THE Opera FOUNDATION FOR YOUNG AUSTRALIANS®

We are delighted with the progress of our recent Winners and below you can read about the 2023 and 2024 Winners and their achievements.

- **Sundell American Institute of Musical Studies Award** – Six week summer school in Graz, Austria
- **Lady Galleghan London Award** – Chorus at Opera Holland Park, Audition with Diva Opera & coachings at Royal Opera House
- **Deutsche Oper Berlin Award** – Full Season member of the 'Stipiendiat' of the Deutsche Oper Berlin & Goethe-Institut German language course
- **Michael Byrne Vienna State Opera Award** – Four months with mainstage performance opportunities & coachings
- **Lady Fairfax La Scala Opera Award** – Four months of Study and potential covering and performance at Teatro alla Scala
- **Berlin Music Opera Award** – Three to Six months for Conductor, Designer, Director or Reptetiteur to work on productions at the Deutsche Oper Berlin

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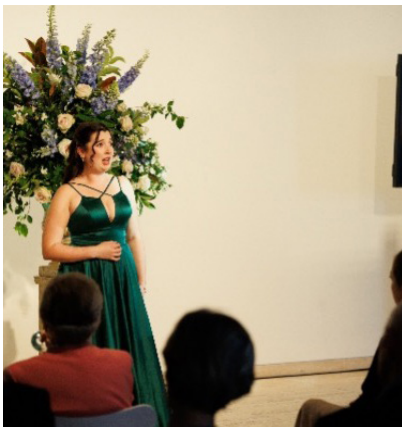
THE Opera FOUNDATION FOR YOUNG AUSTRALIANS®

2024 Winners



Caitlin Weal

Sundell American Institute of Musical Studies Award

After finishing her Award, Caitlin commenced her Margaret Baker-Genovesi Award where she returned to Europe to undertake singing lessons and coachings along with intensive German language lessons, and had teachers offer some exciting prospects. She is currently back in Melbourne performing in Concerts and a small role with Melbourne Opera in their production of *Suor Angelica* and was a Finalist in the German Australian Opera Grant where she received the More Than Opera Development Grant. Caitlin went to Leipzig for 2 weeks and studied with Regina Weber and Roland Schubert, Head of the Department at the Mendelssohn School of Music where she has been accepted to study in his opera studio and will return to Leipzig in June 2025.

Lyla Levy-Jordan

Lady Galleghan London Award

Since completing the Lady Galleghan London Award, Lyla has competed in many of the most prestigious international music competitions, including the ARD International Music Competition and International Vocal Competition. She has also auditioned for the Royal Opera House, Opera Holland Park, Opera de Paris, Bayerische Staatsoper, Stuttgart Opera and Opera Australia. Whilst awaiting the outcomes of these Auditions, Lyla returned to Australia to commence rehearsals for the Australian Premiere of Ellen Reid's Pulitzer Prize Winning opera *'p r i s m'*.

Michael Dimovski

Deutsche Oper Berlin Award

Michael commences his Award at Deutsche Oper Berlin this year and post winning this Award participated in the Salzburg Festival Young Singers Project where he performed in the acclaimed production of *The Gambler* (Der Spieler) directed by Peter Sellars. He finished his residence in Linz, Austria and has recently moved to Berlin to undertake his Goethe German Language course and was invited as a guest soloist in concerts of Bruckner's Missa Solemnis run by the Fränkische Musiktage. Deutsche Oper have engaged Michael to commence his contract earlier as a guest to perform as an apprentice in Wagner's Die *Meistersingers von Nürnberg*, the Count of Lerma /Herold in *Don Carlos* and as Giuseppe in *La traviata.*

Nathan Bryon

Michael Byrne Vienna State Opera Award

Nathan commenced his Award at Vienna State Opera. Since arriving he has learned many roles and is covering *Salome* (Erste Jude) and *Parsifal* (Vierte Knappe), as well as two covers in *Die Zauberflöte* (Erste geharnischter Mann) and *Arabella* (Elemer). Nathan undertakes daily coachings with the Staatsoper music staff and enjoys observing rehearsals and performances at this incredible repertory opera house. The experience of being involved at the Wiener Staatsoper will prepare him for his next steps at the Hessische Staatstheater Wiesbaden as the 2024 German- Australian Opera Grant Award Winner.

