

MEDIA RELEASE
10 October 2024

World renowned Opera Australia Chorus in the spotlight at Geelong Arts Centre

13 & 15 November 2024 | The Play House, Geelong Arts Centre



The spotlight will be firmly focused on the acclaimed Opera Australia Chorus when it arrives in Geelong for the first time this November to perform in a new production, aptly named *Chorus!* at Geelong Arts Centre for two exclusive performances.

This will be the first reprise of *Chorus!* since wowing audiences and thrilling critics at the Sydney Opera House, where the sheer magnitude of 44 of Australia's finest voices singing a selection of opera's most iconic choral pieces proved to be a blow-your-hair-back kind of experience.

Featuring music from popular operas such as *Madama Butterfly*, *Il Trovatore* and *Rigoletto* this production takes audiences on a musical journey, spanning five languages and three centuries of operatic masterpieces.

Devised and directed by Matthew Barclay, who uses his wealth of knowledge of the operatic repertoire to shape this original production into a celebration of the Opera Australia Chorus.

Chorus Master Paul Fitzsimon will conduct, drawing not only on his expertise as a conductor but his close relationship with the Chorus, to showcase the skills of each member as a unique performing artist.

Also stepping into the spotlight are Assistant Chorus Master Michael Curtain and répétiteur Kate Johnson, both playing piano throughout the evening.

The Opera Australia Chorus is the nation's only full-time opera chorus and one of the busiest and most celebrated in the world. They perform all year round in productions at the Sydney Opera House and in Melbourne, plus venues across the country and many spectacular outdoor sites. Their demanding schedule can see them performing and rehearsing in multiple productions in a single week and even two different operas on the same day.

Audiences in Geelong will first enjoy the Opera Australia Chorus when they perform in Mozart's classic *The Magic Flute*, which Opera Australia will also present at Geelong Arts Centre from 9-16 November.

Creatives

Conductor and Chorus Master **Paul Fitzsimon**
 Director **Matthew Barclay**
 Lighting Designer **Matthew Marshall**
 Assistant Chorus Master and Pianist **Michael Curtain**
 Pianist **Kate Johnson**
 Costume Coordinator **Hannah Lobelson**
 Arrangements by **Simon Bruckard**

Cast

Sopranos
Pamela Andrews, Carrie Barr, Eleanor Blythman, Jennifer Bonner, Emma Castelli, Annabelle Chaffey, Louise Keast, Leah Thomas, Emily Uhrich, Nicole Wallace, Katherine Wiles, Kathryn Williams

Mezzos
Keara Donohoe, Olivia Federow-Yemm, Angela Hogan, Bree Meara, Belinda Paterson, Alessia Pintabona, Juel Riggall, Nicole Smeulders, Ruth Strutt, Margaret Trubiano

Tenors
Gregory Brown, Alastair Cooper-Golec, Tomas Dalton, Stuart Haycock, Jin Tea Kim, Alister Lamont, Na Ra Lee, Ranald McCusker, Adam Player, Benjamin Rasheed, Asher Reichman

Bass
Jonathan Alley, Malcolm Ede, Tom Hamilton, Alexander Hargreaves, Nathan Lay, Anthony Mackey, Jonathan McCauley, Clifford Plumpton, Alexander Pokryshevsky, Kiran Rajasingam, Ryan Sharp

Images: opera.org.au/about/media-centre/melbourne

Web: <https://opera.org.au/events/chorus-geelong/>

Media enquiries

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Performance information

Evenings at 7.30pm

November 13, 15

Running time

Approximately 60 minutes, no interval.

Performed in multiple languages with English surtitles.

Bookings

Adult tickets from \$59 (fees may apply)

Opera Australia Box Office
 (03) 9685 3700
www.opera.org.au

The Play House

Geelong Arts Centre