hours of extraordinary music split over four evenings, and this brand new, cutting edge reimagining of Wagner's masterpiece will see ardent fans from around the world descend on Brisbane to experience it for themselves.

Making history with the use of towering LED screens to create a visually stunning landscape, the incorporation of the latest technologies will result in a breathtakingly immersive and innovative version of the Ring Cycle unlike any ever seen before.

Presented in partnership with the Queensland Government and Brisbane City Council, and in collaboration with Queensland Performing Arts Centre, Queensland Symphony Orchestra, Opera Queensland and Dancenorth, the Ring Cycle will showcase the outstanding talent in the state.

Opera Australia CEO Fiona Allan expressed her gratitude to these partners who have remained committed to this production and looks forward to rehearsals beginning again in coming months.

"Opera Australia wouldn't be able to present this world first Ring Cycle without the help and support of our many partners in the Queensland Government, Brisbane City Council and Queensland's broader arts and cultural community.

"We are extremely grateful for their longstanding commitment to this production and are thrilled to finally be only six months away from seeing everyone's hard work shine together onstage," said Ms Allan.

Drawing on the best of the best talent from Australia and around the globe, acclaimed director Chen Shi-Zheng will lead a world-class creative team, cast and orchestra to bring a futuristic version of the Norse mythology to life. As the first Chinese director to direct a major Ring Cycle, Chen Shi-Zheng will also be the first to weave Chinese mythology into the production.

Expected to draw huge local and international audiences across the three complete Cycles, this ground-breaking production of the Ring Cycle will bring an abundance of visitors to Queensland to also enjoy the state's natural beauty and world-class tourist attractions.

Queensland's Tourism Minister Stirling Hinchliffe said the Ring Cycle was set to bring a \$16 million boost to Queensland's visitor economy.

"The world-renowned reputation of this opera has fans from all around the globe winging their way to Brisbane to see it," Mr Hinchliffe said.

"Even after two postponements of the season due to the pandemic, most ticket holders retained their seats, a ringing endorsement of just how special this production is.

"We know that many who come for the opera will extend their stay and take the opportunity to experience the region and Queensland's world-class tourism attractions.

"It will also provide a boost for local tourism businesses, with visitors expected to stay 46,800 visitor nights and spend almost \$16.5 million in the economy."

Anthony Ryan, CEO of Brisbane Economic Development Agency, said hosting the internationally acclaimed opera was a testament to Brisbane's burgeoning arts economy.

"We're thrilled to host the world's most famed opera in the heart of Brisbane's thriving cultural precinct," Mr Ryan said.

“The Ring Cycle will draw opera fans from around the world, supporting local jobs and providing significant flow on effects to local businesses, filling hotels and restaurants and strengthening the arts economy as a whole.”

The Brisbane Ring Cycle Brisbane is supported by the Queensland Government via Tourism and Events Queensland and Brisbane City Council via the Brisbane Economic Development Agency.

Creatives

Conductor **Philippe Auguin**
 Director & Production Designer **Chen Shi-Zheng**
 Associate Set Designer **Maruti Evans**
 Digital Content Designer **Leigh Sachwitz / flora&faunavisions**

Costume Designer **Anita Yavich**
 Lighting Designer **Matthew Marshall**
 Choreographer **Akasia Ruth Ichaustegui**
 Assistant Directors **Matthew Barclay / Miranda Summers**

Cast

Wotan/Wanderer **Daniel Sumegi**
 Brünnhilde **Lise Lindstrom (Cycles 1&2)**
 Brünnhilde **Anna-Louise Cole (Cycle 3)**
 Siegfried **Stefan Vinke**
 Alberich **Warwick Fyfe**
 Mime **Andreas Conrad**
 Siegmund **Rosario La Spina**
 Sieglinde **Anna-Louise Cole (Cycle 1&2)**
 Sieglinde **Olivia Cranwell (Cycle 3)**
 Fasolt **David Parkin**
 Hagen/Hunding/Fafner/ **Andrea Silvestrelli**
 Gunther **Luke Gabbedy**
 Gutrune **Maija Kovalevska**
 Loge **Hubert Francis**

Fricka/Waltraute **Deborah Humble**
 Donner **Alexander Sefton**
 Froh **Dean Bassett**
 Freia/Helmwige **Mariana Hong**
 Erda **Liane Keegan**
 Woglinde **Lorina Gore**
 Wellgunde/Gerhilde **Jane Ede**
 Flosshilde/Schwertleite **Dominica Matthews**
 Rossweisse **Ruth Strutt**
 Ortlinde **Jennifer Black**
 First Norn **Celeste Haworth**
 Grimgerde / Second Norn **Angela Hogan**
 Siegrune **Agnes Sarkis**
 Woodbird **Celeste Lazarenko**
 Third Norn **Olivia Cranwell**

Queensland Symphony Orchestra
Opera Australia Chorus
Opera Queensland Chorus
Dancenorth Dancers

Dates

	Cycle 1	Cycle 2	Cycle 3
<i>Das Rheingold</i>	1 Dec	<i>Das Rheingold</i> 08 Dec	<i>Das Rheingold</i> 15 Dec
<i>Die Walküre</i>	3 Dec	<i>Die Walküre</i> 10 Dec	<i>Die Walküre</i> 17 Dec
<i>Siegfried</i>	5 Dec	<i>Siegfried</i> 12 Dec	<i>Siegfried</i> 19 Dec
<i>Götterdämmerung</i>	7 Dec	<i>Götterdämmerung</i> 14 Dec	<i>Götterdämmerung</i> 21 Dec

Ticket Prices

Reserve	Full Ring Cycle (4 operas / \$AUD)
Premium	\$2,360
A Reserve	\$1,960
B Reserve	\$1,200
C Reserve	\$520

opera.org.au/ring-cycle

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STRATEGIC PARTNERS



UNIVERSITY PARTNER: GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA
 PRESENTING PARTNERS: QPAC QUEENSLAND PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE
 ORCHESTRA PARTNER: OQ OPERA QUEENSLAND
 PRESENTING GOVERNMENT PARTNER: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MUSIC DIRECTORS AUSTRALIA
 PATRON-IN-CHIEF: DR HARUHISA HANDA
 OPERA AUSTRALIA GOVERNMENT PARTNER

