



View of the auditorium from the stage of the Semperoper in Dresden.
Photo by Klaus Gigga.

To find out more about
the Wagner Society in NSW Inc please go to:

www.wagner.org.au

Follow us on:



@wagnersocietynsw



@wagnerNSW

facebook

LIFE, LOVE AND OPERA

A Wagner Society in NSW Inc concert

BRAD COOPER, tenor

JANE EDE, soprano

BRADLEY GILCHRIST, accompanist

ELEANOR GREENWOOD, soprano

JESSICA HARPER, soprano

MICHAEL LAMPARD, baritone

KENT MCINTOSH, tenor

EUGENE RAGGIO, bass-baritone

LAURA SCANDIZZO, soprano

2.00pm Sunday 2 August 2026
St Columba Community Centre
53A Ocean Street, Woollahra

PROGRAMME

2.00pm

LIFE, LOVE AND OPERA CONCERT accompanied by **BRADLEY GILCHRIST**

RICHARD WAGNER (1813-1883)
Einsam in trüben Tagen from Act 1 of *Lohengrin*
Jessica Harper

ALBERT LORTZING (1801-1851)
O Sancta iustitia from Act 1 of *Zar und Zimmerman*
Eugene Raggio

RICHARD WAGNER (1813-1883)
Ja, glühend, wie des Südens Hauch from Act 2 of *Das Liebesverbot*
Michael Lampard

JANE EDE (1975-)
Sky gift and Confrontation from *All Our Shimmering Skies*
Jane Ede with Malcolm Ede and Jessamy Facer

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN (1770-1827)
Adelaide Op. 46
Kent McIntosh

Mir ist so wunderbar from Act 1 of *Fidelio*
Jessica Harper, Jane Ede, Kent McIntosh and Eugene Raggio
Abscheulicher! Wo eilst du hin? from Act 1 of *Fidelio*
Laura Scandizzo

O namenlose Freude! from Act 2 of *Fidelio*
Laura Scandizzo and Brad Cooper

INTERMISSION

FRANZ LEHÁR (1870-1948)
Dein ist mein ganzes Herz from Act 2 of *Das Land des Lächelns*
Kent McIntosh

RICHARD STRAUSS (1864-1949)
The Awakening Scene from Act 2 of *Die Ägyptische Helena*
Laura Scandizzo

GIACOMO MEYERBEER (1791-1864)
Valse Infernale from Act 3 of *Robert le Diable*
Eugene Raggio

RICHARD STRAUSS (1864-1949)
Es gibt ein Reich from Part 2 of *Ariadne auf Naxos*
Jessica Harper

RICHARD WAGNER (1813-1883)
Ein Schwert verhieß mir der Vater from Act 1 of *Die Walküre*
Eleanor Greenwood and Brad Cooper

Pilgrim's Chorus from Act 3 of *Tannhäuser*
Jane Ede, Jessica Harper, Eleanor Greenwood, Laura Scandizzo, Kent McIntosh, Brad Cooper,
Michael Lampard and Eugene Raggio

4.00pm (approx) **REFRESHMENTS**

YOUR DONATIONS HAVE HELPED THESE STARS



Margaret Plummer



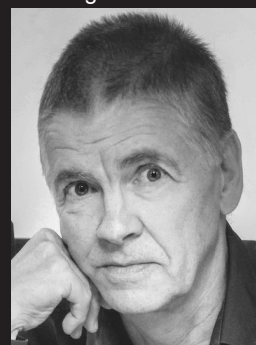
Adrian Tamburini



Olivia Swain



Daniel Sumegi



David Stanhope



Deborah Humble



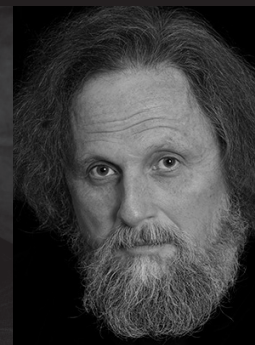
Stuart Skelton



Jennifer Condon



Lisa Gasteen



Warwick Fyfe



Tabatha McFayden



Samuel Sakker

These are some of the 100 ARTISTS the WSNSW has assisted OVER 40 YEARS.
We target \$20,000 annually towards supporting Wagnerian performers from NSW.
Help continue to support our talented artists.

