

## WEDNESDAY 29 JANUARY 2025 ON ZOOM FROM MELBOURNE

7.00PM SUSANNE CHAUDY TALKED WITH ESTEBAN INSAUSTI ABOUT MO'S *DIE MEISTERSINGER*

Distinguished opera director **Susanne Chaundy** has spoken to the Society on several occasions. Recently, she spoke to us on Zoom from Melbourne in conversation with President **Esteban Insausti** about MO's new production of *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* in February. A recording of the conversation will be available to members in due course.

Suzanne was in the final two weeks of rehearsals and managed to snatch some time to tell us how well she thought it was going. Her vision is to 'stage an event' in a purpose built 'light and airy' structure (loosely inspired by **Shakespeare's** Globe Theatre in London), in the heritage listed Royal Exhibition Building at Carlton Gardens, Melbourne. She cited the many bureaucratic

and financial obstacles that needed to be navigated and it was a 'miracle' that they have managed to stage this monumental work. Over 250 people were involved; including singers, musicians, admin and crew, all done without any government help. She emphasised that the work is a comedy and said all the artists have wholeheartedly thrown themselves into their roles. Her aim was to tell the story as a simple human comedy, with no need to judge, comment on, or change Wagner's work. She said that the riot at the end of Act II was quite challenging, with around 100 performers on stage creating comedic chaos. Suzanne was full of praise for the older more experienced singers and the way they were generously mentoring the less experienced cast members.

