

The first-ever fully digital Ring Cycle opens in Brisbane this week – and the world is watching



Opera fans from around Australia and the world will descend on Brisbane this week for the World Premiere of visionary Chinese Director Chen Shi-Zheng's production of Wagner's epic *Der Ring des Nibelungen* or simply, the Ring Cycle.

Opera Australia's (OA) highly anticipated production has been many years in the making. After two covid-induced postponements in 2020 and 2021, hundreds of hours of rehearsals, costume and wig-making, scenery and props construction and digital content creation, the Company's most ambitious production in its history will finally open at Brisbane's Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC) on Friday 1st December.

Opera Australia's CEO Fiona Allan paid tribute to the tenacity and unwavering support of the entire Ring Cycle team, along with the stakeholders, partners and sponsors who kept the faith.

"They say it takes a village, and this is the most extreme example I have ever seen of a professional village coming together, and sticking together through the darkest hours of the pandemic, to finally bring this incredible production to the stage.

"Shi-Zheng and his team have created something quite unique. I can unequivocally claim that this is the most stunning production of the Ring Cycle ever staged. From the incredible singers and musicians, to the visually mind-blowing set designs and costumes, it is quite a remarkable achievement.

"On behalf of the entire OA family I pay tribute and many thanks to our partners, the Queensland Government through Tourism and Events Queensland, Brisbane City Council and QPAC. And to all our supporters and sponsors including the National Foundation for Australia-China Relations, I promise you will not be disappointed, we have created a Ring Cycle that Australia can be very proud of."

OA could not have staged a production of this scale without the support of local performing arts companies the Queensland Symphony Orchestra, Opera Queensland and Dancenorth.

Tourism Minister Stirling Hinchliffe welcomed the cast and crew to Brisbane.

"Seeing the curtain finally rise on this much anticipated world-renowned opera in Brisbane will be a special moment for the thousands of Ring Cycle fans who've travelled from around the globe especially to see it.

"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 businesses, with visitors expected to inject almost \$16.5 million into the local economy, supporting good Queensland tourism jobs."

Minister for the Arts Leeanne Enoch said the presentation of Wagner's *Ring Cycle* and Verdi's *Aida* will continue to strengthen Queensland's international reputation for exceptional arts and cultural experiences.

"Epic opera blockbusters like the *Ring Cycle* showcase brilliant Queensland talent, alongside leading national and international artists and arts workers. The Queensland Government's *Creative Together* roadmap is continuing to ensure that Queensland is engaging visitors in unique arts and cultural experiences that attract global audiences, grow the state's cultural calendar and drive our experience economy.

"Our Government's ongoing investment in our state's arts organisations including Opera Queensland, The Queensland Symphony Orchestra, Queensland Performing Arts Centre and Dancenorth, together with their collaboration with Opera Australia to present this brilliant month of opera, will ensure we can embrace the opportunities presented by the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games when our arts and cultures will be showcased on the world stage".

QPAC Chief Executive John Kotzas applauded the remarkable collaboration required to stage the production with five Queensland organisations (including QPAC) partnering with Opera Australia for the *Ring Cycle*.

"We're extremely proud of the way our industry has come together for this season, bringing the best of Queensland talent and expertise together with national and international cast and creatives," Mr Kotzas said.

"Staging any production of the *Ring Cycle* which comprises four individual operas is already a massive undertaking, adding a fifth opera into the mix with *Aida* is incredibly ambitious but clever programming as you don't have to be an opera aficionado to appreciate its wide appeal."

With 27 semi-trailer loads of technical equipment, costumes, stage pieces and props all transported from Sydney, 14 tonnes of LED screens, a 45 hours of performance, and more than 350 cast, musicians and support crew required to stage all four operas, OA's *Ring Cycle* is the biggest operatic event happening in Australia right now, and quite possibly the world.

Each of the four operas are themselves extraordinary works, with fantastical tales of dragons and gods and mystical forces that stand alone as pinnacles of the artform, but combined they create one of greatest artistic masterpieces of all time.

Opera Australia and Opera Queensland will also present *Aida*, which opens 6th December and will be staged on the nights between the *Ring* operas. Making its Brisbane premiere at QPAC, this highly acclaimed staging of Verdi's renowned classic was the first production in the world to revolutionise opera with digital screens.

The *Ring Cycle* Brisbane is supported by the Queensland Government through Tourism and Events Queensland and Brisbane City Council through the Brisbane Economic Development Agency, and features on the *It's Live! in Queensland* events calendar.

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The Ring Cycle - *Der Ring des Nibelungen*

Creatives

Conductor **Philippe Auguin**
 Director & Production Designer **Chen Shi-Zheng**
 Associate Set Designer **Maruti Evans**
 Digital Content Designer **Leigh Sachwitz / flora&faunavisions**
 Interactive Content Design and Programming **flora&faunavisions**
 Costume Designer **Anita Yavich**
 Lighting Designer **Matthew Marshall**
 Choreographer **Akasia Ruthy Inchaustegui**

Assistant Conductors **Tahu Matheson, Anthony Legge**
 Digital Content Associate **Sebastian Grebing / flora&faunavisions**
 Digital Content Associate **Milena Mayer / flora&faunavisions**
 Digital Content Associate **Antonia Böhme / flora&faunavisions**
 Associate Lighting Designer **Lucy Birkinshaw**
 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

Tickets

Reserve	Single tickets	Full Ring Cycle (4 operas / \$AUD)
Premium	\$625	\$2,360
A Reserve	\$525	\$1,960
B Reserve	\$335	\$1,200
C Reserve	\$165	\$520

Tickets via opera.org.au/ring-cycle or qpac.com.au/ring

Opera Australia box office: +61 2 9318 8200



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UNIVERSITY PARTNER

PRESENTING PARTNERS



ORCHESTRA PARTNER

PRESENTING GOVERNMENT PARTNER



FREIGHT PARTNER



PATRON-IN-CHIEF

DR HARUHISA HANDA



OPERA AUSTRALIA GOVERNMENT PARTNER

