

MEDIA RELEASE

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OPERA IN A NUTSHELL – LA TRAVIATA 5pm Saturday 18 August

OPERA in a Nutshell: La Traviata" sees singers **Sarahlouise Owens, Christopher Lincoln Bogg & Colin Milner**, with **Colleen Rae-Gerrard** at the piano, performing all the "juicy bits" and "big hits" in telling the story of this most popular of Verdi's operas.

The course of true love never runs smoothly, particularly not for the doomed courtesan Violetta, when she finds the love she never dared hope for, in Alfredo; which is all the more complicated in a society whose social class system forbade such a match. Love gained, love lost, love eternal....

Hot from the auspicious Opera Houses of Europe, these class singers come together especially to Canberra audiences to present this exciting, condensed version of "La Traviata" for your delight and entertainment (and still be home in time for dinner)

All the action, emotion and passionate tragedy of the whole opera, without the gypsies!

- What:** Opera in a Nutshell: La Traviata
When: 5pm Saturday 18 August
Where: Wesley Music Centre, 20 National Circuit, Forrest, ACT.
Tickets: Tickets available online www.trybooking.com/VQSV or at the door. A. \$45 (\$40*); C. \$40 (\$35*), S. \$30; Child U/ 12 free. * Friends of Wesley Music discounted ticket price.
Enquiries: Colleen Rae-Gerrard, ribbonwood31@optusnet.com.au, or Wesley Music Centre, wesleymc@music.wesleycanberra.org.au T 6232 7248
Website: www.wesleycanberra.org.au/music

The performers:

Christopher Lincoln Bogg - Alfredo



Canberra born Christopher Lincoln Bogg, graduated from Victorian College of the Arts under Dame Joan Hammond. Winning the German Opera Award contracted him to Cologne which spring-boarded his Europe based career. His repertoire comprises over 60 major roles of popular

and lesser-known repertoire from the baroque to C20th world premieres. He has sung in the major houses of Germany as well as San Francisco, Barcelona, Amsterdam, Antwerp, Bulgaria and Cardiff. He is known for singing roles of florid and technical difficulty from the bel canto repertoire.

His many roles for Opera Australia most recently include Loge in the 2016 production of *Der Ring des Nibelungen*. He is a noted concert soloist and has a number of cd recordings with the Orfeo label.



Sarah Louise Owens - Violetta

is a sought-after soloist in Canberra, known for Art Song recitals, liturgical and concert repertoire as well as theatrical performances in opera and music-theatre.

Having graduated from ANU (Hons) and Manchester, she worked extensively in Europe including Cologne Radio, Theater Hagen, Brussels' La Monnaie, Paris Châtelet and the theatres of Frankfurt and Hamburg. Most significantly she was a consistent member of the ensemble of the Wagner Summer Festival in Bayreuth. Her most recent performances and roles were as The Angel in Handel in the Theatre's

Society's Threepenny Opera, and as soloist at the 2017 Canberra International Music Festival in the Barricades of Time concert.



Colin Milner - Germont

Trained at the Sydney Conservatorium, Canberra School of Music and Manhattan School of Music in New York, Colin's professional stage experience began in the State Theatre's Opera Chorus in Pretoria. He has since developed into a versatile performer in operas, operettas, musicals, plays and concerts. Recent highlights include being a soloist in Penelope Thwaites's *Missa Brevis* at its première in Canberra and again in London's West End, premièring Calvin

Bowman's *My Own Country* cycle with the composer at the piano, and narrating concerts in Sydney and Canberra for *Salut! Baroque*. Most recently he was part of the Esther cast for Handel in the Theatre.



Colleen Rae-Gerrard - Piano

Born in New Zealand, trained by a pupil of Artur Schnabel before studying in Europe with Paul Badura-Skoda and Karl Ulrich Schnabel. An opera-lover whose favourite occupation is working with singers, Colleen was accompanist and répétiteur at the Canberra School of Music from 1992 to 2004 where she participated in many opera productions and established courses for Répétiteurs and in Fortepiano. She is now teaching privately, and accompanying students at the ANU School of Music.