

# MELBOURNE OPERA BENDIGO RING CYCLE FESTIVAL PROGRAM

Your quick guide to concerts, recitals,  
masterclasses, talks and more!



Bookings and more  
information

## CYCLE ONE

FRIDAY 24 MARCH

6.30pm

### **Introduction to *Das Rheingold*.**

By Dr Peter Tregear

Venue. Ulumbarra Theatre. 30min.  
Free.

7.30pm

### ***Das Rheingold* performance.**

Venue. Ulumbarra Theatre

SATURDAY 25 MARCH

3pm

### **Wagner. Lord of the Ring. Concert 1. Timeline to Wagner.**

A recital featuring composers who  
preceded Wagner and set the  
foundation for his music and style.

The music of JS Bach, Haydn,  
Mozart, Schubert, Beethoven, Weber  
and Wagner. 60 minutes.

Merlyn Quaife (soprano). Thomas  
Heywood (piano)

Venue. Langley Estate. 60min. \$40.  
Refreshments following performance.

4pm

### **In conversation. With Music Director Anthony Negus and Director Suzanne Chaundy.**

The curse of the Ring and the on-  
going Wagnerian adventure which  
continues to fascinate the world of  
opera.

Venue: Bendigo Bank Theatre. 90min.  
\$25.

6pm

### **Dinner on Stage.**

Tonight you are the stars on stage.

No singing required. Enjoy a special  
moment of the Bendigo Ring Cycle  
with an exclusive behind-the-  
scenes gala evening on stage at the  
Ulumbarra Theatre, featuring special  
guest performances and a surprise  
appearance. Refreshments on arrival,  
followed by three-course dinner on  
stage, reflecting Bendigo's City of  
Gastronomy status.

Venue: Ulumbarra Theatre. 3 hours.  
Dress. Elegant. \$275.

SUNDAY 26 MARCH

1pm

### **Introduction to *Die Walküre*.**

By Dr Peter Tregear

Venue. Ulumbarra Theatre.  
30min. Free.

2pm

### ***Die Walküre* performance.**

Venue. Ulumbarra Theatre

TUESDAY 28 MARCH

6pm

### **Wagner in Paris. A story of prison, ambition and song...**

Wagner in Paris tells the captivating story  
of the composer's early years in Paris  
with his first wife Minna. Based in fact  
but liberally sprinkled with supposition  
and rumour, this performance takes  
audiences on an entertaining and  
moving journey. The story is guided by  
the character of Natalie Planer, Minna's  
illegitimate daughter, the most enduring  
but least written about woman in the life  
of Richard Wagner.

Venue. Bendigo Bank Theatre, 60min.  
\$40.

WEDNESDAY 29 MARCH

6pm

### **Wagner for Violin and Piano:**

### **Kyla Matsuura-Miller and Coady Green.**

Celebrated Australian musicians Kyla  
Matsuura-Miller (violin) and Coady  
Green (piano) present a program  
with the beautiful, and rarely-heard  
arrangements for violin and piano of  
Wagner's Wesendonck Lieder and  
Isolde's Liebestod. Also featured,  
works by Beethoven, Viardot,  
Whitwell and Trewartha.

Venue: Langley Estate. 60min. \$40.  
Refreshments following performance.

THURSDAY 30 MARCH

4pm

### **Liszt/Wagner - virtuoso transcriptions for 4 hands - Konrad Olszewski and Gulliver Poole.**

Are there enough keys on the piano  
to accommodate all the notes? Rarely  
heard virtuoso piano transcriptions  
of Wagner's music as interpreted  
by other composers, including Liszt,  
Tausig, Brassin and others.

Venue: Langley Estate. 60min. \$40.  
Refreshments following performance.

6pm

### **Recital - Darren Jeffery. The Wanderer.**

A program featuring internationally  
acclaimed English bass-baritone  
Darren Jeffery in music of Ralph  
Vaughan Williams, Hugo Wolf, Gabriel  
Faure, John Ireland, John Masefield,  
Frederick Keel, Wolfgang Amadeus  
Mozart and Richard Wagner.

