


**WEST
AUSTRALIAN
OPERA
2025**





Opera captures the spirit
of being alive. In 2025,
experience operas enriched
with romance and regret,
hi-jinks and hilarity.
Let beautiful music pierce
your heart, nurture your soul,
and allow your spirit to soar.

**IT ALL STARTS
WITH OPERA.**



Opera, at its heart, is great storytelling through music. And what speaks better to the human condition than a story shared, enjoyed, reflected on, and cherished. It's this love of connection, of coming together through great art that drives us at West Australian Opera to explore the repertoire, commission new works, travel to the corners of the state and deliver performances of the highest standard.

In 2025, we bring the best of the world's opera home! We open with Stuart Maunder's swashbuckling production of *The Pirates of Penzance* in its WA premiere, before another debut with Moffatt Oxenbould's iconic production of *Madama Butterfly*. We close the mainstage season with Verdi's

masterpiece *Il trovatore* led by WASO's Principal Conductor Asher Fisch.

We continue to take opera outside His Majesty's Theatre with a series of *Secret Opera* which is, not surprisingly, a secret. Follow us down the rabbit hole throughout the year with more details to be released prior to each event, but rest assured it'll be the most talked about night in Perth.

Plus, we're delivering our huge regional and education programs, Young Artist Program, and all the other activities that make your State Opera Company the home of voice in WA.

Chris van Tuinen
Artistic Director
West Australian Opera



Kalyakoorl, ngalak warangka (forever we sing). I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which we meet, rehearse and perform, particularly the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation and pay deep respect to Elders.

At the state opera company, our dream is to speak to the heart through the human voice. We want to share the joy of music through opera and the powerful stories opera tells. We are uniquely and proudly Western Australian and we bring audiences and artists together to celebrate sung stories that are relevant to our people, time, and places.

In opera, these stories are often the most passionate portrayals of emotion and

the human condition. And, although from various places, times and languages, these stories continue to be relevant because they are human stories. You are invited to explore the depths of the heart and embrace the deepest feelings of being alive.

Join us in the theatre, schools, and regional WA. We appreciate your ongoing support and patronage. We will continue to strive to bring you art that nurtures your soul and allows your spirit to soar.

Carolyn Chard AM
Executive Director
West Australian Opera

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE, 28 MARCH – 5 APRIL

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE

"Funny and joyous, a musical celebration of life" ARTSHUB

Hurrah for The Pirate King! Gilbert and Sullivan's uproariously silly operetta *The Pirates of Penzance* storms the stage of His Majesty's Theatre for a romp across the high seas and to the Motherland.

Bursting with much-loved music, the score will leave you grinning with classics including 'I am the Very Model of a Modern Major General', 'Poor Wandering One' and 'I am the Pirate King'.

Following his performance in the titular role in WAO's *Sweeney Todd*, musical theatre star Ben Mingay returns as the swashbuckling Pirate King.

Directed by the acclaimed Stuart Maunder AM (*Carmen*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Cunning Little Vixen*), don't miss this hilarious must-see production in its Perth premiere.

CONDUCTOR
Christopher van Tuinen

DIRECTOR
Stuart Maunder AM

ORIGINAL CHOREOGRAPHER
Elizabeth Hill-Cooper

REVIVAL CHOREOGRAPHER
Anna Tsigotis

SET DESIGNER
Richard Roberts

COSTUME DESIGNER
Roger Kirk AM

LIGHTING DESIGNER
Trudy Dagleish

THE PIRATE KING
Ben Mingay

MAJOR GENERAL
Andrew Foote

FREDERIC
Alasdair Kent

MABEL
Prudence Sanders

RUTH
Penny Shaw

SERGEANT OF POLICE
Brett Peart

SAMUEL
Lachlann Lawton

EDITH
Emma Petteimerides

KATE
Belinda Butler

ISABEL
Claire Condipodero

West Australian Opera Chorus
West Australian Symphony
Orchestra

LANGUAGE
Sung in English

DURATION
2 hours and 10 minutes
including interval

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE is an original production by Opera Australia



HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE, 26 JULY – 9 AUGUST

MADAMA BUTTERFLY

"A simple, truthful, stylish staging of one of the finest operas written" AUSSIE THEATRE

One of the world's best-loved, most-performed operas returns to His Majesty's Theatre for the first time in a decade.

Puccini's beautiful and powerful opera shatters the hearts of its audience with its devastating story of betrayal set against the backdrop of 1904 Nagasaki, Japan.

