

Media Release  
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## Stellar Lineup of Opera Singers announced for BMW “Opera for All” 2024 concert in Melbourne’s Fed Square



Building on the success of last year’s inaugural BMW “Opera for All” event in Melbourne, Opera Australia and BMW are thrilled to announce four of Opera Australia’s finest singers, soprano Olivia Cranwell, mezzo-soprano Dimity Shepherd, tenor Shanul Sharma and baritone Simon Meadows, as this year’s superb cast, when the free event returns to Melbourne’s Fed Square on Saturday, February 3, 2024.

All four singers are Melbourne-based and will perform a selection of opera’s biggest hits from Verdi to Puccini for an hour of thrilling high notes and soaring harmonies; it is the perfect way for newbies to experience opera for the first time or for diehard fans to revisit some of opera’s greatest hits.

Accompanying the singers will be 20 brilliant musicians from Orchestra Victoria under the baton of renowned opera conductor, and always entertaining, Brian Castles-Onion, who also conducted last year’s BMW “Opera for All” performance.

Soprano **Olivia Cranwell** made her recent role debut as Sieglinde in Opera Australia’s Ring Cycle to critical acclaim and later this year will perform Giorgetta in *Il Trittico* at the Sydney Opera House.

Melbourne-born **Dimity Shepherd**, a mezzo-soprano and three-time Green Room Award-Winner, has captivated audiences across the nation, performing most recently with Opera Australia as Carmen.

**Shanul Sharma**, an Indian-born tenor and alumnus of Opera Australia’s Young Artist Program, has played several significant roles, most recently his critically acclaimed performance as Gandhi in last year’s concert performance of *Satyagraha* at Hamer Hall.

Australian baritone **Simon Meadows**, a local favourite with Melbourne audiences, has upcoming performances as Michele and Gianni Schicchi in *Il Trittico* at the Sydney Opera House and Holland in *Eucalyptus* at St Kilda’s Palais Theatre.

Audiences of all ages are invited to bring their picnic blankets or chairs and join for a late afternoon of enchanting music at Fed Square from 4:00pm-5:00pm.

“BMW Opera for All” is a global event in collaboration with local opera organisations, offering world-class cultural experiences to the public for free.

PATRON-IN-CHIEF  
DR HARUHISA HANDA

HERO PARTNERS

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Tickets are free with no registration required | Fed Square, Melbourne

[opera.org.au/events/bmw-opera-for-all/](https://www.opera.org.au/events/bmw-opera-for-all/)

### **About BMW Group's Cultural Engagement**

*For more than five decades, the BMW Group has initiated and been engaged in partnerships with many of the most renowned cultural institutions worldwide. The focus of its long-term commitment is set on modern and contemporary art, classical music, jazz and sound, as well as architecture and design. In all cultural activities the company is involved in, the BMW Group guarantees absolute creative freedom – as this is just as essential for groundbreaking artistic work as it is for major innovations in a successful business. To find out more about the BMW Group's commitment to Art & Culture:*

[www.bmwgroup.com](https://www.bmwgroup.com)

<https://www.bmwgroup.com/en/sustainability/our-focus/society/cultural-engagement-turns-50.html>

### **About Opera Australia**

*Opera Australia is recognised as one of the world's busiest opera companies, presenting hundreds of performances around the country every year. In 2024 the Company will perform in the Sydney Opera House, Margaret Court Arena, Hamer Hall and the Palais in Melbourne as well as the Geelong Arts Centre, plus an extensive touring program to regional and rural areas and outdoor events such as the Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour. For more information about Opera Australia visit [www.opera.org.au](https://www.opera.org.au)*

### **For further press/media information contact:**

Caitlin Eames | Opera Australia | 0433 746 644 | [caitlin.eames@opera.org.au](mailto:caitlin.eames@opera.org.au)

Leanne Blanckenberg | BMW | 0447 000 379 | [blanckenberg@bmw.com.au](mailto:blanckenberg@bmw.com.au)