



Incorporated
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Newsletter February 12, 2024

Dear Members

Welcome everyone to a new Opera Society year. Thank you to all Members who have renewed for 2024 and a reminder to any Members who haven't yet done so. We are very appreciative of the contribution our Members make to the Society.

As you know, the Tosca dress rehearsal will be held on May 23 at 1.30pm at the Margaret Court Arena at the Tennis Centre. The handling fee for the ticket distribution will be \$40. Green booking forms will be mailed to financial members in good time for completion and return to the Society at PO Box 389, South Melbourne 3205. The tickets will be allocated on a "first come first served" basis. Please use the green form, not a replacement photocopy. There will be an Insight on Tosca at the Opera Australia Centre, 4th floor, 35-47 City Road, Southbank. This will be on a date to be announced.

The Society's Autumn Lunch will be held at the Alexandra Club again this year, on April 11. This has always been a well supported and enjoyable event. We hope to see you there again. The booking form is enclosed.

As usual, the Society will be sponsoring young singers from Opera Australia's Young Artists Program and the Melba Opera Trust. For Opera Australia, Michael Lampard and Esther Song will be our Eleanor Blakemore Scholars. At the Melba Opera Trust, Syrah Torii, a mezzo-soprano is the recipient of our Eleanor Blakemore scholarship, and Brisbane baritone Aidan Hodder the recipient of our Max and Jill Schultz scholarship. Again we will have the opportunity to hear our scholars at our lunches.

There is to be reception at Government House for Opera Australia and its new Artistic Director Jo Davies on February 29. As we received an offer of 40 invitations for Society Members a matter of days before the names had to be submitted, the Committee agreed to break with previous practice of opening places to all, and to allow the President to offer the opportunity to Members until our quota was filled. We hope that all Members will understand the difficulty we faced.

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on March 19th 2024. Included in this mailout are the relevant documents: The agenda and location of the meeting; a nomination form for election to the Committee; a proxy voting form. Please note that only 2024 financial members can vote. We hope as many members as possible will be able to attend. There will be 8 vacancies on the Committee to be filled. Members with organizational, office or some computer skills might like to consider nominating.

During the covid period when membership fees were waived, we didn't issue membership cards. We have decided not to resume issuing them.

We still have to cope with the renovation of the State Theatre which is affecting Opera Australia's Melbourne seasons. Nevertheless we look forward to an enjoyable year in 2024.

Best wishes,

Judith Hooper, President