The American, Lieutenant Pinkerton, marries young geisha Cio-Cio-San,

and she believes his love is true. After Pinkerton returns to the United States, she bears a son and waits faithfully for his return. What follows remains one of opera's most tragic stories.

Witness the exquisite Moffatt Oxenbould production of this powerhouse opera set to transport you to another world and break your heart.

CONDUCTOR
Christopher van Tuinen

ORIGINAL DIRECTOR
Moffatt Oxenbould

REVIVAL DIRECTOR
Matthew Barclay

SET AND COSTUME DESIGNERS
Russell Cohen & Peter England

LIGHTING DESIGNER
Robert Bryan

CIO-CIO-SAN
Mariana Hong

PINKERTON
Paul O'Neill

SHARPLESS
Samuel Dundas

SUZUKI
Fleuranne Brockway

GORO
Kohsei Gilkes

THE BONZE
Jake Bigwood

KATE PINKERTON
Ruth Burke

THE OFFICIAL REGISTRAR
David Dockery

West Australian Opera Chorus
West Australian Symphony
Orchestra

LANGUAGE
Sung in Italian

DURATION
2 hours and 45 minutes
including interval

MADAMA BUTTERFLY is an original production by Opera Australia



HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE, 16 - 25 OCTOBER

IL TROVATORE

"High drama, trickery, ultimatums, betrayal and death" LIMELIGHT

Verdi's masterwork *Il trovatore* is a tangled web of vengeance, rivalry, and regret. This is grand opera at its most dramatic.

When a gypsy woman is burnt at the stake for allegedly bewitching a child, her daughter, Azucena, swears revenge.

Azucena steals the child's brother to throw him into the flames of her mother's burning pyre, however, accidentally throws in her own child. Horrified by her

mistake, she brings up the stolen child as her own. This haunting family secret lays the groundwork for Verdi's tragedy.

Under the baton of West Australian Symphony Orchestra's Principal Conductor, Asher Fisch, a star cast and chorus perform Verdi's richly beautiful score which is most famous for the iconic Anvil Chorus.

CONDUCTOR
Asher Fisch

ORIGINAL DIRECTOR
Elke Neidhardt

REVIVAL DIRECTOR
Matthew Barclay

SET DESIGNER
Michael Scott-Mitchell

COSTUME DESIGNER
Judith Hoddinott

LIGHTING DESIGNER
Nick Schlieper

COUNT DI LUNA
James Clayton

MANRICO
Paul O'Neill

LEONORA
Naomi Johns

AZUCENA
Nicole Youl

FERRANDO
Warwick Fyfe

RUIZ
Stuart Laing

INEZ
Jessica Blunt

West Australian Opera Chorus
West Australian Symphony
Orchestra

LANGUAGE
Sung in Italian

DURATION
2 hours and 40 minutes
including interval

IL TROVATORE is an original co-production by West Australian Opera, State Opera South Australia and Opera Queensland



SECRET OPERA

West Australian Opera tempts you to take a chance.

You're invited to join fellow strangers at a meeting place; a location known only to those who have chosen to embrace this mystery.

Together, you'll be led to an undisclosed location. Picture an intimate venue charged with the buzz of the unknown.

As the music begins, you will uncover a Secret Opera. Performed to an audience of only 100 people, each note will feel like a personal serenade.

It's an evening wrapped in surprises, where the thrill of discovery is as enchanting as the music itself.

All you know is the date, the time, and the starting place. Limited tickets. Your Secret Opera awaits.



WESFARMERS ARTS

YOUNG ARTIST PROGRAM

The Wesfarmers Arts Young Artist Program is committed to nurturing the next generation of opera talent.

The Wesfarmers Arts Young Artist Program offers an annual program of coaching, masterclasses, and performance opportunities to develop technical skills and stagecraft.

2025 Young Artists: Jessica Blunt (soprano), Ruth Burke (mezzo-soprano), Benjamin Del Borrello (baritone), Kohsei Gilkes (tenor), and Brett Peart (baritone).

BENDAT SCHOLARSHIP

The Bendat Family Foundation support the Bendat Scholarship, which offers travel support to young artists.

THE ROBERTS EMERGING ARTIST PROGRAM

The Roberts Emerging Artist Program empowers early career artists to develop their craft through professional development opportunities, mentorship, specialist coaching, role preparation, and training support.


Wesfarmers Arts
Principal Partner


Bendat
FAMILY FOUNDATION

EDUCATION

West Australian Opera celebrates the transformative power of music as a universal language that transcends boundaries. We strive to create meaningful opportunities for people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds to make music and tell stories.

