



**2024  
IFAC HANDA  
AUSTRALIAN  
SINGING  
COMPETITION  
FINALS  
CONCERT**

**Thursday  
7pm, 19 September**

**The Concourse  
Chatswood**



# WELCOME



On behalf of the International Foundation for Arts and Culture, I am delighted to welcome you to the IFAC Australian Singing Competition. As a music enthusiast with a deep connection to Australia, this event holds a special significance for me. Music has the power to transform hearts and minds, and bring people together. These young performers have an extraordinary gift, which should be shared with the world. My heartfelt wishes go out to each of tonight's exceptional competitors. Enjoy a wonderful evening filled with outstanding musicianship and artistry.

Dr. Haruhisa Handa AO  
Founder and Chairman,  
International  
Foundation for Arts  
and Culture (IFAC) and  
Patron of the IFAC  
Handa Australian  
Singing Competition



After hearing these extraordinary singers, I am confident you'll agree that the future of opera is bright. We commend the International Foundation for Arts and Culture (IFAC) and Dr. Haruhisa Handa, whose enduring support as our Principal Sponsor has allowed us to engage the magnificent Opera Australia Orchestra. Our heartfelt thanks go to the adjudicators for their generous donation of time and expertise, ensuring each performance is evaluated with the highest standards. We are deeply grateful to our sponsors and supporters, whose invaluable contributions make fostering young talent in opera possible. Thank you our audience for your enthusiasm and support.

Roland Gridiger OAM  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Music & Opera Singers  
Trust Ltd. (MOST)

## Tahu Matheson

Tahu has worked for Opera Australia since 2007 and in 2017 became Head of Music for the company. He has conducted numerous operas, ranging from Carmen to Aida to Satyagraha, and in 2022 conducted a series of acclaimed performances of Lohengrin with Jonas Kaufman in the title role. This year he has conducted the Magic Flute, and Tosca at the Sydney Opera House.

## Adjudicators

Natalie Aroyan  
(National Adjudicator)  
Nicole Dorigo  
Jane Ede  
Benjamin Rasheed  
Barry Ryan OAM

## Opera Australia

Chief Executive Officer  
Fiona Allan

Chief Operating Officer  
Simon Militano

Orchestra Manager  
Emma In der Maur

Concertmaster  
Matthieu Arama

## Personnel

Audio Engineer  
Jonathan Palmer

Photography  
Winkipop

Cinematography  
Ussher Direction

Graphic Design  
Anastasia Liolio

This concert will be broadcast by Fine Music Sydney 102.5FM on 13 October.

## Thank you

We would like to recognise the generous support we have received from: Fiona Allan, Natalie Aroyan, Elena Babicheva, Paolo Bartera, Anna Bennett, Jan Black, Jeffrey Black, Thomas Bruce, Isabel Burdick, Andrew Carswell, Andrea Catzel, Denise Cheng, Drago Cherina, Andrew Collins, Sarah Collins, Dr Rowena Cowley, Sarah Crane, Marc-Antoine d'Aragnon, Steve Davidson, Lynne Dawson, Nicole Dorigo, Jane Ede, David Full, Bradley Gilchrist, Amelia Gledhill, Joanne Goodman, Stephen Grant, Ilana Gridiger, Chanae Horsley, Emma In der Maur, Rhonda Jones, Andrea Katz, David Langley, Dr Simon Lobelson, Sherman Lowe, Mattias Lower, Hugh Lydon, Tahu Matheson, Emma Matthews AM, Jayson McBride, Ali McGregor, Sheila McKechnie, Camille Mercep, Midori Miyazaki, Angela Moore, David Mortimer AO, Dan Novak, Mandy O'Bryan, Mona Omar, Jonathan Palmer, Shaun Patterson, Corin Powell, Patricia Price, Radzyminski Family, Benjamin Rasheed, Virginia Read, Anna Reid, Diana Ritch, Linnhe Robertson, Judith Romanini, Barry Ryan OAM, Olivia Smith-Grugan, Zeke Solomon AM, Nicky & Tim Stevens, Mariya Tarakhnenko, Dermot Tutty, Adrian Ussher, Lili Ussher, Frank Varapodio, Kate Williams, Glenn Winslade, Kym Yeomans JP



# AUDIENCE CHOICE PRIZE

Those that submit their vote will be in the running to win a 5 CD box set, "Puccini: The Definitive Collection", and a 6 CD box set, "Stuart Burrows: The Complete Decca Recitals".

