

MEDIA KIT

BEETHOVEN'S FIDELIO

PRESENTED BY WEST AUSTRALIAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND PERTH FESTIVAL
IN ASSOCIATION WITH WEST AUSTRALIAN OPERA
PERTH CONCERT HALL, 28 FEB 7:30PM AND 1 MARCH 2:00PM
PERTH FESTIVAL COMMISSION
TICKETS:

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In celebration of the 250th anniversary of Ludwig van Beethoven's birth, this bold new concert event brings together West Australian Symphony Orchestra, West Australian Opera Chorus and WASO Chorus with some of the world's finest singers.

Experience Beethoven's only opera reframed with text written by award-winning Australian writer Alison Croggon and narrated by actor Eryn Jean Norvill interwoven with the music.

Under the direction of Asher Fisch, the radiant score blazes with soul-stirring emotion with one woman's heroism.

Acclaimed German soprano Christiane Libor plays the heroic Leonore who hatches a daring plan to free her husband from the secret dungeon where he has been wrongfully imprisoned.

Beethoven's ode to love, risk and resistance is rarely performed, but its relevance today is arguably greater than ever. *Fidelio* is a timely meditation on the triumph of human will and freedom over injustice and tyranny.

Fidelio is Beethoven's only opera – a masterwork of monumental proportions. It tells the story of the prisoner Florestan, and his wife Leonore's efforts to have him released. Its themes are universal, as it is filled with places and events emblematic of violations of liberty. The famous *Prisoners' Chorus*, in which inmates savour a fleeting taste of freedom and rally against the gravelike dungeon, could just as easily be victims of the European migrant crisis or Donald Trump's 'zero-tolerance' policy.

This concert version of the work features a new translation commissioned by the Festival from poet and critic Alison Croggon that uniquely frames the story from the female perspective.

CREDITS:

Asher Fisch conductor
Christiane Libor Leonore/ Fidelio
Tomislav Mužek Florestan
Adrian Tamburini Don Fernando
Felicitas Fuchs Marzelline
Andrew Goodwin Jaquino
Warwick Fyfe Don Pizarro

Jonathan Lemalu Rocco

Eryn Jean Norvill narrator

Alison Croggon dramatic text

Clare Watson director

West Australian Symphony Orchestra

West Australian Opera Chorus

WASO Chorus

ASHER FISCH

Principal Conductor and Artistic Adviser – West Australian Symphony Orchestra

A renowned conductor in both the operatic and symphonic worlds, Asher Fisch is especially celebrated for his interpretative command of core German and Italian repertoire of the Romantic and post-Romantic era. He conducts a wide variety of repertoire from Gluck to contemporary works by living composers.

Since 2014, Asher Fisch has been the Principal Conductor and Artistic Adviser of the West Australian Symphony Orchestra (WASO). His former posts include Principal Guest Conductor of the Seattle Opera (2007-2013), Music Director of the New Israeli Opera (1998-2008), and Music Director of the Wiener Volksoper (1995-2000).

In 2019, Fisch won Helpmann Awards for Best Individual Classical Music Performance and Best Symphony Orchestra Concert for WASO's production of *Tristan und Isolde*.

Highlights of Asher Fisch's 2018-19 season include guest engagements with the Düsseldorf Philharmonic, Sydney Symphony, Teatro Massimo Orchestra in Palermo, Boston Symphony Orchestra at Tanglewood, and the Cleveland Orchestra at the Blossom Festival. Guest opera engagements include *Il Trovatore*, *Otello*, *Die Fliegende Holländer*, and *Andrea Chénier* at the Bayerische Staatsoper, *Arabella* and *Hansel und Gretel* at the Semperoper Dresden, *Tannhäuser* at the Tokyo National Theater, and Cristof Loy's new production of *Capriccio* at the Teatro Real in Madrid.

Born in Israel, Fisch began his conducting career as Daniel Barenboim's assistant and kappellmeister at the Berlin Staatsoper. He has built his versatile repertoire at the major opera houses such as the Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, San Francisco Opera, Teatro alla Scala, Royal Opera House at Covent Garden, and Semperoper Dresden. Fisch is also a regular guest conductor at leading American symphony orchestras including those of Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, New York, and Philadelphia. In Europe he has appeared at the Berlin Philharmonic, Munich Philharmonic, London Symphony Orchestra, Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, and the Orchestre National de France, among others.

Asher Fisch's recent recordings include tenor Stuart Skelton's first solo album, recorded with WASO

and released on ABC Classics in 2018, and a recording of Ravel's *L'heure espagnole* with the Munich Radio Orchestra, which won *Limelight Magazine's* Opera Recording of the Year in 2017. In 2016, he recorded the complete Brahms symphonies with WASO, released on ABC Classics to great acclaim.