We engage diverse communities and promote positive social and emotional wellbeing through singing classes, masterclasses, workshops, specialised programs, regionally based initiatives, and large-scale outreach projects.

With thanks to support from the Feilman Foundation, West Australian Opera introduces WAO SINGS, a three-year

pilot program offering in-school music education and choral singing to Grade 5 and 6 students at four schools across Ellenbrook, under the tutelage of Dr Emma Jayakumar.

West Australian Opera offers tailored workshops including:

- Singing Classes
- Wesfarmers Arts Makeup Workshops
- Movement Workshops
- Production and design Workshops

To learn more or make a booking, email education@waopera.asn.au

FEILMAN
FOUNDATION





OUR STATE'S OPERA COMPANY IS A KEY ARTS ORGANISATION IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA



West Australian Opera makes a significant contribution to the arts in our State, by presenting world-class opera, and celebrating our local artists, musicians, and performers.

The Company's upcoming season promises to be one of their best yet, with programming for all lovers of opera and theatre.

As Vice Regal Patron of West Australian Opera, I am pleased to see pathways to participation and engagement through education, a young artist program, public singing classes, regional tours, and workshops, as well as the beautiful operatic repertoire we see on the mainstage in His Majesty's Theatre.

Our State's opera company is a key arts organisation in Western Australia,

and works closely with its performance partner and our state orchestra, the West Australian Symphony Orchestra.

Despite our remote location, Western Australia continues to produce generations of performing artists and creative team members who not only enrich the state locally, but go on to present and perform opera in other parts of our Nation and the world. Most or all of these artists were supported by West Australian Opera.

I hope you will join me in supporting the Company this season.

**His Excellency the Honourable
Chris Dawson AC APM**
Governor of Western Australia

**THE COOK GOVERNMENT
IS PROUD TO SUPPORT
WEST AUSTRALIAN OPERA**



Our state opera company, West Australian Opera, performs in its beautiful home His Majesty's Theatre in the heart of our city. It is here that the magic happens.

We will see *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Madama Butterfly* and *Il trovatore* on the mainstage.

Off the stage, I acknowledge the company continues to invest in local artists, young talent, education, and outreach programs. This engagement

plays a crucial role in the development of artists in our state.

The Cook Government is proud to support West Australian Opera and I wish the company every success.

The Honourable David Templeman MLA
Minister for Culture and the Arts

**WE WANT THE JOY OF OPERA TO BE
ACCESSIBLE TO AS MANY WESTERN
AUSTRALIANS AS POSSIBLE**



Our aim as your State Opera Company is to strive to connect with the community through performing arts. We want the joy of opera to be accessible to as many Western Australians as possible.

Presenting opera is only possible with the support of our partners, patrons, trusts, foundations, donors, and government. The Board, management, company, and artists are grateful to the entire opera family who enable us to continue to share the power of opera with you.

I acknowledge and thank the Federal Government for the support it provides through Creative Australia, the State Government through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and Lotterywest, and Principal Partner Wesfarmers Arts.

Andrew Pascoe
Chair, West Australian Opera



SUPPORT US

OUR WONDERFUL DONORS

We are very grateful to the family of brilliant donors who assist us in enriching lives with opera.

West Australian Opera is a registered non-for-profit charity and donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Every gift plays a vital role in supporting your state opera company. With your support we can continue to create opera that captivates and uplifts.

To make a donation, please scan the QR code or visit: waopera.asn.au/donate



BEQUEST CIRCLE

Share your love of opera with generations to come.

West Australian Opera invites you to consider a gift in your Will to your state opera company.

If you would like to have a confidential conversation about donations or bequests, phone (08) 9278 8915 or email philanthropy@waopera.asn.au

DONORS

VISIONARY CIRCLE

The Roberts Emerging Artist Program

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR CIRCLE (\$25,000+)

Bruce & Charmaine Cameron

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE (\$10,000+)

Jock & Kate Clough

Ulrich & Gloria Kunzmann

Dr Robert Larbalestier AO

Ken & Yuko Lucas

Margaret & Rod Marston

Dr Peter Simpson OAM

Leanne & Sam Walsh AO

Anonymous (1)

PRINCIPAL PATRON (\$5,000+)

Stewart Candlish & Bianca Panizza

Warwick Hemsley AO

The Estate of Robert Kimpton

Francis Landels

Dr Bryant Macfie

Annie & Neil Patrick

Anne Seghezzi & Gene Tilbrook

Helen & Michael Tuite

BENEFACTOR (\$2,500+)

