

OPERA FOR ALL NEWS



The WA Opera Lovers Society official newsletter



Special points of interest:

- * Emma Mathews, Patron
- * **NEW Opera For All** dates '24
- * Resident Artists 24/25
- * Freeze Frame Don Giovanni—a new take!
- * Opera for All Concerts
- * Opera of the Month
- * How to support WAOL

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Emma Mathews to be new Patron



We are delighted and honoured to announce that Emma Mathews AM, the distinguished soprano who trained at WAAPA under Megan Sutton and is now internationally acclaimed, has agreed to be our new patron.

Emma has also agreed to sing in our forth coming **Opera Gala** in October.

This is a wonderful step forward for the Opera Lovers Society.

Opera for All Concerts

Our next bi monthly, **Opera For All** concert is on **Tuesday August 13th, 7.15 for 730pm start**. Please join us and bring a new member. Our resident singer, Beth Redwood and Lydia Ly, will be providing the programme and there will be more news and up

Resident Artists 24/25.

We are pleased to announce that our resident artists for 2024/25 are:

Shin hyun Jee, Pianist. Shin is currently at WAAPA studying accompaniment and we look forward to her venture into the operatic world.

Sophie Hamer Soprano. Sophie is a graduate of WAAPA and has already a reputation with oratorio and other concert work. Currently in Don Giovanni for Freeze Frame Opera.

Beth Redwood, Soprano. Beth is also a graduate of WAAPA, with an extensive repertoire and has sung in Oratorio and concerts around WA. She has a concert on 4th August at Leederville Town Hall to which you are invited.

Emily Davis, Soprano, A graduate of WAAPA Emily has ambitions on the operatic scene and we are excited to have her with us, having seen her work in *Così* workshop early this year.

Noah Humich, Tenor. Noah is also a graduate of WAAPA currently working in Don Giovanni for Freeze Frame Opera. Has ambitions in the opera scene and WA Opera.

James Pinneri, Baritone. James has the role of Leporello in Don Giovanni and already has a few roles in his repertoire, having graduated from WAAPA last year.

With these artists we are in for a real treat with the Opera Gala in October and our Opera For All evenings.

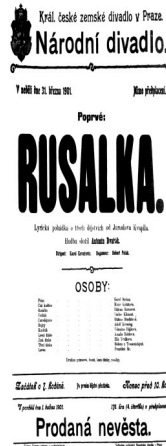
coming events to discuss.

Our next main event will be the **Opera Gala** on **13th October**, with a venue to be confirmed and bookings to be made on trybooking.com. This will be one of our exciting events of the year with a welcome guest

singer, Emma Mathews along with our resident artists. Other dates for your diary are, **Saturday Nov 23, 3pm** WAAPA Aria at WAAPA, **Friday December 6th**, Xmas Dinner at the UWA University Club.

Opera of the Month, Dvorak's Rusalka

Act 1 Rusalka the water nymph tells her father, Vodnik the water goblin that she has fallen in love with a human prince who hunts around the lake. He tries to warn her off but send her to a witch Jezibaba. She sings to the moon about her love and the witch tells her that loving him will make her lose speech and mortality and if he doesn't love her in return he will die



The poster for Rusalka premiere, 31 March 1901

and she damned. Nevertheless in true operatic fashion she drinks the potion. The Prince embraces her much to her father's dismay.

Act 2 A gamekeeper and the kitchen boy notice that the Prince is to be married to a speechless bride. Is this witchcraft? The Prince notices a Princess wedding guest but she is jealous and curses the wedding couple. The Prince rejects Rusalka who returns to the lake and her father. The Princess guest is

annoyed at the Prince's fickleness and tells him to go to Rusalka in not too nice a manner!

Act 3 Rusalka asks for Jezibaba's help and she supplies a knife with which to kill the prince. Rusalka throws the knife into the lake. Rusalka becomes a spirit that lures humans to their death. The gamekeeper and boy meet Jezibaba who lets them know it was the Prince who betrayed Rusalka. The prince meets Rusalka, they kiss and he dies. Her father says it is all futile. Rusalka finishes the opera wishing the Prince God's mercy on his soul!



Chris van Tuinen
Guest speaker at
Tuesday Rusalka pre
performance

Special Invitation For Opera Lovers Pre Performance Rusalka

Members of Opera Lovers WA and friends are invited to an exclusive pre-performance talk by Conductor, Christopher

van Tuinen, and his views on the fairytale opera, Rusalka. His Majesty's Theatre 2nd Floor Lounge

Tuesday 23 July
6.30 – 7.25pm
\$20 (includes drinks)
Booking by
15 July essential
www.trybooking.com/CTJAP

New OPERA Lovers Dates for Your Calendar

Please note new times and venues from last newsletter.