His recording of Wagner's Ring Cycle with the Seattle Opera was released on the Avie label in 2014. His first complete Ring, with the State Opera of South Australia, won ten Helpmann Awards, including best opera and best music direction. Fisch is also an accomplished pianist and has recorded a solo disc of Wagner piano transcriptions for the Melba label.

Asher Fisch appears courtesy of Wesfarmers Arts.

ADRIAN TAMBURINI | DON FERNANDO

A chorister with the Victorian Boys Choir from the age of 5, Adrian has always had a passion for music and singing. At the age of 10 he was awarded a scholarship to sing with the St Patrick's Cathedral Choir, Melbourne where he stayed until 1992 as the assistant choir captain under the direction of John Mallinson. Deciding to concentrate on solo classical singing, Adrian commenced vocal lessons with Bettine McCaughan, with whom he achieved great success winning awards in vocal eisteddfods (including the Royal South Street Competition and the City of Geelong Eisteddfod) and competitions (1996 - Finalist in the Victorian Liederfest, 1997 Winner of the Ernest Schilberger Award for Singing and Winner of the Inaugural Diamond Valley Aria Award).

Following this period, Adrian was awarded the Robert Salzer Vocal Scholarship in 2002, as well as the winner of the Lygon Street Festa Aria Competition in 2003 and was in the finals of the Australian Puccini Foundation Award, 2006. In 2007 Adrian had won the inaugural Royal Melbourne Philharmonic Aria Competition, the Lythgo Trust Operatic Aria Award and the Melbourne Welsh Male Voice Choir Singer of the Year Competition. In 2010 Adrian was the recipient of the Acclaim Awards Scholarship and a finalist in the German Australian Opera Grant. In 2017 Adrian won Australia's most prestigious professional operatic prize, the Australian Opera Awards (YMF, MOST).

His singing has featured on cinema releases of opera, DVD, international recordings, motion picture soundtracks, radio, television (*Woolworths Carols in the Domain*) and Australian dramas including the soundtrack to "After the Deluge".

Adrian's concert repertoire includes, Berlioz's *L'Enfance du Christ* and *Stabat Mater*; Handel's *Messiah*, the *Requiems* of Mozart, Haydn, Verdi, Faure, von Suppé and Bowen; Haydn's *The Seasons* and *The Creation*.

His Operatic debut was in 1997 and ever since has had a varied career as an operatic soloist (Opera Australia, West Australian Opera, Melbourne Opera), a concert performer (Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Zelman Symphony Orchestra, Sydney University Graduate Choir) and Musical Director. Adrian has worked overseas, and has proudly sung in every state and territory in Australia. His work, both on and off the stage, has been nominated for awards and his performances have received critical acclaim.

Recent engagements for Opera Australia have included roles in *La Boheme*, *Tosca*, *La Traviata* and *Carmen* as well as making his role debuts in Wagner's *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*; Brian Howard's *Metamorphosis*; and in Shostakovich's *The Nose*. He sang Colline (*La Boheme*) for West Australian Opera and co-produced a performance of Shostakovich's Symphony 13 - Babi Yar at

Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne.

2019 sees Adrian make role debuts in Luke Style's latest opera, *'Ned Kelly'* (Lost and Found Opera) for the Perth International Festival, and singing the title role in Bartok's, *Bluebeard's Castle* in Melbourne and Sydney. His concert performances include Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Puccini's *Messa di Gloria*, and Verdi's *Requiem*.

FELICITAS FUCHS | MARCELLINA

Felicitas Fuchs pursues a busy concert schedule and devotes herself intensively to song singing. The young soprano has performed at the Royal Albert Hall, London, Warsaw Philharmonic, Herkulessaal Munich and the Kissinger Sommer and Mozartfest Würzburg. At the Bad Reichenhaller Alpenklassik she sang the world premiere of a work by Aribert Reimann especially composed for her. She gives recitals with Axel Bauni, Moritz Eggert, Bernard Lanskey and Jan Philip Schulze.

She performs regularly with the Munich Symphony and Philharmonic, the Freiburg Baroque Orchestra, Bavarian Radio Orchestra, Bamberger Symphoniker, Camerata Salzburg, Augsburg Philharmonic, Saarland Radio, the German State Philharmonic Orchestra Rhineland-Palatinate (Karl Heinz Steffens), the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra Prague, St. Petersburg Philharmonic and Chamber Orchestra, Osaka Philharmonic Orchestra (Eiji Oue) and Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra (Michalis Economu, James Gaffigan).

Her concert repertoire includes Bach's great oratorios, Handel's Messiah, Haydn's Creation and Seasons, Mozart's Exsultate Jubilate and Requiem, Rossini's Petite messe solennelle, Orff's Carmina Burana and Tippett's A Child of our time".

