

STATE OPERA
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Sunday 30 May 2021

FRIENDS OF STATE OPERA – 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It has been incredibly exciting to feel like we are getting back on our feet in 2021, and certainly the first few months of the year have been very successful. Venues have by and large opened up again (although at various capacities), and audiences have welcomed State Opera back onto the stage with open arms.

Despite losing much time, impetus, and momentum in 2020, including the forced cancellation of *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* in November after one performance (our only performance for the whole year as it turned out), it is worth noting the number of excellent projects State Opera did in fact deliver during the year which importantly supported artists directly through fees and work:

1. Keep the Home Fires Burning – online concert for ANZAC Day
2. When the Rain Stops Falling creative development
3. Kaspar & Maunder podcasts
4. The Confident Conductor – music teachers education program
5. Arias from the Archives – online performances of iconic original works

Alongside our public-facing push into the new digital world, behind the scenes much work was undertaken in developing and improving State Opera's systems, tools and methodology for project and budget administration, financial stability, and human resource management.

We are delighted that the two mainstage productions so far in 2021 – *Carousel* and *Sweeney Todd* – have been met with overwhelming enthusiasm by local audiences. This success has set us up well both financially and artistically for the remainder of the year.

We believe that the volume, quality, and diversity of our work sets this Company apart from every other opera company in Australia. In addition, we are actively delivering on our State and Federal Government funding KPIs, including creating career pathways for emerging artists, diversity and inclusion initiatives, and focussing on Australian content. Importantly our next 4 years of funding has been confirmed through the National Performing Arts Partnership Framework, based on the successful submission of our COVID Recovery Strategic Plan.

The support we have received from the Friends of State Opera has been unwavering. Their financial contribution to the future production of *Barber of Seville* (postponed from 2020), and the provision of a scholarship for the Opera Winter Academy, has demonstrated that FOSO will

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stand shoulder to shoulder with the Company in our passion to deliver great works and support artists and creatives. The administrative team, management and the Board want to extend our thanks to those members of the Committee who have embraced our partnership.

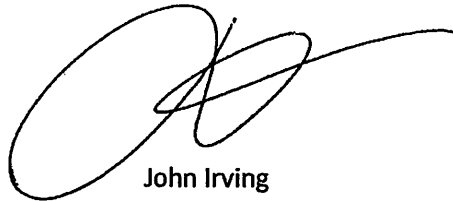
We would like to thank Beata Byok for her time and energy on the Board of State Opera, and all the Committee Members for their regular and dedicated interest in the work that we do. We are honoured to be leading one of the flagship performing arts companies in Australia and are confident that we can continue to excel, in performance and business excellence. There are challenges ahead, however with the ongoing connection to this broad support base we are well-placed to thrive into the future.

We look forward to connecting with you more closely throughout the remainder of 2021.

Yours sincerely



Yarmila Alfonzetti
Executive Director
State Opera South Australia



John Irving
Chair
State Opera South Australia

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