Melissa Gregory

Lady Fairfax La Scala Opera Award

Before commencing the Award in Milan, Melissa performed the role of Praskowia in *The Merry Widow* at Glyndebourne, which was also broadcast on the BBC TV in the UK on Christmas Day. She covered in the Autumn season at Glyndebourne the role of Zaida in *Il turco in Italia* and ended up jumping in singing from the side for the final dress rehearsal with two hours' notice. Melissa sang the role of *Carmen* at the BBC Proms at Royal Albert Hall and the solo as the "Marchande d'oranges". She also competed in the Bel Canto Award in Australia, winning third prize and the Tait Memorial Prize. In Milan at Teatro alla Scala Melissa has been covering the role of Meg Page in *Falstaff*, where she jumped in for a stage rehearsal. She is currently covering the role of Olga in *Eugene Onegin* and prior to arriving in Milan and during her stay Melissa is learning the Italian language. After Italy Melissa will return to Glyndebourne for the Summer Festival, including covering the role of Varvara in *Kata Kabanova* and then singing the role of Dorabella in Opera Project's production of *Cosi fan tutte* in the Autumn. Melissa was offered a small role following her Award in Milan, but unfortunately due to other professional commitments was unable to accept this role.

Marlowe Fitzpatrick

Berlin Music Opera Award

Marlowe is currently at the Deutsche Oper Berlin in the capacity of a repetiteur and assistant conductor of a new production *Ab in den Ring*. He jumped in to play organ for *Die Frau ohne Schatten* and *Turandot* **(photo)** and is also playing the keyboard role in Ravel's *L'heure espagnole*. Shortly he will be working as assistant conductor on Arabella, co-conductor on "Aufstieg und Fall der Stadt Mahagonny", and pianist on *La traviata, Rigoletto, Der fliegende Holländer, Carmen, Barber of Seville, Don Carlo, Werther*, and more. This Award is generally around three months in duration, but Marlowe has been accepted to Detusche Oper for six months and they are providing an apartment for him as repetiteurs are greatly valued in opera houses.

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2023 Winners

Chelsea Burns

Sundell American Institute of Musical Studies Award

Post winning the 2023 Award, Chelsea has performed with West Australian Opera as a mainstage soloist in *Rusalka*, in which she also covered the title role. She has been a semi-finalist in several national competitions, as well as the Winner of the Fremantle Eisteddfod. Excitingly, Chelsea has recently been accepted as the Soprano Young Artist for Opera Australia for 2025 and 2026.

Chloe Harris

Lady Galleghan London Award

Chloe is an Emerging Artist for Scottish Opera's 2024 / 2025 Season playing the role of Nancy in *Albert Herring* and *Trial by Jury* and joins the Opera Highlights tour from January to March 2025. Touring to many and various regions of Scotland. Chloe was engaged as a young artist in Garsington's 2024 Summer Program as an Alvarez Young Artist, performing in the chorus of *Le nozze di Figaro* and covering the roles of Marcellina, 2nd Bridesmaid and Moon Queen for the opera *A Trip to the Moon.*

Stephen Marsh

Deutsche Oper Berlin Award

Stephen is currently undertaking his Award in the Ensemble at Deutsche Oper Berlin and his time has been full of excitement and adventure. To-date he has participated in 40 performances across multiple styles and composers and has had the chance to do a number of last minute 'Jump-ins' which has been nerve wracking, but also very fulfilling. Deutsche Oper is one of the busiest repertory houses in Europe with over 40 productions in its 2024 /2025 Season.

"I cannot put into words how rewarding and artistically fulfilling my time at the Deutsche Oper Berlin has been and I am sure will continue to be. I have The Opera Foundation for young Australians' to thank for this invaluable opportunity."

Anna Voshege

Michael Byrne Vienna State Opera Award

Post winning the Award, Anna has been travelling, performing many solo recitals with the Kammerorchester Waiblingen in Germany, with her esteemed colleague and friend, pianist Mennan Bërveniku in the Mt Fuji Kawaguchiko Music Festival in Japan, and as a guest soloist to open the Johann Strauss 2025 Festival and Exhibition at the Theatermuseum in Vienna. Coming up Anna will be performing with the Morphing Chamber Orchestra in Krakow for two Johann Strauss Galas to celebrate the year of Strauss, a Liederabend in Vienna and in May she be returning home to Australia for the first time in two years to make her debut with State Opera South Australia as the Controller in Jonathan Dove's Flight. *"It goes without saying that the Award and my time at the Vienna State Opera has made an immeasurable impact on my life and career and I remain extremely grateful."* Anna also adorns the cover of the Foundation's 2025 Awards Brochure!!!