PLEASE DONATE

Go to www.wagner.org.au and follow the prompts for payment (EFT or PayPal).
Or contact the President on ei10wsnsw@gmail.com



GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG SYMPOSIUM

Saturday 21 November starting at 10.30am
at The Goethe Institut

The final chapter in a four year journey paralleling the *Ring Cycle* with the **Sydney Symphony Orchestra** under their Chief Conductor and WSNSW Patron **Simone Young AM**.

A cast of speakers will present a range of views on the last music drama of Wagner's tetralogy. Refreshments and lunch will be provided. The day concluding with celebratory drinks. Members \$110, Non members \$130, Students \$50

WHAT'S COMING UP

Sunday 16 August, Goethe Institut

12.00noon: DVD – **Tony Palmer's Wagner Part 4**

2.00pm: Talk by conductor **SARAH PENICKA-SMITH** on **The Future of Opera & what Wagner has to do with it**

Sunday 13 September, Goethe Institut

12.00noon: DVD – **Tony Palmer's Wagner Part 5**

2.00pm: Talk by USYD Associate Professor **ROSS ANDERSON** on his book **The Appian Way** about visionary designer Adolphe Appia, the father of modern Wagner scenography

Sunday 11 October, St Columba Community Centre

2.00pm: Concert with mezzo-soprano **DEBORAH HUMBLE** and **SHAROLYN KIMMORLEY AM** at the piano

Saturday 21 November, Goethe Institut

10.30am – 5.00pm: **SYMPOSIUM** on **GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG**

Sunday 13 December, St Columba Community Centre

2.00pm: **CHRISTMAS CONCERT** and party



Styling & photo by Rachel del Santo

LIFE LOVE AND OPERA

This is a concert by the WSNSW, conceived and curated by Leona Geeves, the Society's long serving Artists' Liaison. It mostly brings together singers, sponsored and assisted by the WSNSW. Some are back from overseas engagements and it was ideal to bring them together to thank the Society but also Leona personally. She has nurtured and promoted the talent of all of these artists, and many more, over a long time. The Society is grateful for Leona's work in this area. We hope that this concert showcases the enormous talent of these artists and we thank Leona for her time and dedication..

The Society doesn't often celebrate its successes. The artists featured in this concert have attained a level of success here and overseas which confirms their dedication and hard work but also reflects on our faith and encouragement. And it has to be said that the conduit for most of this has been and continues to be Leona. Thank you. Hope you all enjoy this afternoon.

Esteban Insausti

President

Wagner Society in NSW Inc.



BRAD COOPER, tenor

Born in Sydney, Brad Cooper's upcoming engagements include: covering Giasone (Cherubini's *Medea*) at New York's Metropolitan Opera, performing Max (*Der Freischütz*) for Chelsea Opera Group, Walter von Stolzing (*Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*) at Longborough Festival and *Siegfried* in Grange Park Opera's new *Ring Cycle*. Recent appearances include: *Siegfried* (Wagner's *Ring Cycle*) for Melbourne Opera, Apollo (Strauss' *Daphne*) for Scottish Opera; *Tristan* (*Tristan und Isolde*), Agamemnon (*Leben des Orest*) and *Siegfried* (*Die Walküre*) for Theater Münster; Florestan (*Fidelio*), Canio (*Pagliacci*) Giasone (*Medea*), Albert Gregor (Janáček's *Věc Makropulos*), Aegisth (*Elektra*) and Tambourmajor (*Wozzeck*) for Mainfranken Theater Würzburg. He studied with Maree Ryan at the Sydney Conservatorium, Marilyn Horne in California and *Siegfried* Jerusalem in Germany. Brad also enjoys a thriving German Kabarett life touring several shows, here and abroad, and a schools workshop on *The Magic Flute*.