18 July – 27 July, Rusalka, WAO HMT

Tuesday 13th August, 7.15
Opera For All Dalkeith Rd Church of Christ Hall

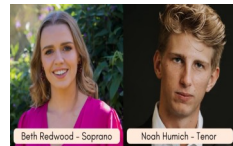
15 –17th August, 7pm
DON GIOVANNI
Fremantle Prison Workshop

Sunday 13th October, 3pm
OPERA FOR ALL GALA

24 Oct – 2 Nov, Orpheus and Eurydice, WAO HMT

Friday 6th December, WAOL XMAS DINNER
UWA Club

Jan/ February Barber of Seville Act 1 Workshop performances



Opera Lovers

Artists in Residence
2024/2025



Emily Davis - Soprano Shin Hyun Jee - Pianist James Pinneri - Bass-baritone

Freeze Frame’s New Perspective on Mozart’s Don Giovanni

MEDIA RELEASE

Don Giovanni (Dir: Penny Shaw) at Fremantle Prison East Workshops

Freeze Frame Opera is thrilled to present a thought-provoking new interpretation of Mozart’s timeless masterpiece, Don Giovanni, set at a film festival in 2017.

Award-winning film producer Giovanni (Brett Peart), aided by his assistant, Leporello (James Pinneri), prepares for ‘auditions’ in his hotel suite. Anna (Rachelle

Durkin), an aspiring actress, her father (Robert Hofmann) and her fiancé Ottavio (Kohsei Gilkes) arrive at the festival. Also checking in to the hotel is movie star Elivra (Hattie Marshall), in search of Giovanni, who has reneged on an important contract; matinee idol Masetto (Theodore Murphy-Jelley) and the glamor-



ous Zerlina (Emma Pettemerides), who are about to announce their engagement to the waiting media. The scene is set, and the action unfolds in true operatic style. Drama, humour, and Mozart’s spectacular music all combine to make this an unmissable evening at Fremantle Prison. [www trybooking.com/CSKVT](http://www.trybooking.com/CSKVT)

Freeze Frame And Future

Freeze Frame Opera has completed its Schools Tour for 2024, featuring 31 performances across 28 schools in the metropolitan area.

The Magic Kazoo, a 40-minute adaptation of Mozart’s opera, The Magic Flute, entertained young audiences and was praised as “a great introduction to opera for primary-aged people that will hopefully lead to a lifetime enjoyment of this

art” (Stage Whispers review, April 2024).

The program received crucial funding from the Stan Perron Charitable Foundation and FFO donors. WAAPA graduates James Pinneri, Charis Postmus, and Keaton Staszewski-Hose had an invaluable learning experience performing alongside esteemed professionals Prudence Sanders and Tommaso Pollio under

the direction of Penny Shaw.

Preparations are underway for our 2025 program, which is scheduled to tour in April and May next year. FFO is grateful for the support of Hawaiian’s Community Partnership program, which assists in bringing the show to schools with limited access to music programs. If you would like to sponsor a school for next year, please contact FFO at

“Don Giovanni, a hero who rejects the religious and social conventions of his age, even to the point of choosing eternal damnation for his convictions.”

Georg Jahn 2019

DID YOU KNOW

Did you know

An excellent **Opera radio station** from New York permanently puts out opera works. You can access it in on line at www.wqxr/operavore

Did you know

Penny Shaw has a radio programme on a regular basis with interviews and music

Radio Fremantle 107.9fm

Did you know The WA Opera Lovers Society has been working for 40 years, supporting many young artists in their endeavour to become part of the operatic profession. We need your support and assistance to be able to continue. Becoming a member and attending our events is the best means of support but we also welcome sponsorship, donations and bequests. Our new **OPERA FOR ALL** regular meetings will also be enter-

taining and keep you up to date with operatic events here in WA. Please help us to assist others by bringing friends and introducing them to what could be a life time of unsurpassed musical experience.

Tuesday 13th August , 7.15 pm

Opera For All Concert

Dalkeith Rd Church Hall

Ian Westrip OAM President

The WA Opera Lovers Society (Inc)

The Society exists to promote opera and assist young artists in their studies. It provides funds toward further study and to projects and groups who have a similar goal.

Membership Secretary

Email: operaloverswa@outlook.com

President Ian Westrip

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Towards this end it presents evenings, concerts, workshops and events to raise funds.

'Opera For All' is our motto and creed.

We welcome any assistance and support either in kind or financially that you are happy to give towards these goals and our volunteer committee. As we are also a registered charity all donations happily received are tax deductible.

OPERA FOR ALL

For any further information please contact the membership secretary or access our web site.

www.operaloverswa.com.au

Where are they now?

Aldo has had a wonderful career since first taking the stage in the WA, G&S Society production of Ruddigore. Aldo sang Gaston, in ICW Opera's Traviata and went on after WAAPA studies to an international career. He has sung all over Europe and has many roles in Italian, German, Czech, and English, from Hoffmann to Turandot.

In this chapter, since the pandemic, Aldo has mainly worked in German and Austrian theatres,

Aldo Di Toro

with occasional productions in Switzerland and Finland. His roles include Calaf in Turandot, Canio in Pagliacci, Hoffmann in the Tales of Hoffmann, Otello in Otello, Alvaro in The Force of Destiny, Manrico in Il Trovatore, Don José in Carmen and Mario Cavaradossi in Tosca

The upcoming opera season, starting November in Germany, includes: Turandot in Magdeburg, Carmen in Kassel and new productions of Otello in

both Bremen and Ulm. Plus, Puccini's first opera Le Villi, in Graz, Austria.



Aldo Di Toro