Venue. Langley Estate. 60min. \$40.  
Refreshments following performance.

FRIDAY 31 MARCH

3pm

**Introduction to *Siegfried*.**

By Dr Peter Tregear

Venue: Ulumbarra Theatre. 30 min.

Free.

4pm

***Siegfried* performance.**

Venue: Ulumbarra Theatre

SATURDAY 1 APRIL

3pm

**Wagner. Lord of the Ring. Concert 2. Wagner's Frenemies.**

The life and times, the musical friends and musical enemies of Richard Wagner. Featuring the music of Robert Schumann, Clara Schumann, Mendelssohn, Liszt, Brahms, Wolf, Meyerbeer, Debussy, Verdi.

Merlyn Quaife (soprano) Thomas Heywood (piano)

Venue. Langley Estate. 60min. \$40.

Refreshments following performance.

4pm

**Lola Montez - The Wagner and Bendigo Connections – An illustrated talk by Geoffrey Seidel**

The exotic dancer and actress known as Lola Montez performed to packed houses in Bendigo, Ballarat, Castlemaine, Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide during the gold-rush in 1855/56. This talk aims to be a light, locally focussed diversion and will be colourfully illustrated, mainly covering the Australian and Wagner-related connections.

Venue. Bendigo Bank Theatre,

Capital Theatre Building. 60min. Free.

**Down the Mine with *Siegfried*.**

A festival exclusive. We'll provide a miner's helmet for your descent via lift 60 metres underground to hear the Melbourne Opera Chamber Orchestra. A program including *Siegfried Idyll*, one of Wagner's most intimate and personal compositions, based on themes from his Ring Opera *Siegfried*, and *Wesendonck Lieder* performed by soprano Lee Abrahmsen. Limited ticket sales. Guests need to arrive at 6pm. Doors close 6.30pm. Performance begins at 7pm. Last guests exit the mine at 8.45pm for refreshments.

Venue. Deborah Gold Mine.

Approx. 3 hours. \$100..

SUNDAY 2 APRIL

1pm

**Introduction to *Götterdämmerung***

By Dr Peter Tregear

Venue: Ulumbarra Theatre. 30min.

Free.

2pm

***Götterdämmerung* performance**

Venue: Ulumbarra Theatre

**CYCLE TWO**

FRIDAY 7 APRIL

6.30pm

**Introduction to *Das Rheingold***

Venue. Ulumbarra Theatre. 30min.

Free.

7.30pm

***Das Rheingold* performance**

Venue. Ulumbarra Theatre

SATURDAY 8 APRIL

3pm

**Wagner. Lord of the Ring. Concert 1. Timeline to Wagner.**

Merlyn Quaife (soprano). Thomas Heywood (piano)

Details see 25 March

Venue. Langley Estate. 60min. \$40.

Refreshments following performance.

4pm

**In conversation with Music Director Anthony Negus.**

Venue: Engine Room. 60min. Free.

6pm

**Masterclass with Deborah Humble**

Internationally acclaimed Australian mezzo soprano Deborah Humble passes on her knowledge to a group of singers from Melbourne Opera's Richard Dival Young Artists Program. 2 hours.

Venue. Langley Estate. 120min. \$40.

Refreshments following masterclass.

SUNDAY 9 APRIL

1pm

**Introduction to *Die Walküre***

Venue. Ulumbarra Theatre. 30min.

Free.

2pm

***Die Walküre* performance**

Venue. Ulumbarra Theatre

TUESDAY 11 APRIL

4pm

**Wagner and Jewish Society - a reflection on his essay *Das Judentum in der Musik*.**

By Dr David Kram, a very experienced Wagner conductor and President of kehilat s'dot zahav [www.goldfieldsksz.org](http://www.goldfieldsksz.org), the progressive Jewish congregation of the Goldfields of Central Victoria.

Venue: Langley Estate. 60min. \$40.

Refreshments following performance.

