

Young Artist Program - Director

About the program

Applications are NOW OPEN for the newly revitalised Opera Australia Young Artist Program (OAYAP). Generously supported by Principal Patron, Maureen Wheeler AO, Opera Australia's new Young Artist Program redefines the way we discover and nurture emerging talent.

The Opera Australia Young Artist Program is an 18-month intensive, full-time training program based both at The Opera Centre in Sydney and overseas. Up to seven (7) young artists (4-5 singers, 1 répétiteur and 1 director) will reside in Sydney (moving allowance available) and be paid a full-time salary enabling them to fully engage with the program and their career development. Ideal candidates possess exceptional talent and demonstrate creativity, adaptability, and a passion for pushing the boundaries of our art form.

Our young artists receive vocal and dramatic coaching, language classes and career guidance combined with assistant and cover roles, event performances and mainstage work as they are ready.

Opera remains deeply relevant and exciting for today's audiences. Through the OAYAP, we're nurturing artists who can balance tradition with innovation, address contemporary issues, and connect with diverse communities.

Opera Australia Young Artists receive a full-time salary for the duration of the program.

To aspiring opera singers, directors, and répétiteurs; if you dream of a career in opera and are ready to dedicate yourself to this exhilarating art form, we want to hear from you. The OAYAP could be your pathway to a brilliant future in the world of opera.

From a directorial perspective, working within an arts company of this scale has given me an invaluable chance to understand what happens behind the scenes and how work is programmed and produced. I cannot overstate how transformative this time has been, not just for my artistic development, but for my self-confidence as an artist. Claudia Osborne, Opera Australia Young Artist Director 2025/26

See [Opera Australia Young Artist Program](#) for more information on eligibility and application criteria.

Application Summary

- Round One - [APPLICATION FORM](#) online
- Round Two – Live audition/presentation
- Round Three – Finalist Workshop, Sydney (travel and accommodation covered) r

Applications close:

- Répétiteur & Director: 20 October 2025, 9AM AEDT

You will be advised via email if you have been successful in Round #1.

For any enquiries about this role please contact youngartistprogram@opera.org.au

DIRECTOR PROFILE

- The successful candidate is an emerging director with demonstrated maturity, resilience, self-motivation and directing experience. They will have trained as a director at a performing arts institution or have similar practical experience. The successful candidate will have:
- Demonstrated ability to elicit the dramatic intent of scene work and willingness to explore how this is best imparted to singers who are often working in foreign and non-native languages
- Strong musicality, music reading skills or an aptitude to learn
- Foreign language skills (notably Italian, French or German) or an aptitude to learn
- An interest in understanding operatic performance practice
- Genuine curiosity and passion for the opera art form that drives the pursuit of excellence, demonstrated in depth of knowledge of the chosen audition piece and willingness to take risks
- An interest in both traditional and contemporary theatre and opera
- Experience directing theatre, opera or music theatre at the university, community, independent and/or professional level

Applicants will be selected based on prior training and their Opera Treatment with reference to both music and libretto.

This appointment is dependent on finding an emerging artist ready for the program. If no candidate is ready at this time, the appointment may remain open.

Online Application

- Completed [APPLICATION FORM](#)
- Headshot or current colour photo
- CV
- Personal Statement – 500 words. Declaration Statement. All recording and treatment submissions should be recorded/created within 3-months of submission.
- Opera Treatment. See below.

ROUND 1 - TREATMENT SUBMISSION

Treatment must be submitted by Monday 20 October 2025, 9:00AM AEDT

Submit a directorial concept for one of the following operas, highlighting your thoughts on set, costume, how this would illuminate the world of the piece and how the music informs the text and the drama. Treatment to be no longer than three A4 pages.

- *Don Giovanni* - Mozart
- *L'elisir d'amore* - Donizetti
- *Les Pêcheurs de Perles* - Bizet
- *Faust* - Gounod
- *Rigoletto* – Verdi
- *Ariadne auf Naxos* – Strauss

About Opera Australia

Opera Australia is one of the world's most celebrated opera companies with a commitment to develop and nurture new generations of Australian talent on and off the stage.

Opera Australia is the largest and busiest performing arts organisation in Australia, with over 800 opera performances a year, including opera seasons in Sydney and Melbourne, Handa Opera on Sydney

Harbour, musical theatre, opera concerts and a range of other activities. Opera performances are broadcast and distributed nationally and internationally.

The Company manages the Opera Australia Orchestra and also works in partnership with Orchestra Victoria. Opera Australia works with leading directors and designers and employs a large number of highly skilled people in the areas of scenic construction and painting, wardrobe and wig-making, stage production, management and administration. Overall, OA plays a vital role in developing and sustaining a specialist skills base in this unique area of the performing arts.

For more about OA please refer to our website: opera.org.au/

Opera Australia is committed to advancing, cultivating and preserving a culture of diversity, inclusion and belonging. The Opera Australia Young Artist Program recognizes and celebrates the diversity of the Australian performing community, and we seek to foster a more realistic and more creative representation of 21st century Australia in our programs and on our stages.

The multiple perspectives and lived experiences of our people assist us to share great stories through music and song with a broad audience. We strongly encourage submissions from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and performers of various experience, perspective, education, identity, expression and circumstance, including those of cultural and linguistically diverse backgrounds.