Gaysie Atkinson

Neil Archibald & Alan R Dodge AM

Lorraine Ellard

Catherine Ferrari

Christiaan Heyning

Eleanor John

Dr Maria Kailis

Ross & Fran Ledger

Patrick Lilburne

Mark & Fiona Newman

John S Paterson

Bill & Barbara Reid

Kerry Sanderson

Ruth Thorn

Joy Wearne

Anonymous (2)

SUPPORTER (\$1,000+)

Dr Carol Anderson

Cathy Bardon & Bob Cassie

Prof Colin Binns AO & Dr Mi Kyung Lee OAM

David & Lois Black

Christine Burson

Joan Carney

Helen Carroll

Frank Cooper AO

Peter & Christene Dalla Riva

Tim & Wendy Davis

John & Ann Dawson

Brian Lindberg & Graham Douglas

Michelle & Bill Edwards

Robyn Edwards

Thomas Gerner

Dr Rosalind Hampton

Steven Heath

Dr Penny Herbert

Luke Hoare

Kathryn Hogan & Graham Droppert

Andreas W Merk

Cathy & Cian Noonan

Karen Parfitt

Jennifer Rankin

Wayne Robinson

Glenice Shephard

Kim & Keith Spence

Gail Spiers

Jan & Alan Stewart

Ruth Stratton

Robyn Tamke

Clare Thompson SC & Brad Power

Tessa Tieleman

Agatha van Der Schaaf

Yannis Vrodos

Dr Chris & Mrs Vimala Whitaker

Anonymous (10)

FRIEND (\$500+)

Tom & Mary-Anne Aram

Danielle & Myles Barlow

Ron & Sue Bates

Carolyn Chard AM

Douglas Clifford

Robert Clifton

Janina Ivy Cusack

Peter Eadington

DONORS

Peter Edwards

Peter Flanigan & Rosemary Grigg

Dr Barry Green

V Harvey

Enid Hopps

Vivienne Jagger

Dr Susan M Joubert

Jock & Jennifer Laurie

Kay Lee & Richard Murphy

Warren & Gillian Murphy

Allison Low

Dr Hamish McGlashan

Liane Papaelias

Roger Paterson

Mary Petrie

Steve & Jane Sherwood

Lindsay & Suzanne Silbert

Diane Smith-Gander AO

Margaret Stockton

Warren & Katharina Surtees

Sue Thomas

Leonard Walker

Diana Warnock & the late Bill Warnock

Peter & Hilary Winterton

Alison Woodman

Anonymous (7)

DONOR (\$250+)

Thank you to all our donors who help us create and present the highest quality of opera in Western Australia.

LIFETIME RECOGNITION

Neil Archibald & Alan R Dodge AM

Bruce & Charmaine Cameron

Warwick Hemsley AO

The Kimpton Family

The Kailis Family

Dr Robert Larbalestier AO

Annie & Neil Patrick

Helen & Michael Tuite

The Roberts Emerging Artist Program

Leanne & Sam Walsh AO

Anonymous (1)

ANDREW FORREST AO

NICOLA FORREST AO

The generous gift of FMG shares supports a strong and vibrant arts sector in Western Australia.

BEL CANTO FUND

Thanks to the leadership donors of the Bel Canto Fund.

BEQUEST CIRCLE

Cassandra Charlick & Stepan Libricky

Anita & James Clayton

Lorraine Ellard

Shane Pavlinovich

Ailsa West

Anonymous (5)

ESTATES

The Estate of Wendy Scanlon

The Estate of Clive Wannell

The Estate of Joyce E Young

The Estate of Noreen Riordan

TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS

Bendat Family Foundation

The James Galvin Family Foundation

Stan Perron Charitable Foundation

Wright Burt Foundation

Join our cast of supporters by donating online at waopera.asn.au. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

Listing correct at time of publication.

PRINCIPAL PARTNER



GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



MAJOR PARTNERS



CIVIC PARTNERS



OPERA PARTNERS

TERTIARY EDUCATION PARTNER



VOYAGER ESTATE
MARGARET RIVER



PERFORMANCE PARTNERS





WEST AUSTRALIAN OPERA

VICE REGAL PATRON

His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson AC APM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Andrew Pascoe, *Chair*

Darren Lewsen, *Deputy Chair*

Janet Barnes

Alison Gaines

Anthony Gianotti

Christiaan Heyning

Jan Stewart

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Dario Amara

Richard Bonyng AC CBE

Julie Bishop

Terry Bowen

Frank Cooper AO

Catherine Ferrari

Erich Fraunschiel

Colin Goddard

Warwick Hemsley AO

Francis Landels

Bruce Martin AM

Margaret McManus

Dr Richard Mills AO

Annie Patrick

Marilyn Phillips OAM

PATRON WESFARMERS ARTS

YOUNG ARTIST PROGRAM

Emma Matthews AM

2025 WESFARMERS ARTS

YOUNG ARTISTS

Jessica Blunt, Benjamin Del Borrello, Ruth Burke,

Kohsei Gilkes, Brett Peart

West Australian Opera acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we live, work and create, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nation, and we pay deep respect to Elders past and present. Kalyakoorl, ngalak warangka (Forever we sing).

