

MEDIA RELEASE

13 July 2026

Opera Australia presents free lunch time performance of fabulous and fun operetta, *The Merry Widow* at the QVB



To mark the start of its Sydney Winter season, Opera Australia (OA) is staging a free lunch time performance from *The Merry Widow* at the iconic Queen Victoria Building on Wednesday 15 July at 12:30pm.

Celebrating OA's 70th anniversary and the return of one of the world's most popular operettas, Sydneysiders will be treated to a glimpse of this delightfully fun production and have the opportunity to secure tickets to the full show at the Sydney Opera House for just \$70 each.

This one-off free event will feature performances by the Merry Widow herself, Emma Pearson, one of Australia's most internationally acclaimed sopranos, alongside baritone and OA Young Artist graduate, Leon Vitogiannis who is quickly becoming a rising star in his own right.

They'll each perform an aria followed by a duet accompanied by Maestro Brian Castles-Onion on QVB's grand piano. They will be joined by the fabulously frothy "grisette" dancers for two show-stopping numbers.

A unique blend of opera and musical theatre, *The Merry Widow* is an all singing, all dancing Broadway style rom-com, performed in English and set in the fabulous 1920s Art Deco era.

Directed and choreographed by Australian National Living Treasure Graeme Murphy, this production is hugely entertaining, delivering a glitzy, glamorous good time with hum-along tunes, fantastic dancing, decadent sets and stunning costumes.

The first 70 people to scan the QR code on display at the lunchtime performance will be able to purchase \$70 tickets to see *The Merry Widow* at the Sydney Opera House from 17th – 24th July in A, B and C reserve – a saving of up to \$199 per ticket.

Enjoy a moment of escapism to the glamour and grandeur of the 1920s and experience the bubbly and bright melodies of operetta with Opera Australia as it continues to celebrate 70 years of performing arts excellence.

Images: <https://opera.org.au/about/media-centre/sydney-2026/>

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