

MEDIA RELEASE: Wednesday, 18 November 2020

## THE LITTLE MERMAID FINDS HER VOICE

### The Little Mermaid Freeze Frame Opera



Image: Robert Harrold

Government House Ballroom's grand arches, balconies and stage will be magically transformed into a fairy-tale world of underwater caves, waterfalls and a palace for ***The Little Mermaid***.

**Freeze Frame Opera (FFO)** has adapted Dvořák's *Rusalka* opera of The Little Mermaid story to create a perfect introduction to music and theatre for young children at **Perth Festival**.

'Dvořák's music is absolutely sublime,' Freeze Frame Opera **Artistic Director Rachel McDonald** said. 'The highlight is Rusalka's beautiful *Song to the Moon*, when the river flows out towards the audience and the moon rises - children will love it. We've added lots of laughter, interaction and suspense too.'

Presented in association with **Government House Foundation**, this special adaptation retains the best tunes from Dvořák's lyrical opera to create a perfect introduction to music and theatre for young children. And the little mermaid, Rusalka, has the independence of mind expected by today's young audience.

McDonald continues, 'Just like Elsa in Disney's *Frozen*, Rusalka doesn't need a boyfriend to fix all her problems! Oh, and while we don't have a talking lobster, we DO have a toy dog and a pirate party.' Included in the ticket is an invitation to stay a while longer to enjoy pedal cars, face-painting, food in the supper room and games in Government House Gardens.

This is a coming-of-age tale about balancing adventure and responsibility as children grow up and leave home. There is a strong focus on healthy relationships, and on taking care of what's important, including the environment. Rusalka's father sings a beautiful song about loss, which will bring parents in the audience to tears.

But don't worry, all ends well! In our version, nobody dies, and mistakes can be fixed. The music is beautiful and warm, and we have reframed some of the darker aspects of the original story in a really positive way.

Established in 2016, Freeze Frame Opera aims to spread the love of opera and introduce new audiences to its magic by presenting classics in new, accessible, locally made productions. FFO recently has been popping up on the back of a truck to convert lots of people to its joys with performances across Perth's suburbs.

Perth Festival will provide a range of access services around *The Little Mermaid* including a performance with an AUSLAN interpreter, a pre-show tactile tour, and an audio described show over the course of the weekend.

*The Little Mermaid* is a co-presentation with Music on the Terrace, an annual series supported by Government House Foundation of Western Australia.

**WHAT:** The Little Mermaid

**WHERE:** Government House Ballroom / Gumap / Perth

**WHEN:** 20 – 21 Feb (11am & 2pm)

**HOW MUCH:** \$40, family pack \$110

**BOOKINGS AND FESTIVAL INFO:** [perthfestival.com.au](http://perthfestival.com.au)

Click here for a [media kit](#) and [images](#). For further information, interviews or images please contact:

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***Perth Festival acknowledges the Noongar people who continue to practise their values, language, beliefs and knowledge on their kwobidak boodjar. They remain the spiritual and cultural birdiyangara of this place and we honour and respect their caretakers and custodians and the vital role Noongar people play for our community and our Festival to flourish.***

### **Perth Festival**

*Founded in 1953 by The University of Western Australia, Perth Festival is the longest running international arts festival in Australia and Western Australia's premier cultural event. The Festival has developed a worldwide reputation for excellence in its international program, the presentation of new works and the highest quality artistic experiences for its audience. For 67 years, the Festival has welcomed to Perth some of the world's greatest living artists and now connects with hundreds of thousands of people each year.*

*Iain Grandage is the Artistic Director 2020–23.*