Casting and information correct at the time of publication but may be subject to amendments.

Illustrations: Chard International (cover, p 7, 9, 11, 13).

Photography: Alana Blowfield (p.2, 4,14), Mellen Burns (p.16),

Frankie the Creative (p.18, 20), Prudence Upton (p.22, 32), West Beach Studio (p.36)

Brochure Design: chardinternational.com.au

Executive Director
Carolyn Chard AM

Artistic Director
Chris van Tuinen

Production Manager
Mandy Farmer

Accountant
Debbie Byrnes

Artistic Administrator
Kate Larkins

Partnerships Manager
Teresa Letizia

Philanthropy Manager
Jane Campbell

Marketing Manager
Scott Whinfield

Audience and Insights Manager
Danielle Barlow

Media Consultant
Daniele Foti-Cuzzola

Marketing and Events Coordinator
Rebecca Bencivenni

Education Manager
Olivia Ferguson

Choral Director, WAO Sings
Emma Jayakumar

CRM Coordinator
Rachel Sait

Office Administrator
Ginny van Tuinen

Financial Consultant
Kris Adrian

Stage Manager
Karen Farmer

Music Librarian
Allison Fyfe

PACKAGES

BEST SEATS, PRICES & FLEXIBILITY

Join the West Australian Opera family and enjoy being a package buyer in 2025.



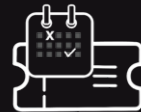
DISCOUNT TICKETS

Secure your favourite seats early at the discount rate of 10% off when you buy two or more productions.



EXTRA TICKETS

Purchase extra tickets for family and friends anytime with your discount.



CHANGE YOUR DATE

Exchange your opera tickets for a different date. Tickets must be exchanged at least 24 hours prior to the performance and are subject to availability.



PAY AS YOU GO

Book now, pay by installments. Package tickets can be processed in three installments; first on date of booking, second on 13 January 2025 and third on 10 February 2025.

HOW TO BOOK

TICKET PRICES*	PREMIUM	A RESERVE	B RESERVE	C RESERVE
THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE	Weekday / Matinee: \$179	Weekday / Matinee: \$149	\$109	\$69
MADAMA BUTTERFLY				
IL TROVATORE	Saturday Night: \$189	Saturday Night: \$159		

PACKAGES (2 or more shows) on sale from 9am, 7 November 2024

SINGLE TICKETS on sale from 9am, 21 November 2024

WEBSITE

waopera.asn.au



IN PERSON

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE Monday to Friday 9am - 5:30pm
SUBIACO ARTS CENTRE Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm
STATE THEATRE CENTRE OF WA Monday to Friday 10am - 5:30pm

BY MAIL

Download a booking form from waopera.asn.au and post to West Australian Opera, PO Box 7052, Cloisters Square, Perth WA 6850 OR email bookings@waopera.asn.au

BY PHONE

Ring the local call centre 08 6212 9292 between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday

*Concession, Student and Group tickets available. Enquire at Box Office.

Single ticket prices are subject to demand-based pricing and may change without notice. Fees apply. Web: \$3.95 (cart is \$36 or less) \$5.95 (cart more than \$36). Phone: \$6.95. In person: \$6.95. Group bookings: \$8.95. Add \$2 for postage by Standard Mail or \$4.40 for Registered Mail.



CREATIVITY IN FLIGHT

As Principal Partner of West Australian Opera, Wesfarmers is proud to help Western Australian artists take flight.

From the creation of new works like *Koolbardi Wer Wardong* and *Wundig wer Wilura*, to the compelling reimagining of the world's classic operas, West Australian Opera and Wesfarmers Arts are thrilled to connect audiences with the power of music and voice.

Wesfarmers Arts
Commissioning Partner of *Koolbardi Wer Wardong* (2021) and *Wundig wer Wilura* (2024) and Principal Partner, West Australian Opera.



Wesfarmers Arts

Principal Partner West Australian Opera

WEST AUSTRALIAN OPERA



Wesfarmers Arts
Principal Partner