Felicitas Fuchs was born in Prien / Chiemsee and studied music and singing at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama in London, where she received numerous scholarships. Her teachers were Ian Kennedy, Charlotte Lehmann and Kurt Widmer. She completed masterclasses with Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, Kurt Widmer, Graham Johnson and Emma Kirkby. In 2006 she won the song competition of the Bayerischer Rundfunk "La Voce".

In the concert subject, the soprano excelled with Mozart's "C Minor Mass" in the highly acclaimed staging of the Leipzig Ballet in Bogotá, with Graupner cantatas with the Anton Webern Choir (Carus), in a concert with the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra on the occasion of the UNESCO World Conference in Paris, with Mozart's "Requiem" with the Munich Philharmonic as well as the recordings of Mahler's 4th Symphony and Beethoven's 9th Symphony (Naxos). In the premiere of Andrew Schultze's "Silent Language" she sang the lead role. Other highlights included recitals with Helmut Deutsch and Haydn's "Nelson Messe" with the Academy of St Martin in the Fields on the occasion of the 90th birthday of Sir Neville Marriner.

Last season's highlights included a Christmas concert and Mahler 4 with the Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra in Beirut, Beethoven's 9th Symphony with the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra in Doha and the Orquestra Simfonica De Les Illes Balears in Palma, R. Strauss "Four Last Songs" with the Cairo Symphony Orchestra at the Cairo Opera House and the Radio Symphony Orchestra Prague. In addition to many song recitals, Haydn's "Creation" with the Orquestra Simfonica De Les Illes Balears in Palma and a new production of Humperdinck's "Hansel and Gretel" in Singapore with the SSO under Chan Tze Law were on the program.

This season began with Brahms Requiem on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Tutzinger Brahms Festival, followed by a Christmas concert with the Bavarian Radio and the Munich State

Opera. In addition, there are three role debuts. Woglinde in Wagner's "Rheingold" at the National Opera of Tianjin under Jingkai Sun, Menotti's "Der Konsul" at the Tiroler Landestheater Innsbruck under Uwe Sandner and Marzeline in Beethoven's "Fidelio" at the Nationaltheater in Prague under Andreas Weiser.

ANDREW GOODWIN | JAQUINO

Andrew Goodwin was born in Sydney, Australia, and studied singing at the St Petersburg State Conservatory. His career as an operatic tenor has seen him embrace a wide range of roles at some of the world's greatest opera houses, including La Scala Milan, Gran Theatre Liceu Barcelona, Teatro Real Madrid and the Sydney Opera House. Notably, he is the only westerner to perform the role of Lensky at the Bolshoi Theatre.

On the concert platform he has toured with the St Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra under Yuri Temirkanov, and performed with all the major Australian symphony orchestras. His repertoire runs the gamut from Baroque opera through Romantic oratorio to contemporary music. He is a passionate champion of lieder and art song, and has given recitals at the Wigmore Hall, Mariinsky Concert Hall, Oxford Lieder Festival, and countless international festivals. With pianist Daniel De Borah he has recorded Schubert's *Die Schöne Müllerin* and *Winterreise* for ABC Classic FM. He has received critical acclaim for his performances in recordings for Pinchgut Opera, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and the world premiere of Rodion Shchedrin's *Boyarina Morozova*. This year Andrew's engagements will include returning to Moscow to perform Handel's *Il Trionfo e tempo e del Disinganno* with both Yulia Lezhneva and Dmitry Sinkovsky, invitations to Melbourne Symphony Orchestra (Mozart Requiem), Melbourne Bach Choir (Evangelist, St Matthew Passion), Canberra International Music Festival (Evangelist, St. John Passion), and Sydney Philharmonia Choirs (Dvorak Requiem). Andrew will be the featured vocal soloist at this year's Huntington Festival, the final year this festival will be held. He will also continue his song recital partnership with Daniel de Borah.

Last year Andrew made his role and house debut as Nadir in *The Pearlfishers* for State Opera of South Australia. He also returned to Pinchgut Opera in the title role of *Artaxerses*. Concert performances included a return to Melbourne Symphony Orchestra for Berlioz *L'enfance du Christ* and *Messiah*, to Sydney Symphony Orchestra (Brett Dean's oratorio *The Last Days of Socrates*), Queensland Symphony (Messiah) Sydney University Graduate Choir for *An Australian War Requiem* (Bowen), Sydney Philharmonia for Bach B Minor Mass, Melbourne Bach Choir (Mozart Requiem and Bach Cantata), Monash Academy Orchestra (Rossini *Stabat Mater*), and to Melbourne Interschool Choral Festival (Elgar's *The Light of Light*). Andrew also again appeared in numerous recitals with Daniel de Borah.

