

MEDIA RELEASE

12 February 2026

Love and regret take centre stage in the hauntingly beautiful *Eugene Onegin*



Opera Australia's summer season will come to a sumptuous conclusion with Tchaikovsky's most celebrated opera, *Eugene Onegin* opening at the Sydney Opera House on 17 March.

Returning to the Joan Sutherland Theatre stage for the first time since 2014, this is a world-class collaboration between Opera Australia, Teatro Reggio Torino and The Royal Opera House Covent Garden, whose previous Director of Opera, Kasper Holten is the brainchild of this "*hyper-intelligent, deeply moving production*" (Limelight).

Holten's production, which will be revived by rising star director Heather Fairbairn, uses flashback and memory to drive the story visually and complement Tchaikovsky's passionate lyrical score.

Despite being best known for his ballets, including *Swan Lake* and *The Nutcracker*, Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* is a passionate and poignant opera filled with beautiful, sweeping music that powerfully captures the human experience including the intensity of first love, the devastation of rejection and the haunting lingering of regret.

Acclaimed Australian soprano Lauren Fagan, who is fast becoming one of her generation's most compelling performers, makes a triumphant homecoming to star as Tatyana.

Joining Fagan on stage is Ukrainian baritone Andrei Bondarenko, who makes his third appearance with Opera Australia, as Onegin while Australian tenor Nicholas Jones performs his role debut as Lensky. Leading the OA orchestra through the lavish orchestrations and soulful score is internationally celebrated, award-winning conductor and composer Anna Skryleva in her highly anticipated Australian debut.

Mia Stensgaard's set design of a common period building serves as a blank canvas for projections to literally fill the building with memories. As Tatyana and Onegin watch their younger selves make choices that inevitably change the course of their lives, the memories pile up on stage confronting audiences with the harrowing reality of reminiscence and regret.

17 – 28 March | Joan Sutherland Theatre, Sydney Opera House

PATRON-IN-CHIEF
DR HARUHISA HANDA

HERO PARTNERS

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

Creatives

Conductor **Anna Skryleva**
 Director **Kasper Holten**
 Set Designer **Mia Stensgaard**
 Costume Designer **Katrina Lindsay**
 Lighting Designer **Wolfgang Goebbel**
 Video Designer **Leo Warner for 59 Studio**
 Choreographer **Signe Fabricius**
 Revival Director **Heather Fairbairn**

Cast

Tatyana **Lauren Fagan**
 Onegin **Andrei Bondarenko**
 Lensky **Nicholas Jones**
 Olga **Sian Sharp**
 Gremin **David Parkin**
 Larina **Helen Sherman**
 Filipyevna **Angela Hogan**
 Monsieur Triquet **Elias Wilson**
 Zaretsky **Ryan Sharp**
 Captain **Malcom Ede**
 Peasant Leader **Jin Tea Kim**

Opera Australia Orchestra
Opera Australia Chorus
Opera Australia Dancers

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Performance information

Evenings at 7:30pm

Mar 17, 19, 21, 24, 26

Matinee at 12:30pm

Mar 28

Running time

Approximately 2 hours and 50 minutes including one interval.

Performed in Russian with English surtitles.

This production features replica firearms and gunshots.

This production was a co-production of The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, Opera Australia and Teatro Regio Torino

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**