

STATEMENT FROM ORCHESTRA VICTORIA MUSICIANS

On behalf of the Musicians of Orchestra Victoria, we wish to convey support and solidarity to our colleagues at the Opera Australia Orchestra, and indeed the wider company at Opera Australia.

Late last week, we became aware of significant planned redundancies amidst ongoing budget difficulties at Opera Australia. Redundancies at the levels proposed by Opera Australia last week will have lasting implications for the artistic output of one of Australia's world class arts companies.

The artists of the Opera Australia Orchestra, alongside those artists in the chorus, set-design, wigs and wardrobe etc, are among the finest in the world who have trained for years to reach the pinnacle of their profession. The generational knowledge held by these artists is one of the great strengths of cultural institutions such as Opera Australia. Any loss of these artists will create a significant artistic vacuum to the company, and to our Australian cultural life.

We sincerely request appropriate assistance from both State and Federal Governments. Any such assistance should not be viewed exclusively in the prism of this pandemic but as a mechanism that will ensure that our Australian cultural life is preserved for the future enjoyment and benefit of the Australian people.

We look forward to news of a positive and detailed plan for Opera Australia and the Opera Australia Orchestra in the very near future.

Sincerely,



Joshua de Graaf



Benjamin Anderson



Monica Naselow



Rebecca Adler

Orchestra Victoria Musicians' Committee Representatives,
on behalf of Orchestra Victoria Musicians

Thursday, 10th September, 2020