<https://www.bradcooper-tenor.com/> **3**



JANE EDE, soprano

Jane Ede is one of Australia's most versatile and highly regarded sopranos, known for her refined singing and dramatic flair. Roles for Opera Australia include Contessa in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Musetta in *La Boheme*, Alice Ford in *Falstaff*, Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte*, Belinda in *Dido and Aeneas*, Sara in *Roberto Devereux*, Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni*, Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Gerhilde/Wellgunde in *The Ring Cycle*. Jane won the inaugural Moffatt Oxenbould Young Artist Competition in 2009, to join the Opera Australia Young Artist program.

Born in Sydney, Jane has a Bachelor of Creative Arts from Wollongong University, a Diploma of Opera from the Sydney Conservatorium and a Master of Business Administration from the Australian Institute of Business.

<https://www.janeede.com/>

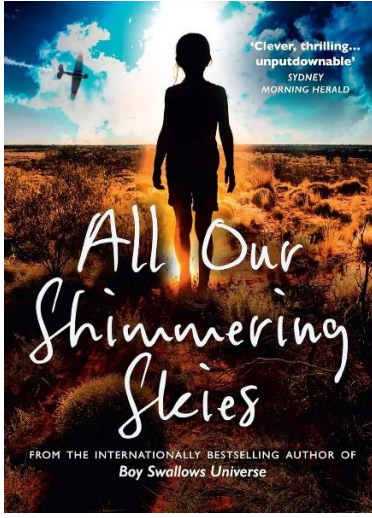


BRADLEY GILCHRIST, piano

Bradley is a well known accompanist, chamber musician, vocal coach and music director based in Sydney, working across a number of genres.

His capacity for nuanced collaboration has led to an extensive career in piano accompaniment and mentorship of young artists.

Some career achievements and positions held include - as solo pianist, concerto soloist with the Slovakia Philharmonic and Odessa Philharmonic Orchestras; as répétiteur for Opera Australia and WA Opera; as official accompanist for the IFAC HANDA Australian Singing Competition; as vocal coach and pianist for music theatre productions including *Fiddler on the Roof* and the *Phantom of the Opera*; as Music Director for Pacific Opera and Music at Manly; as conductor for numerous school and community groups including the Canada Bay Community Choir; as a mentor for prize winning young artists for competitions, scholarships and awards.



