



OPERA AUSTRALIA ANNOUNCES NEW ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Opera Australia announced today the appointment of a new Artistic Director.

Ziggy Switkowski, Chairman of Opera Australia, said "I am delighted to announce that Lyndon Terracini has accepted the position of Artistic Director of Opera Australia, and will commence in the role in October 2009."

"There was an exceptional field of applicants which is very reassuring for the future of opera in Australia, and Lyndon was the outstanding candidate. He fulfilled all the requirements we were looking for including a strong creative vision, extensive knowledge of the repertoire and an understanding of the unique challenges and opportunities of the Australian environment."

Adrian Collette, Chief Executive of Opera Australia said, "Lyndon is a champion of Australian music and talent, and is someone with a deep knowledge of the opera repertoire both past and present. His comprehensive experience in the Australian arts industry will enable him to oversee the artistic future of our national opera company and its personnel with confidence and sensitivity."

Lyndon Terracini, currently the Artistic Director/CEO of Major Brisbane Festivals, is excited at the prospect of working with the artists, musicians, creative teams and artisans of Opera Australia, saying about the appointment:

"I am honoured, humbled and respectful of the responsibility of the role of Artistic Director of Opera Australia. I am mindful of the company's fifty year history and its traditions,, at the same time I am looking forward to the excitement of the future. I want to build on the successes of the past to help create a company that is inspiring to all Australians."

As Artistic Director of Opera Australia, Lyndon outlined some of his aims for the future:

- To build the Opera Australia ensemble.
- To strengthen relations with opera audiences, both traditional and emerging
- To engage a family of conductors and directors who have broad repertoire knowledge and a deep understanding of the aesthetics of production;
- To formulate a clear process and structure for the commissioning of new Australian opera to create a repertoire of Australian work;
- To develop and nurture young composers;
- To explore the possibilities for using digital technology both onstage and off.
- To create partnerships with festivals both nationally and internationally;
- To stage the Ring Cycle in repertoire

- 2 -

Arts representatives supported the appointment of Lyndon Terracini to the role of Artistic Director Opera Australia with Richard Mills, Composer, Conductor and Artistic Director of West Australian Opera saying, "There is a felicity about this appointment. Lyndon is a mature arts practitioner with a wealth of diverse experience as an administrator, an entrepreneur and a producer, informed by a significant career as a performer."

Jonathan Mills, Director, Edinburgh Festival also commented that "this is a very positive choice for Opera Australia. Lyndon has deep, long-standing international experience both as a performer and administrator; he has a breadth of experience as a successful Festival Director and an understanding of the performing arts in Australia."

Lyndon Terracini made his debut as a baritone in 1976 as Sid in *Albert Herring* with the Australian Opera. Over the next 20 years he worked both internationally and in Australia with a variety of opera companies in a broad range of traditional and contemporary repertoire including major baritone roles in *Carmen*, *Don Quixote*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Sweeney Todd*, and *La boheme*. In 1993, Lyndon founded the Northern Rivers Performance Arts Company and in 2000 was appointed Artistic Director and CEO of the Queensland Music Festival including the commissioning of *Tristan and Isolde*, and *Salome*.

The appointment has been made after a four-month international search following the death of Music Director Richard Hickox in November 2008 and a period of internal review and restructure.

An online announcement can be viewed at www.opera-australia.org.au and www.youtube.com

- ends -

For further information, please contact:
Emma Williams, National Publicist Opera Australia
Tel: 02 9318 8327 or 0413 985 291
Email: emma.williams@opera-australia.org.au