6pm

**Recital - Darren Jeffery. The Wanderer.**

Details see 30 March

Venue. Langley Estate. 60min. \$40.

Refreshments following performance.

7pm

WEDNESDAY 12 APRIL

2pm

**Liszt/Wagner - virtuoso transcriptions for 4 hands - Konrad Olszewski and Gulliver Poole.**

Details see 30 March

Venue: Langley Estate. 60min. \$40.

Refreshments following performance.

6pm

**Recital - Lee Abrahmsen. Soprano.**

Lee Abrahmsen performs a selection of songs by Percy Grainger, Hugo Wolf, Richard Strauss, Gustav Mahler, Alfredo Catalani and Richard Wagner. 60 minutes

Venue. Langley Estate. 60min. \$40.

Refreshments following performance

THURSDAY 13 APRIL

3pm

**Wagner for Violin and Piano: Kyla Matsuura-Miller and Coady Green.**

Details see 29 March

Venue: Langley Estate. 60min. \$40.

Refreshments following performance.

5pm

**Wagner in Paris. A story of prison, ambition and song...**

Details see 28 March

Venue. Bendigo Bank Theatre, Capital Theatre Building. 60min. \$40.

7pm

**Down the Mine with Siegfried.**

Details see 1 April

Venue. Deborah Gold Mine.

Approx 3 hours. \$100.

FRIDAY 14 APRIL

3pm

**Introduction to Siegfried.**

Venue. Ulumbarra Theatre. 30min.

Free.

4pm

**Siegfried performance.**

Venue. Ulumbarra Theatre

SATURDAY 15 APRIL

3pm

**Wagner. Lord of the Ring. Concert 2.. Wagner's Frenemies.**

Merlyn Quaife (soprano) Thomas

Heywood (piano)

Details see 1 April

Venue. Langley Estate. 60min. \$40.

Refreshments following performance.

4pm

**In conversation - Anthony Negus, Siegfried Jerusalem and Deborah Humble**

Three towering figures of the operatic world. Reflections on lives in opera where careers intersect only to diverge and then intersect again, with a focus on Bayreuth.

Venue: Bendigo Bank Theatre. 90min.

\$50.

6pm

**Dinner on Stage**

Details see 25 March

Venue: Ulumbarra Theatre. 3 hours. .

Dress. Elegant. \$275.

SUNDAY 16 APRIL

1pm

**Introduction to Götterdämmerung**

Venue. Ulumbarra Theatre, 30min.

Free.

2pm

**Götterdämmerung performance**

Venue. Ulumbarra Theatre

**CYCLE THREE**

FRIDAY 21 APRIL

6.30pm

**Introduction to Das Rheingold**

Venue. Ulumbarra Theatre, 30min.

Free.

7.30pm

**Das Rheingold performance**

Venue. Ulumbarra Theatre

SATURDAY 22 APRIL

10am-4pm

**Wagner Symposium**

Delve into the life of Richard Wagner through a series of lectures given by some of Melbourne's leading musical academics.

Program:

Kerry Murphy & Sue Cole, 'Wagner in the Antipodes'

Peter Tregear, 'Cancelling Wagner'

Rachel Orzech, 'Wagner in Occupied Paris'

David Larkin, 'Wagner and Laughter'

Morning and afternoon tea provided, BYO lunch or options in View St and surrounds

Venue. Latrobe Art Institute. 6 hours

Free..

3pm

**Wagner Lord of the Ring. Concert 1 Timeline to Wagner.**

Merlyn Quaife (soprano). Thomas

Heywood (piano)

Details see 25 March

Venue. Langley Estate. 60min. Free.

Refreshments following performance.

4pm

**Masterclass - Siegfried Jerusalem**

Bendigo Ring special guest, legendary German tenor Siegfried

Jerusalem, has sung all the Ring Cycle tenor roles at Bayreuth and beyond. Here he connects with

Bendigo Ring tenors Bradley Cooper (Siegfried), James Egglestone (Loge/Siegmond) and Robert Macfarlane (Mime).

Venue: Bendigo Bank Theatre. 120 minutes.