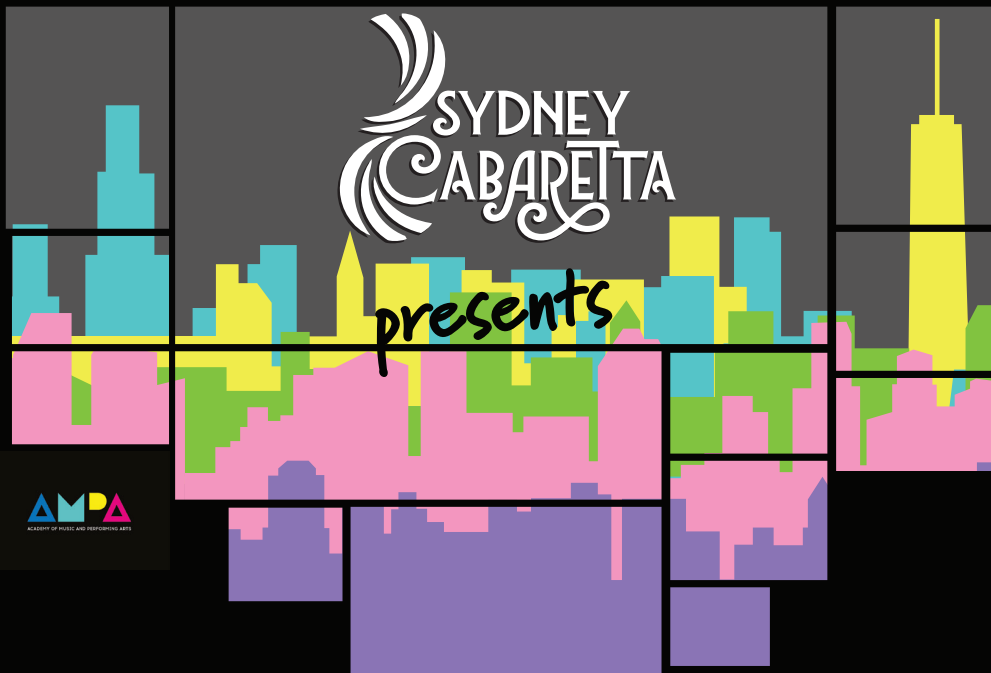


The glorious second novel from bestselling, award-winning Australian author Trent Dalton springs to vibrant, thrilling musical life in a new Australian opera by renowned Opera Australia soprano Jane Ede.

'All Our Shimmering Skies is a story about gifts that fall from the sky, curses we dig from the earth and the secrets we bury inside ourselves. It is an odyssey of true love and grave danger, of darkness and light, of bones and blue skies; a buoyant, beautiful and magical story abrim with warmth, wit and wonder; and a love letter to Australia and the art of looking up.' (Harper Collins)

1942, and as war looms over Darwin, Molly Hook, the gravedigger's daughter, embarks on a perilous journey to lift the curse she believes has blighted her family. In her duffel bag she carries a heart shaped stone and a map enclosed in a cryptic riddle. With guidance from the sky and a would-be actress and Japanese pilot by her side, Molly navigates war, crocodiles, waterfalls and lies in search of her heart's own treasure. But the stormy grave robber is closing in, and he has sworn a terrible oath...

To donate to the first presentation of this exciting new opera, head to australianculturalfund.org.au and search 'All Our Shimmering Skies.'



LIFE STORIES

Songs from Maltby & Shire's

"Closer Than Ever"

exploring stories of love, loss, raging and middle-aging.

→ DIRECTED BY Lucy Bailes

→ STARRING Laura Scandizzo, Angela Hogan,
Paul Batey and John Conal Donohoe

→ Tom Mann Theatre 8-9 August

→ TICKETS events.humanitix.com/life-stories



ELEANOR GREENWOOD, soprano

Dramatic soprano, Eleanor Greenwood holds a Master of Arts (Distinction) from the Royal Academy of Music, and a bachelor music degree with honours from ANU. She is a multi award winner including the 2024 Opera Awards Australia. She has performed key roles across Wagner's *Ring Cycle*, including Sieglinde (*Die Walküre*), Ortlinde, Third Norn (*Götterdämmerung*), and covered the role of Freia (*Das Rheingold*), appearing in full cycles of Melbourne Opera's *Ring Cycle* in Bendigo. In concert, Eleanor has been engaged as a Wagner soloist with the Thüringen Philharmonie Gotha-Eisenach, performing Wagner excerpts as Senta and Gerhilde at the Markgräfliches Opernhaus Bayreuth in 2025. Eleanor is about to travel to Germany for coaching in Wagner roles, especially Kundry in *Parsifal* (supported by the Wagner Society in NSW).

www.eleanorgreenwood.com



JESSICA HARPER, soprano

Soprano Jessica Harper, a Melba Opera Trust alumna, graduated summa cum laude with a Postgraduate Concert Soloist Diploma from the Royal Conservatoire of Antwerp. She is a multi award winner, and an artist supported by the Wagner Society in NSW. She last performed for WSNSW in December 2022 with her husband cellist Joseph Eisinger. Since then, they have been living, studying and performing in Belgium. In early September 2022 she made her debut at Semperoper Dresden as a guest soloist. Jessica currently has a fixed position at the Opéra Royale de Wallonie, where she recently performed the role of Lady Macbeth (*Macbeth*) in a concert celebrating emerging conductors on the world stage. She had the great pleasure of preparing this scene with celebrated maestro Giampaolo Bisanti.

