

MEDIA RELEASE

13 October 2025

***The Barber of Seville* brings humour and iconic music to open Opera Australia's Melbourne season**



Elijah Moshinsky's "*brilliantly enjoyable*" (Bachtrack) production of Rossini's delightful masterpiece *The Barber of Seville*, is making a joyful return to Melbourne, opening Opera Australia's highly anticipated debut season in the Regent Theatre on 31 October.

An energetic production blending opera and slapstick, Moshinsky's staging places the action in a world inspired by 1920s silent films. The playful comedy unfolds on Michael Yeargan's vibrant, life-size dolls house set, making for a visually captivating performance.

Audiences will instantly recognise Rossini's sparkling music that has also featured prominently in popular culture including Robin Williams' opening scene of *Mrs Doubtfire* singing the iconic aria, 'Largo al factotum', better known as "Fi-ga-ro! Figaro! Figaro!"

For its inaugural season at the Regent, OA's productions will run in 'stagione', meaning the same opera will perform its full run on consecutive nights, before the next production opens. This is different to the company's usual 'repertory' programming, where different operas alternate each night.

In order to perform the demanding lead roles of Figaro, Rosina, Count Almaviva and Dr Bartolo night after night, two cast are required - hence this season will showcase even more wonderful Australian talent to Melbourne audiences.

The all-star cast will include baritones Samuel Dundas and Simon Meadows as Figaro. Helen Sherman and Emily Edmonds will share the role of Rosina and Melbourne local Shanul Sharma, and tenor John Longmuir, both perform as Count Almaviva. They'll be joined on stage by the Opera Australia Gents Chorus with Tahu Matheson, OA's Head of Music, conducting Orchestra Victoria, immersing the audience in Rossini's enthusiastic score.

Taking Rossini just thirteen days to write, *The Barber of Seville* is the only comic opera that held its own among the tragedies of the nineteenth century and, 200 years later it remains a must-see opera.

Set in Seville, Figaro is the friendly but mischievous neighbourhood barber who tasks himself with the matchmaking mission to unite the two young lovers, Count Almaviva and Rosina. What ensues is a hilarious evening of disguise and duplicity as Figaro attempts to outwit the ensemble of characters trying to keep the lovers apart.

October 31 - November 5, 2025 | Regent Theatre, Melbourne

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



The International
Foundation for
Arts and Culture



HSBC



QANTAS



Australia
Council
for the Arts



CREATIVE VICTORIA

Creatives

Conductor **Tahu Matheson**
 Director **Elijah Moshinsky**
 Revival Director **Heather Fairbairn**
 Set Designer **Michael Yeargan**
 Costume Designer **Dona Granata**
 Lighting Designer **Howard Harrison**

Cast

Figaro **Samuel Dundas** (Oct 31, Nov 3, 5)
Simon Meadows (Nov 1, 4)
 Rosina **Helen Sherman** (Oct 31, Nov 3, 5)
Emily Edmonds (Nov 1, 4)
 Count Almaviva **Shanul Sharma** (Oct 31, Nov 3, 5)
John Longmuir (Nov 1, 4)
 Dr Bartolo **Andrew Moran** (Oct 31, Nov 3, 5)
Shane Lowrencev (Nov 1, 4)
 Don Basilio **David Parkin**
 Berta **Jane Ede**
 Fiorello / Ambrogio / Notary **Clifford Plumpton**
 Officer **Jonathan Alley**

Opera Australia Gents Chorus
Orchestra Victoria

Media enquiries

Caitlin Eames | Publicist | +61 0433 746 644 | caitlin@cepr.com.au
 Janet Glover | Communications Manager | +61 412 601 816 | janet.glover@opera.org.au

Performance information

Evenings at 7.30pm

October 31
 November 1, 3, 4, 5

Running time

Approximately 2 hours and 45 minutes, including one interval.

Performed in Italian with English surtitles

Bookings

Adult tickets from \$79 (fees may apply)

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

Regent Theatre, Melbourne