

Melbourne exclusive: Powerhouse duo star in ultimate Gilbert & Sullivan celebration



Following their highly acclaimed performances in Victorian Opera’s season of *The Pirates of Penzance* and *Sweeney Todd*, powerhouse singers Ben Mingay and Antoinette Halloran will reunite for Opera Australia’s *Gilbert & Sullivan: A Musical Celebration*, in three Melbourne exclusive concerts at the Regent Theatre, 22-24 May.

Fans will delight in highlights from *The Mikado*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *H.M.S Pinafore* and *Iolanthe*, with Director Stuart Maunder AM thoughtfully linking together a selection of their most loved tunes with dialogue from the works, and musings from Gilbert and Sullivan themselves.

Joining Ben and Antoinette is an all-star cast from Opera Australia including John Longmuir, Alexander Lewis, Cathy-Di Zhang, Danielle Bavli, Ruth Strutt and Leon Vitogiannis.

“My love affair with Gilbert and Sullivan really began in high school. I love the language, the wit, the honest emotion and the topsy-turvy madness and I think their works are just as popular, silly, relevant and entertaining as they were 150 years ago.” said Director Stuart Maunder AM.

“We have brought together a brilliant cast, who not only sing superbly but are hilarious and wildly fun to watch on stage. Gilbert once said ‘where can your grand opera singers who can act be found?’. Well, we’ve found them - what a cast!” he said.

Conductor Chad Kelly will lead Orchestra Victoria through some of the pair’s greatest musical moments when mischievous humour meets soaring melodies in a sparkling evening of operatic wit, whimsy and unforgettable song.

For 150 years, Gilbert and Sullivan have shaped everything from modern musicals to sketch comedy. Their operettas are witty, tuneful and surprisingly modern, which is why they continue to pop up in unexpected places: animated sitcoms, political satire, late-night comedy, and the odd Hollywood blockbuster.

A treat for both long-time fans or the newly acquainted, this concert will showcase the very best of Gilbert and Sullivan’s masterful musical works.

Creatives

Conductor **Chad Kelly**

Director **Stuart Maunder AM**

Based on a concept by **Patrick Togher**

Lighting Designer **Alex Lynn**

Sound Designer **Shelly Lee**

Cast

**Ben Mingay, Antoinette Halloran, John Longmuir,
Alexander Lewis, Cathy-Di Zhang, Danielle Bavli,
Ruth Strutt and Leon Vitogiannis.**

Orchestra Victoria

Performance times

Evenings at 7.30pm

May 22, 23

Saturday Matinee at 2pm

May 23

Sunday Matinee at 1pm

May 24

Running time

Approximately 2 hours and 20 minutes
including one interval.

Bookings

Adult tickets from \$59 (fees may apply)

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

Regent Theatre, Melbourne

Media enquiries

Caitlin Eames | Publicist | +61 433 746 644 | caitlin@cepr.com.au

Janet Glover | Communications Manager | +61 412 601 816 | janet.glover@opera.org.au