

Opera Australia announces Director of Opera



Amy Lane. Photo credit: Westrup

Following a rigorous national and international search, Opera Australia (OA) today announced the appointment of **Amy Lane** as Director of Opera, completing OA’s senior leadership recruitment and marking a defining moment in the company’s 70th anniversary year.

Amy joins OA from a successful seven-year tenure as Artistic Director of the Copenhagen Opera Festival and prior to that, as Head Staff Director at The Royal Ballet and Opera, Covent Garden.

Amy’s career spans major opera houses and festivals across the United Kingdom, Europe and North America. She has previously worked with OA as Revival Director for Kasper Holten’s celebrated production of Szymanowski’s *King Roger*, performed in Melbourne and Sydney.

With Chief Executive Officer Alex Budd, and Music Director Andrea Battistoni, Amy forms a senior leadership team of complementary expertise, united by a shared commitment to artistic excellence and a clear ambition to strengthen OA’s standing within the global operatic landscape.

OA’s CEO Alex Budd said, “Amy is one of the most compelling leaders of her generation in the opera world. Her international work as a stage director, combined with her strong relationships with executive and artistic producers, singers, directors and designers, uniquely positions her to shape OA’s ambitious artistic plans for the future.

“I am delighted Amy is joining our team. Her deep knowledge of the artform, strategic insight and proven collaborative leadership will significantly strengthen our vision and drive our next chapter with confidence.”

Bringing extensive strategic planning and administrative experience from major opera houses, Amy will guide OA’s long-term artistic strategy and shape repertoire planning and production.

Amy will work in close collaboration with the Music Director, CEO and executive team, driving the company’s artist engagement, commissioning and cultivating of relationships with both Australian and international co-producers. She will also bring her extensive experience in audience development and community engagement to ensure opera becomes more accessible to more people.

“Opera Australia is a company with extraordinary artists working across all disciplines and a distinctive national voice. I am excited by the scale of its ambition and its appetite for bold and innovative work, led essentially by strong narratives and vibrant storytelling,” said Ms Lane.

“My wish is that together, we can create productions that both matter and inspire great artistic conversations – work that honours the extraordinary and much-loved canon, while speaking clearly to contemporary audiences. I look forward to building that future with Alex, Andrea and the outstanding teams at OA.”

.../2

An innovative and highly respected artistic leader, Amy’s achievements were recognised when Copenhagen Opera Festival received the 2025 Oper! Award for *Best Future Project*, one of Europe’s most respected opera honours.

During her tenure in Copenhagen, she expanded the festival into a globally connected platform for new work and reimaged repertoire, forging international collaborations, artist and visitor programs, and major productions across both traditional and unconventional spaces.

The Director of Opera appointment completes a leadership structure designed to strengthen OA’s position as a company of national and international relevance: one that honours the depth of the operatic canon while pursuing new creative horizons and deepening its relationship with audiences, artists and partners.

Amy Lane commences with OA in September 2026.

Media contacts:

Simone Bird, Head of Public Affairs E: simone.bird@opera.org.au | M: 0490 423 606

Janet Glover, Communications Manager E: janet.glover@opera.org.au | M: 0412 601 816

FURTHER ATTRIBUTABLE QUOTES

Professor Glyn Davis AC, Chair

“The appointment of Amy Lane as Director of Opera completes the leadership team we set out to build. OA was very considered in this search, and I’m confident in what lies ahead. Opera Australia is in a position of strength. Our financial recovery is solid, our productions are selling well, our 2026 program has been warmly received, and the quality of the company’s artistic work is drawing deserved attention. This is the platform on which this leadership triumvirate will build.”

“Amy, Andrea and Alex bring together artistic vision, musical brilliance and commercial acumen, in a combination that is exciting. Together they will take opera forward: for Australian audiences, for Australian artists, and for the company’s standing on the world stage. On behalf of the Board, I warmly welcome Amy to Opera Australia.”

Andrea Battistoni, Music Director

“The relationship between Director of Opera and Music Director is one of the most creatively vital in any opera company. It is where artistic decisions are made, where repertoire takes shape and where a company’s voice is formed. With Amy bringing her vision to the programming and production of OA’s work, I believe we will offer something thrilling – faithful to the greatest traditions of the artform, and alive to the present moment.”

“Amy has a clear understanding of the international opera environment - how ideas, artists and productions move between houses. That perspective will enrich Opera Australia’s voice in the global conversation, and I’m delighted to welcome her to the OA team.”

* * *

AMY LANE BIOGRAPHY

Born in London, Amy Lane is an internationally recognised opera director and festival leader.

A former Head Staff Director at The Royal Ballet and Opera, Covent Garden, she brings two decades’ experience spanning stage management, assistant, revival and associate direction, artistic planning, international casting and talent development.

Amy most recently served as Artistic Director of Copenhagen Opera Festival, where she expanded the festival to more than 120 events annually, built international artist networks and secured recognition through the Oper! Awards’ *Best Future Project* (2025).

.../3

Amy's directing credits include a complete *Ring Cycle* for Longborough Festival Opera – a notable achievement requiring sustained artistic vision across four consecutive seasons – as well as *Faust*, *Romeo et Juliette* and *Gianni Schiacchi* for Canadian Opera Company, *La Cenerentola* for the 2025 Bregenz Festival, and co-directed with Kasper Holten both *Drot og Marsk* for the Royal Danish Opera and *Marco Polo* in Guangzhou. She has also created concert productions including *Falstaff* and *Tosca* for Sir Bryn Terfel.

In demand for her creative vision and exceptional directing skills, Amy has worked in various roles with leading opera houses across Europe, including Royal Ballet and Opera Covent Garden, Royal Danish Opera, English National Opera, Welsh National Opera, Polish National Opera, Théâtre du Châtelet and Semperoper Dresden.

She has created new productions for companies including Canadian Opera Company, Den Norske Opera, Det Kongelige Teater, Bregenz Festival and worked in houses across Europe, North America and Australia. She has also directed a complete Ring Cycle at Longborough Festival Opera.

Amy has created works in English, Italian, French, Danish and German.

ABOUT OPERA AUSTRALIA

Opera Australia is the nation's premier opera company and one of its most important cultural institutions. It is the largest performing arts employer in Australia's \$64 billion cultural and creative industries. Celebrating its 70th anniversary in 2026, OA continues a tradition of artistic excellence, community engagement and innovative programming, ensuring opera remains a vibrant, evolving artform that speaks to contemporary audiences and enriches lives. Opera Australia acknowledges, celebrates, and respects all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first storytellers who carry the cultural wisdom, traditions, and Dreaming of this ancient land.

PATRON-IN-CHIEF
DR HARUHISA HANDA

HERO PARTNER

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



CREATIVE VICTORIA