**Vote at [aussing.org/vote](https://aussing.org/vote)**

OPERA AUSTRALIA 



# OUR ARTISTS



**Tahu Matheson**  
Conductor



**Eliza Shephard**  
Guest Artist



**Camille Merčep**  
Compère



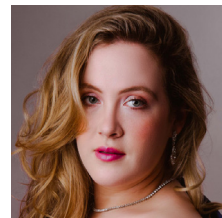
**Georgia Cooper**  
Soprano NSW  
24



**Jake Lyle**  
Baritone QLD  
21



**Ariana Ricci**  
Soprano NSW  
22



**Molly Ryan**  
Soprano NSW  
22



**Eden Shifroni**  
Soprano NSW  
24

# PROGRAM

**Molly Ryan**  
*Temerari ...*  
*Come scoglio*  
*Così fan tutte /*  
Mozart

**Eden Shifroni**  
*Sul fil d'un soffio*  
*etesio*  
*Falstaff /*  
Verdi

**Jake Lyle**  
*Hai già vinta la*  
*causa! ... Vedrò,*  
*mentr'io sospiro*  
*Le Nozze Di*  
*Figaro /*  
Mozart

**Ariana Ricci**  
*Bel raggio*  
*lusinghier*  
*Semiramide /*  
Rossini

**Georgia Cooper**  
*Nun eilt herbai*  
*Die lustigen*  
*Weiber von*  
*Windsor /*  
Nicolai

**Molly Ryan**  
*Ebben? ... Ne*  
*andrò lontana*  
*La Wally /*  
Catalani

**Jake Lyle**  
*Questo Amor*  
*Edgar /*  
Puccini

**Eden Shifroni**  
*O luce di*  
*quest'anima*  
*Linda di*  
*Chamounix /*  
Donizetti

**Georgia Cooper**  
*Dieu! Quel*  
*frisson ... Amour*  
*ranime mon*  
*courage*  
*Roméo et*  
*Juliette /*  
Gounod

**Ariana Ricci**  
*Où va la jeune*  
*Hindoue*  
*Lakme /*  
Delibes

## INTERVAL 20 MINUTES

**Eliza Shephard**  
**(Guest Artist)**  
*Concertino Pour*  
*Flûte /*  
Chaminade

**Opera Australia**  
**Orchestra**  
*Overture*  
*La Forza del*  
*Destino /*  
Verdi

## PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

# PRIZES

## MARIANNE MATHY SCHOLARSHIP ('THE MATHY')

The Marianne Mathy Scholarship AUD \$30,000 to assists with a program of study and/or singing activity. The singer also receives:

### Audition Prize from Lyric Opera of Chicago's Ryan Opera Center

An opportunity to audition for Lyric Opera of Chicago's professional-artist development program, The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center, in Chicago.

### Lili Ussher Prize

Portrait painting of the winner in concert dress.

### Oral History Award

A taped interview by oral historian Diana Ritch will be recorded and retained within the Oral History Collection of the National Library of Australia.

### WinkiPoP Media Prize

A folio of three different 8x12 inch photographic prints.

### The Mathy Limited Edition Drago Marin Cherina Statuette

Presented by Music & Opera Singers Trust Ltd (MOST®)

## OTHER PRIZES AND OPPORTUNITIES

### Opera Australia Finalist Audition Prize

All Finalists are invited to advance straight to the final round of auditions for the renewed Opera Australia Young Artist Program starting in 2025. *Sponsored by Principal Patron Maureen Wheeler and Opera Australia.*

### Merenda Legacy Prize

Cash grant AUD \$10,000 to enable the recipient to study the Italian language in Italy. *Sponsored by Equity Trustees and the Estate of the Late Francis Merenda.*

## HELP SUPPORT AUSTRALIA'S CREATIVE TALENT

You can join us in assisting talented opera and classical singers achieve their goals, by making a donation to Music & Opera Singers Trust (MOST). A MOST donation enables you to give more to the arts, music, education, and the Australian community. You can support one of our existing Programs, join our Patrons Program, or create a Scholarship, Grant or Award that carries your name. To learn more about these opportunities, please get in touch:

Mandy O'Bryan, Head of Philanthropy  
mandy@mostlyopera.org  
T. 0414 857 812

Donations of \$2.00 or more are tax deductible.

### Canadian Vocal Arts Institute (CVAI) Montreal Scholarship

A scholarship to attend the International Vocal Arts Institute (IVAI) Summer Program in Montreal. *Sponsored by CVAI.* The winner will also receive the **Zeke Solomon Award**, AUD \$5,000 to assist with travel expenses. *Sponsored by Zeke Solomon AM.*

### The Sherman Lowe Study Prize

10 one-hour private lessons with acclaimed voice teacher and vocal pedagogue, Sherman Lowe, in Treviso, Italy. *Sponsored by Sherman Lowe.* The winner will also receive the **Pasqualina Lipari Prize**, AUD \$2,500 to assist with travel expenses. *Sponsored by V&A Accountants and Business Advisors, Adelaide.*

### The Linnhe Robertson Prize

10 one-hour private lessons with acclaimed voice teacher Linnhe Robertson in London, England. *Sponsored by Linnhe Robertson.* The winner will also receive the **Nell Pascall Award**, AUD \$3,000 to assist with travel expenses. *Sponsored by the Nell Pascall Estate.*

### 2MBS Fine Music Sydney Promotion Prize

AUD \$1,000 promotional credit with 2MBS Fine Music Sydney. *Sponsored by 2MBS Fine Music Sydney.*

### MOST® Audience Prize

Cash grant AUD \$500 from Music & Opera Singers Trust Ltd. (MOST®) awarded by audience vote. *Sponsored by Music & Opera Singers Trust Ltd.*

### Opera Australia Prize

Opportunity for all Finalists to attend rehearsals in Melbourne or Sydney, observing an opera throughout the stages of its production. *Sponsored by Opera Australia.*

## THANK YOU TO OUR PRINCIPAL SPONSOR

In appreciation of the amazing contribution to music and the arts, and for generously supporting the artistic community and cultural life of Australia, we salute Dr. Haruhisa Handa AO, The International Foundation for Arts and Culture (IFAC), and Midori Miyazaki, the International Executive Director and Board Member of IFAC.



The International  
Foundation for  
Arts and Culture

The IFAC Handa Australian Singing Competition is administered by the Music & Opera Singers Trust Ltd.

**MOST®**