



# 2025 IFAC HANDA AUSTRALIAN SINGING COMPETITION FINALS CONCERT

Thursday  
7pm, 25 September

The Concourse  
Chatswood

PATRON-IN-CHIEF  
DR. HARUHISA HANDA AO



IFAC HANDA  
AUSTRALIAN SINGING  
COMPETITION



The International  
Foundation for  
Arts and Culture

**MOST**<sup>®</sup>  
aussing.org

# WELCOME



Being a music enthusiast with a deep connection to Australia, this occasion holds special significance. Music has the power to inspire, to transform hearts and minds, and to bring people together. Tonight we celebrate a new generation of remarkable young performers, whose extraordinary gifts deserve to be shared with the world. My heartfelt best wishes go out to each of this evening's exceptional competitors. May you all enjoy a wonderful evening filled with artistry and musicianship.

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



With tonight's exceptional singers, the future of opera shines brightly. We extend deepest thanks to the International Foundation for Arts and Culture (IFAC) and Dr. Haruhisa Handa, whose unwavering support as Principal Sponsor brings us the Opera Australia Orchestra. Sincere gratitude to our adjudicators, sponsors, and supporters for enabling excellence and nurturing emerging talent. And to our audience: your presence and enthusiasm make this celebration possible. Together, we are sustaining opera's legacy and inspiring new generations of artists and audiences.

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

## Natalie Murray Beale

Natalie Murray Beale is a Australian conductor with 20 years' experience in opera. She has led productions for Opera Australia, Royal Ballet & Opera, ENO, Theater Bonn, Welsh National Opera, Croatian National Opera and the Grand Théâtre Luxembourg, plus orchestras including the LSO, Philharmonia, and BBC Concert Orchestra. Natalie has collaborated with world-renowned singers such as Karita Mattila, Peter Mattei, Violeta Urmana, and Sir Willard White.

## Adjudicators

Jeffrey Black  
(National Adjudicator)  
Joanne Goodman  
Dr. Francis Greep  
Kate Johnson  
Dr. Simon Lobelson

## Opera Australia

Acting Chief  
Executive Officer  
Simon Militano

Associate Concertmaster  
Huy-Nguyen Bui

Opera Australia Orchestra  
[www.opera.org.au/about](http://www.opera.org.au/about)

## Personnel

Audio Recording  
and Broadcast  
ABC Classic  
Andre Shrimski  
(Producer)  
Andrew Edgson  
Matt Hiley

Photography  
WinkiPop

Cinematography  
Nino Tamburri

Graphic Design  
Anastasia Liolio

This concert will be  
broadcast by ABC  
Classic on 12 October.

## Thank you

We would like to recognise the generous support we have received from: Will Angus, Elena Babicheva, Paolo Barlera, Jan Black, Jeffrey Black, Fiona Campbell OAM, Andrea Catzel, Denise Cheng, Drago Cherina, Andrew Collins, Dr Rowena Cowley, Marc-Antoine d'Aragon, Steve Davidson, Lynne Dawson, Nicole Dorigo, Jane Ede, Dr. Zeny Edwards OAM, Eva Fischl OAM, David Full, Bradley Gilchrist, Joanne Goodman, Stephen Grant, Dr. Francis Greep, Ilana Gridiger, Jane Hennessy, Dr. Anke Höppner-Ryan, Emma In der Maur, Kate Johnson, Natalie Jones, Rhonda Jones, Andrea Katz, Yvonne Kenny AM, Leanne Kenneally-Warnock, David Langley, Kate Lidbetter, Dr. Simon Lobelson, Sherman Lowe, Tahu Matheson, Gregory Massingham, Emma Matthews AM, Sheila McKechnie, Camille Mercep, Midori Miyazaki, David Mortimer AO, Natalie Murray Beale, Vera Nadile, Dan Novak, Mandy O'Bryan, Jonathan Palmer, Shaun Patterson, Corin Powell, Patricia Price, Radzynski Family, Virginia Read, Anna Reid, Diana Ritch, Linnhe Robertson, Judith Romanini, Colonel Michael Scott CSC, Robert Scott, Saskia Shearer, Olivia Smith-Grugan, Siobhan Stagg, Nicky & Tim Stevens, Symphony Services International, Solomiya Sywak, The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss, Adrian Ussher, Lili Ussher, Frank Varapodio, Kym Yeomans JP, Nicole Youl

OPERA AUSTRALIA :  CLASSIC



# AUDIENCE CHOICE PRIZE

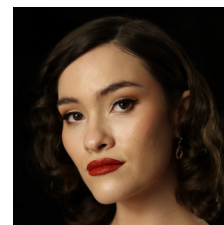
Those that submit their vote will be in the running to win a hamper of fresh fruit, provided by Vegie King Produce.

