

Opera Society Newsletter January 2025

Message from the President

Dear Members

Welcome to another year of Opera Society activities. Thank you to those who have already renewed your membership. There is still time to renew, so that you can enjoy the events offered in 2025 (see below). Here is the renewal link <https://www.trybooking.com/CXKIB>

If you wish to introduce a new member to the Society, open the link a second time and complete their personal details using your own credit card for payment (if you choose to do so). Or of course you can pass on the Trybooking link so they can add their membership details.

We have our usual schedule of lunches for 2025, Dress Rehearsals and Insights all of which play a special role in holding the Society together and enabling it to support Opera Australia and young performers.

I trust you enjoyed the Festive Season with family and friends and I wish you a happy and prosperous 2025.

Best Wishes

Sandra

Sandra Rogerson
President

2025 Dates for your Diary

3rd April	Autumn Lunch Alexandra Club
13th June	Insight to <i>Hades Town</i> . Her Majesty's Theatre, 5.00 pm
10th July	Christmas in July Lunch at the Royal South Yarra Lawn Tennis Club (New Venue)
18th September	Spring Lunch Kooyong Tennis Club
October	Insight to be announced closer to the date.
30th October	Dress Rehearsal of <i>The Barber of Seville</i>
1st December	Dress Rehearsal of <i>Orpheus and Euridice</i>
4th December	Christmas Lunch at the Windsor Hotel

News

2025 German-Australian Opera Grant (GAOG)

The semifinals and finals of the GAOG took place during November 2024. We are pleased to report that two of the Melba Trust singers that the Society has supported took part in the semifinals: **Syrah Torii** (semi-finalist) and **Nathan Bryon** (winner).

Congratulations and best wishes to you both for your future operatic careers!

The Society is pleased to again be providing **Opera Australia Artist Sponsorships** in 2025 for:

- **Esther Song** Soprano – covering the Fairy Godmother in *Cinderella* in Sydney (quite a significant role and preparation)
- **Michael Lampard** – Baritone, will once again participate in OA's National Tour of *La Boheme*

And the **2025 Melba Opera Trust Scholarship** returning recipients are: **Aidan Hodder**, Lyric Baritone, and **Syrah Torii**, Mezzo Soprano.

Opera Society Alumni Grant Recipient

The Society has agreed to support the Melba Opera Trust Alumni Grant. The inaugural recipient of the **Opera Society Alumni Grant** is **Alex Flood**, Soprano. Alex applied for a grant to fund her Women's Leadership Course at Oxford University, England.

And finally, news from **Samantha Hargreaves** in London:

Samantha thought it would be a great opportunity to reflect on some of her successes and developments over the last six months in London.

She is incredibly grateful to all of our members for their ongoing support.

[Read Samantha's letter](#) on the **Opera Society website**

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The Magic Flute

Society members enjoyed the opportunity to get an Insight into the Opera Australia production of Mozart's *The Magic Flute* on November 8th. OA's Head of Music, Tahu Mattheson, led the discussion, with members of the production team, Director Kate Gaul, Designer Anna Cordingly, and Soprano, Celeste Lazarenko taking part. In bringing this masterpiece of humanity and musical delight to the stage, OA's production team created a brilliant adventure with lashings of magic, musicality and visual attraction.



Opera Australia in 2025

Opera Australia's Melbourne Programme for 2025 includes the musical *Hadestown* at Her Majesty's Theatre in May, and *La Bohème* in Geelong in July, followed by three operas in the Regent Theatre in October and November: *The Barber of Seville*, *Carmen* and *Orpheus and Euridice* (Gluck's version). The Society will offer tickets to dress rehearsals for *Barber* and *Orpheus* - dates are above.

You can find all the Melbourne season's details [here](#).

We are currently working on bringing the Society's website up to date and adding new information. If you have any suggestions or comments please submit them using the [Contact](#) form on our website.

[Opera Society Website](#)