

MEDIA RELEASE

19 June 2025

Lovers and liaisons, lust and laughter aplenty in Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*



Following a successful summer season of *The Barber of Seville*, opera's most charming and mischievous character Figaro returns to the Sydney Opera House this July in Mozart's delightful comedy, *The Marriage of Figaro*.

This “comic cauldron of sex and social politics” (Limelight) picks up several years from its prequel. The formerly young and romantic Count Almaviva is now a womaniser obsessed with his servant, and Figaro's fiancé, Susanna, much to the annoyance of Rosina, the now countess, while Dr Bartolo is still hungry for revenge against Figaro for intervening in his plans to marry Rosina.

Opera Australia welcomes international singers Gordon Bintner and Michael Sumuel to the roles of Count Almaviva and Figaro. They'll be joined by a strong line-up of local stars including Kiandra Howarth and Jane Ede who'll be sharing the role of The Countess. Siobhan Stagg has returned from her base in Europe to make her OA debut, in the role of Susanna and Emily Edmonds who, following her OA debut as Cinderella in Massenet's *Cendrillon* earlier this year, will now take on the trouser role of Cherubino.

Set over the course of a single summer's day, this opera is filled with drama as the characters, each motivated by their own desires, resort to a hilariously fast-paced spectacle of disguises, duplicity and trickery.

Mozart sets the comedic pace immediately in the overture with strings scurrying all over the scale while cellos and basses murmuring away underneath. Conductor Teresa Riveiro Böhm will make a welcome return to Australia to lead the Opera Australia Orchestra through the ingenious score with its intricate yet tuneful melodies that are performed as trios, quartets and even one brilliant sextet.

Mozart composed *The Marriage of Figaro* in just six weeks and almost 250 years later, it continues to be hailed as a supreme masterpiece of operatic comedy. Energetic and endlessly tuneful, it features some of Mozart's most recognisable compositions, undoubtedly why it is one of the most frequently performed operas around the world.

31 July – 27 August | Joan Sutherland Theatre, Sydney Opera House

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Conductor **Teresa Riveiro Böhm**
 Director **David McVicar**
 Revival Director **Andy Morton**
 Set & Costume Designer **Jenny Tiramani**
 Lighting Designer **David Finn**

Cast

Count **Gordon Bintner**
 Countess **Kiandra Howarth** (31 July – 16 Aug), **Jane Ede** (19- 27 Aug)
 Figaro **Michael Sumuel**
 Susanna **Siobhan Stagg**
 Cherubino **Emily Edmonds**
 Dr Bartolo **Richard Anderson**
 Marcellina **Dominica Matthews**
 Don Basilio **Virgilio Marino**
 Don Curzio **Kanen Breen**
 Barbarina **Celeste Lazarenko**
 Antonio **Clifford Plumpton**
 First Bridesmaid **Annabelle Chaffey**
 Second Bridesmaid **Keara Donohoe**

Opera Australia Chorus
Opera Australia Orchestra

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Performance information

Evenings at 7.00pm

July 31
 Aug 6, 8, 13, 19, 21, 27

Saturday Matinee at 12.00pm

August 2, 16

Running time

Approximately 3 hours and 30 minutes including one interval.

Performed in Italian with English surtitles

Bookings

Adult tickets from \$79 (fees may apply)

Opera Australia Box Office
 (02) 9318 8200
www.opera.org.au

**Joan Sutherland Theatre,
 Sydney Opera House**