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

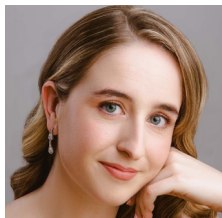
# OUR ARTISTS



**Natalie  
Murray Beale**  
Conductor



**Nina  
Korbe**  
Compère



**Sophie  
Blades**  
Soprano NSW  
24



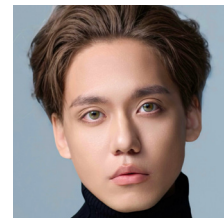
**Aidan  
Hodder**  
Baritone QLD  
25



**Sidra  
Nissen**  
Mezzo VIC  
23



**Brittney  
Northcott**  
Mezzo VIC  
24



**Wesley  
Haotian Yu**  
Tenor NSW  
24

# PROGRAM

**Aidan Hodder**  
*Papagena!*  
*Papagena!*  
*Papagena!*  
Die Zauberflöte  
/ Mozart

**Sophie Blades**  
*Quanti mi siete  
intorno... Padre,  
germani, addio!*  
Idomeneo  
/ Mozart

**Brittney  
Northcott**  
*Vani sono  
i lamenti...  
Svegliatevi nel  
core*  
Giulio Cesare in  
Egitto  
/ Mozart

**Sidra Nissen**  
*Smanie  
implacabili*  
Così fan tutte /  
Mozart

**Wesley Haotian  
Yu**  
*Se all'impero,  
amici Dei*  
La clemenza di  
Tito  
/ Mozart

**Brittney  
Northcott**  
*Depuis hier...Que  
fais-tu blanche  
tourterelle?*  
Romeo et  
Juliette  
/ Gounod

**Sophie Blades**  
*Prendi, per me  
sei libero*  
L'elisir d'amore  
/ Donizetti

**Aidan Hodder**  
*O, du mein  
holder*  
*Abendstern*  
Tannhäuser  
/ Wagner

**Sidra Nissen**  
*Kaddish*  
Deux mélodies  
hébraïques  
/ Ravel

**Wesley Haotian  
Yu**  
*È la solita storia  
del pastore*  
L'Arlésienne  
/ Cilea

## INTERVAL 20 MINUTES

**Opera Australia  
Orchestra**  
*Overture*  
Il barbiere di  
Siviglia  
/ Rossini

**Opera Australia  
Orchestra**  
*Carmen Suite*  
No. 1  
/ Bizet

## PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



We send our gratitude to  
Symphony Services Australia  
who have kindly supplied the  
orchestral scores for many of  
tonight's performance.



# 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 \$7,000 to enable the recipient to study the Italian language in Italy. *Sponsored by Equity Trustees.*

### Royal Northern College of Music Award

Fees for one year's study at the Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM) in the Advanced Postgraduate Diploma Course in Manchester (UK) in 2026/2027.

*Sponsored by Royal Northern College of Music, UK*

The winner will also receive the AUD \$2,500 **Pasqualina Lipari Prize** to assist with travel expenses. *Sponsored by V&A Accountants and Business Advisors.*

### Zeny Edwards Educational Grant

AUD \$20,000 grant towards tuition fees for a music degree at a University or Conservatorium. *Sponsored by Dr. Zeny Edwards OAM.*

## 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 AUD \$4,000 to assist with travel expenses.

### 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 **Merenda Travel Prize**, AUD \$3,000 to assist with travel expenses. *Sponsored by the Estate of the Later Francis Merenda.*

### 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.*

### Perth Symphony Orchestra Prize

An engagement to perform with the Perth Symphony Orchestra. *Sponsored by Perth Symphony Orchestra.* The winner will also receive AUD \$5,000 to assist with travel expenses.

### MOST® Audience Prize

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

### 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.

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