<https://jessicaharpersoprano.com>



MICHAEL LAMPARD, baritone

Sydney-based baritone Michael Lampard is a multi-award winner and principal artist with Opera Australia, and made his company debut at the Sydney Opera House in *La Bohème* in 2019. Since then, he has toured nationally in *Carmen*, *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, and *La Bohème*, with performances throughout Australia, Asia, the United States, the United Kingdom, and Europe. His repertoire encompasses more than 80 operatic roles, spanning Mozart, Verdi, Wagner, and contemporary works. He has sung many Wagner roles for Melbourne Opera. Equally at home on the concert platform, he is particularly acclaimed for his interpretations of English and German Romantic Lied repertoire and Australian art song. Alongside his performing career, Michael is a sought-after classical voice teacher, directing a private studio on Sydney's Upper North Shore.

<https://michaellampard.com>



KENT MCINTOSH, tenor

Born in Auckland, Kent began his musical career as a French Horn player, drummer and vocalist in the R.N.Z. Navy Band. He studied music in NZ, Sydney and Canberra, gaining a M. Mus. He sang roles, many of them leads in *The Magic Flute*, *Albert Herring*, *The Turn of the Screw*, *Capriccio*, and *Madama Butterfly*. His Oratorio soloist highlights include *Messiah*, *Israel in Egypt*, *St John Passion*, *St Matthew Passion*, Monteverdi *Vespers*, Bach *B minor Mass*, CPE Bach and JS Bach *Magnificats*, *Carmina Burana*, *Elijah*, *The Creation*, and many others. Kent has performed many recitals in NZ, and the Eastern seaboard and Regional NSW. Kent has been broadcast live on ABC and Classic FM and has performed with the Opera Australia chorus on over 3000 occasions in the opera houses of Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane.



EUGENE RAGGIO, bass-baritone

Australian-Maltese bass-baritone, Eugene Raggio is a graduate of the Elder Conservatorium. He has toured the title role in *Das Phantom Der Oper* in Germany in successive years. Eugene has appeared with Berliner Wagner Gruppe (sponsored by Wagner Society in NSW), Berlin Summer Festival, and Berlin Dramatic Voices. He has toured with Opera Australia, Co-Opera and sung with Berlin Opera Festival, York Trust Summer Opera, and Nagambie Lakes Opera Festival. His repertoire includes *Das Rheingold*, *Die Walküre*, *Lohengrin*, *Eugene Onegin*, *Hänsel and Gretel*, *Gianni Schicchi*, *Armide*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *La Bohème*, *Tosca*, *Faust*, *La Traviata*, *The Consul* and *Mozart y Salieri*. Eugene covered Hans Sachs for Melbourne Opera's *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* and featured in SOSA's recent *Roméo et Juliette*. Eugene is the founding conductor of the Australian Remembrance Foundation's ANZAC concerts.

<https://www.raggiodisole.com.au/>



LAURA SCANDIZZO, soprano

Laura Scandizzo, is a Texan-born soprano with an extensive operatic repertoire, including lead roles in *Gianni Schicchi*, *Ariadne auf Naxos*, *Don Giovanni*, *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, and *The Seven Deadly Sins*. She often performs with local companies Operantics, Gente Gente and The Opera and Song Collective. Laura performed with Willoughby Symphony, Napier Civic Choir in New Zealand and Penrith Symphony. An alumna of the Pacific Opera Young Artist program, she has received generous support from them and the Wagner Society in NSW. Laura has performed with the Opera Australia chorus in *King Roger*, Verdi's *Requiem*, *Nixon in China*, *Turandot*, *Aida*, *Otello*, *La Juive*, *Carmen*, *La Traviata*, *La Gioconda*, *Hamlet*, *Cendrillon*, *La Bohème*, and *Rusalka*. Additionally, Laura featured in Shaffer's critically acclaimed *Amadeus* starring Michael Sheen, as part of the Sydney Opera House's 50th Anniversary celebrations.

Laura is launching her own production company, Sydney Cabaretta, with two performances of *Life Stories*, see p8.