In 2017 Andrew appeared with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra (Mozart Requiem), Sydney Philharmonia Choirs (*Dream of Gerontius* and *Messiah*), Coriole Festival and Adam Chamber Music Festival, Melbourne Bach Choir (St John Passion), Melbourne Chamber Orchestra, Sydney Chamber Opera (*Biographica* and *The Rape of Lucretia*) Sydney University Graduate Choir (*Saint Saëns Requiem*) and the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra (Handel *Ode for St. Cecilia's Day*).

Previous appearances include Sydney Chamber Opera (*Passion*), The Song Company (Bach's B Minor Mass and *Bach and forward*), Melbourne Bach Choir (Evangelist, St Matthew Passion), 4 Winds Festival (Britten's *Serenade for tenor, horn and strings*), Sydney Symphony Orchestra (Mozart *Litaniae de venerabili altaris sacramento*), Monash Academy (Haydn Mass in Time of War), Sydney Philharmonia Choirs (*Israel in Egypt* and *Messiah*), Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra (his debut in the

title role in *The Rake's Progress* and *Bach Magnificat*), Brisbane Festival (Lyle Chan's *My Dear Benjamin* with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra), and Handel in the Theatre (*Jephtha*, *The Vow*) recitals with Daniel de Borah and the Australia Piano Quartet, as well as featuring at *Musica Viva's* Huntington Festival, and the Australian Festival of Chamber Music, Townsville.

Other engagements include Britten's *Serenade for Tenor, Horn and strings* (Adelaide and Melbourne Symphony Orchestras), a recital with pianist Mira Yevtich at the Concert Hall of the Mariinsky Theatre, St. Petersburg; Degtyarev's Russian oratorio *Minin i Pojarsky* with the Moscow Chamber Orchestra; Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius* at St John's Smith Square, London; the roles of Lensky (Eugene Onegin) and Tamino (*The Magic Flute*) with the Bolshoi Opera and Egeo in Cavalli's *Giasone* and Florival in *L'amant jaloux* (Grétry) and Orpheus in Haydn's *L'anima del filosofo* for Pinchgut Opera.

WARWICK FYFE | DON PIZARRO

Warwick Fyfe is a Helpmann Award winning opera singer and Churchill Fellow. He is one of Australia's most highly respected singers and exponents of the Wagnerian repertoire. Wagnerian roles include: Beckmesser (*Die Meistersinger*); his signature role as Alberich (*Der Ring des Nibelungen*); Klingsor (*Parsifal*); Dutchman (*Der Fliegende Hollaender*); Fasolt (*Rhinegold*); Herald (*Lohengrin*); Wolfram (*Tannhauser*). In 2020 he will make his debut as Wotan (*Rhinegold*) in Singapore.

Warwick has worked with Finnish National Opera, English Touring Opera, West Australian Opera, Welsh National Opera, Opera Australia, New Zealand Opera, State Opera of South Australia, Victorian Opera, Victoria State Opera. He has performed in Australia, New Zealand, UK, Finland, Singapore, Hong Kong, Poland, Vietnam, Japan and China.

2019 engagements include: Athanael in *Thais*, Amonasro in *Aida* (Helsinki); Barone Di Trombonok, in *Viaggio al Reims*; Sydney and Melbourne OA); Bartolo in *Barber of Seville*, (VO, Melbourne); Verdi Requiem (WASO, Perth); *The Major*, Madeleine Lee (Adelaide)

Other major roles have included: Sancho Panza (*Don Quichotte*); Amonasro (*Aida*); Paolo (Simon Boccanegra); Falstaff; *Rigoletto*; *Bluebeard*; *Four Villains* (*Tales of Hoffmann*); Mandryka (*Arabella*); Faninal (*Rosenkavalier*); Fra Melitone (*Forza del Destino*); Dr Schon / Jack the Ripper (Lulu); Bartolo (*Il Barbiere Di Siviglia*); Dr Bartolo (*Marriage of Figaro*); Leporello (*Don Giovanni*); and many more.

Concert work includes performances with the Japan Philharmonic, Tianjin Symphony Orchestra, Melbourne Symphony, Sydney Symphony, Adelaide Symphony, Tasmanian Symphony, Queensland Symphony, West Australian Symphony; Auckland Philharmonic, New Zealand Symphony, Warsaw Symphony, Singapore Symphony orchestras, and Orchestra of The Music Makers (Singapore).

Born in Canberra, Australia, Warwick is an alumnus of the Victoria College of Arts (Melbourne University), the Canberra School of Music. He is married to Dr Ruth Frances and is currently based in Sydney, Australia.

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