Anna will be returning to the Vienna State Opera in the 2025 / 2026 Season on contract.

Andrew Williams

Lady Fairfax La Scala Opera Award

Andrew completed his Award at Treatro all Scala in May 2024 where he covered a role and stepped in for rehearsals. Since winning the Award he has completed a national tour with Opera Australia, performing as Marcello in La bohème. Following this success, Andrew secured agent representation in France to expand his reach across Europe. Looking ahead, he is excited to continue his auditioning after this year's Opera Australia national tour, having received invitations from several esteemed opera houses.

"I'm incredibly grateful for these opportunities provided by the Award and am looking forward to the path ahead." **Andrew will be performing at the Italian Forum in Leichhardt on Thursday 5th June 2025.**

Monique Langford

Berlin Music Opera Award

Upon conclusion of the Award in June 2024, Monique was offered a contract with Deutsche Oper in the Archive of the Costume Department. She is also continuing her work as a costume assistant. In March Monique will be the costume assistant for *Neue Szenen* in the Tischlerei - the secondary stage of Deutsche Oper - and will also work as a costume design assistant at the Immling Opera Festival in Chiemsee (Germany) in July.

THE Opera FOUNDATION FOR YOUNG AUSTRALIANS®

The Opera Foundation *for young Australians* is a non-profit organisation, founded by Lady Fairfax AC OBE and celebrates over 60 years of providing opportunities and enabling careers for young Australians in the field of opera.

The Opera Foundation *for young Australians* continues to fund all Awards through the generosity of individual supporters and philanthropic foundations in Australia. The Foundation does not receive any government funding.

Peter Coleman-Wright AO Chairman – Music Advisory Council

Peter Coleman-Wright AO is widely considered one of the most versatile singers in the world today, equally athome in opera, concert and recital. His extensive and varied repertoire has taken him to many of the world's greatest Opera Companies and Concert Halls. He has sung throughout Europe at La Scala Milan, La Fenice Venice, Netherlands Opera, Munich, Vienna, Geneva, Paris, Bordeaux, Flanders, and at the Aix-en Provence and Bregenz Festivals. In the United Kingdom he has been a frequent guest of the Royal Opera Covent Garden, English National Opera and Glyndebourne Festival. He has worked for the Aldeburgh Festival at the BBC Proms and with all the leading orchestras at London's South Bank, Albert Hall, The Barbican, Bridgewater Hall and the Wigmore Halls. In North America he has sung at the Metropolitan Opera New York, New York City Opera, Houston, Santa Fe and Vancouver. He has sung extensively for Opera Australia and has worked with all the major symphony orchestras throughout all the principal Concert Halls. He has sung more than 60 roles.

"I am absolutely delighted to become the Chairman of the Opera Foundation for young Australians. The Foundation is unique in providing real and exciting opportunities for aspiring opera singers. I would like to thank my predecessor Mr. Malcolm Batty for his professionalism and counsel over the past 40 years and I look forward to continuing his legacy."

Damien Beaumont – Music Advisory Council

Damien studied voice with Guila Tiver at the Elder Conservatorium of Music. After pursuing further musical studies in England, Damien Returned to Australia and joined the ABC in 1999. Since then, he has worked closely with Opera Australia, presenting Carmen on the Big Screen, travelling to Taiwan and Edinburgh with their productions of Carmen and Bliss, and Sydney's Opera in the Domain. He has been involved in many productions with Opera Australia and Pinchgut and the productions of Bliss and in Edinburgh and Carmen in Taipei, and was commissioned to write and present a 10-part-radio-series in Taiwan on the history of opera in Australia. Since 2010, Damien has been leading opera and music tours, both nationally and internationally for Renaissance Tours which has kept him abreast of performance standards on the world stages.

"It is humbling, an honour and a privilege to be invited to join The Opera Foundation for young Australians' Music Advisory Council. Throughout my career I've been driven by and connected to so many endeavours that focus on and promote the advancement of youth in music, something which I am truly passionate about. Leading on and learning from, my own direct experience as a young singer trying to navigate a path through this heady-operatic-world ultimately lead to my broadcasting career on ABC Classic which lasted for over 25 years. It is my great pleasure to encourage young musicians in their career."

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Cover

Anna Voshege– Winner of the 2023 Michael Byrne Vienna State Opera Award Performing in Vienna State Opera's production of *Rusalka (Dvořák)*

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