Limited tickets. \$50.

6pm

**Dinner on Stage**

Details see 25 March.

Venue: Ulumbarra Theatre. 3 hours.

Dress. Elegant. \$275.

SUNDAY 23 APRIL

11am

**Recital - Rosario LaSpina**

A brunch recital featuring popular songs and arias from Rosario's much loved repertoire.

Venue: Langley Estate. 60min. \$40.  
Refreshments following performance.

1pm

**Introduction to *Die Walküre***

Venue. Ulumbarra Theatre. 30min.  
Free

2pm

***Die Walküre* performance**

Venue. Ulumbarra Theatre

TUESDAY 25 APRIL

4pm

**Wagner for Violin and Piano:  
Kyla Matsuura-Miller and Coady Green**

Details see 29 March  
Venue: Langley Estate. 60min. \$40.  
Refreshments following performance.

6pm

**Recital - Rosamund Iling**

Renowned soprano Rosamund Iling performs a program of songs and arias from her career repertoire..  
Venue: Langley Estate. 60min. \$40.  
Refreshments following performance.

WEDNESDAY 26 APRIL

6pm

**Wagner in Paris. A story of prison, ambition and song...**

Details see 28 March.  
Venue. Bendigo Bank Theatre, Capital Theatre Building. 60min. \$40.

6pm

**Masterclass with Deborah Humble**

Details see 8 April.  
Venue. Langley Estate. 120min. \$40.  
Refreshments following masterclass.

THURSDAY 27 APRIL

4pm

**Liszt/Wagner - virtuoso**

**transcriptions for 4 hands - Konrad Olszewski and Gulliver Poole.**

Details see 30 March  
Venue: Langley Estate. 60min. \$40.  
Refreshments following performance.

6pm

**Recital - Darren Jeffery. The Wanderer**

Details see 30 March  
Venue. Langley Estate. 60min. \$40.  
Refreshments following performance.

FRIDAY 28 APRIL

3pm

**Introduction to *Siegfried***

Ulumbarra Theatre. 30min. Free.

4pm

***Siegfried* performance**

Venue. Ulumbarra Theatre

SATURDAY 29 APRIL

3pm

**Wagner Lord of the Ring. Concert 2  
Wagner's Frenemies.**

Merlyn Quaife (soprano) Thomas Heywood (piano)  
Details see 1 April  
Venue. Langley Estate. 60min. \$40.  
Refreshments following performance.

4.30pm

**In Conversation with renowned  
German tenor Siegfried Jerusalem.**

Venue: Bendigo Bank Theatre. 90min.  
\$50

7pm

**Down the Mine with Siegfried**

Details see 1 April.  
Venue. Deborah Gold Mine.  
Approx 3 hours. \$100.

SUNDAY 30 APRIL

1pm

**Introduction to *Götterdämmerung***

Venue: Ulumbarra Theatre. 30min.  
Free.

2pm

***Götterdämmerung* performance**

Venue: Ulumbarra Theatre

WALKING TOURS OF  
BENDIGO

10am  
\$15pp

Saturday 25 March  
Saturday 8 April  
Saturday 22 April

GERMAN BENDIGO

Walk around inner Bendigo. Hear how Germans became an important migrant group; the landmarks of architect Vahland, his buildings and contribution to early Bendigo; German tradesmen (plasterers, brewers, carriage builders, educators, Religious figures, wine merchants, shopkeepers); Deutscher Verein - the Bendigo German Club; artists and other characters who contributed to the city.

Saturday 1 April  
Saturday 15 April  
Saturday 29 April

VICTORIA HILL MINE

Led by a Bendigo Geologist, a tour of the Victoria Hill site, an early quartz mine 2 kms from central Bendigo. Johann Ballerstedt, born in Magdeburg, Prussia, arrived with his son on the Bendigo goldfields with "little money in their pockets and less English on their tongues". He became known as "the Father of quartz mining" extracting over 98,000 ozs of gold in less than 5 years from the mine his son eventually returning to Germany.

Tours approximately 60 minutes.