

# media release

## Tuesday 12 June 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



### **TSO and Victorian Opera launch new partnership**

The TSO and Victorian Opera launched a new multi-year collaboration during Dark Mofo 2017, with 3 performances of Respighi's *The Sleeping Beauty* at the Theatre Royal, Hobart on June 10 and 11. Funded by the Australia Council for the Arts to enable Victorian Opera to present opera projects with the TSO in Tasmania, the relationship will span at least the next 4 years.

*The Sleeping Beauty* marked the first of these collaborations, bringing Victorian Opera's critically acclaimed Melbourne production, to be followed on August 12 by a concert performance of Bizet's *Carmen* at Federation Concert Hall, Hobart featuring an all-star cast including Russian mezzo-soprano Elena Maxima, Argentinian tenor Marcelo Puente, Teddy Tahu Rhodes and conducted by TSO Chief Conductor and Artistic Director Marko Letonja.

With *Carmen* the TSO continues its recent success presenting opera in concert. Last year's performance of highlights from Wagner's *Tristan and Isolde*, featuring Nina Stemme and Stuart Skelton reprising their roles direct from The Metropolitan Opera in New York was a major cultural coup for Tasmania. It was also conducted by Letonja who has just completed the monumental task of conducting *The Ring* with the Royal Swedish Opera in Stockholm.

TSO Managing Director Nicholas Heyward said, 'We welcome this partnership with one of Australia's most dynamic and exciting opera companies. Our relationship with Victorian Opera will enable the TSO to expand on our efforts in recent seasons to bring world class opera repertoire to Tasmanian audiences, as well as capitalise on our long-term relationship with Marko whose reputation as one of the world's leading opera conductors continues to flourish.'

TSO Director Artistic Planning Simon Rogers recently commented, 'How fortunate we are to have Marko as our Chief Conductor in Tasmania. He works in the very best opera houses in the world and is keen to bring this experience and world class operatic soloists to us on an ongoing basis.'

Letonja returns to Tasmania to conduct *Colours of the East* on August 4 before *Carmen*.

Victorian Opera and The TSO first collaborated in 2015 with *Remembrance*, composed by Victorian Opera's Artistic Director Richard Mills which commemorated the ANZAC centenary through songs of the wartime era.

---

Federation Concert Hall 1 Davey Street, Hobart, Tasmania, 7000, Australia      GPO Box 1450, Hobart, Tasmania, 7001, Australia

---

Telephone (03) 6232 4411 International +61 3 6232 4411 Facsimile (03) 6232 4455 International +61 3 6232 4455

---

Email [tso@tso.com.au](mailto:tso@tso.com.au) Website [www.tso.com.au](http://www.tso.com.au)

---

Mills says of the new ongoing collaboration with the TSO 'The TSO is a jewel, not only in Tasmania's crown, but within the Australian musical landscape, and an orchestra with which I have a long and fruitful relationship. I am delighted that this new arrangement enables this fine orchestra to join with Victorian Opera to present innovative, accessible opera to the Tasmanian audience on an annual basis.'

Forming part of Dark Mofo, *The Sleeping Beauty* is Italian composer Ottorino Respighi's 1922 reimagining of Charles Perrault's gothic fairy-tale, originally created specifically for one of Italy's leading puppet theatres in the early 20th century, and was brought to life by Victorian Opera in this production featuring twenty-seven life-size puppets.

**The Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra in association with Victorian Opera present**

***Carmen***

**Saturday 12 August, 7.30pm**

**Federation Concert Hall**

**TSO tickets available [www.tso.com.au](http://www.tso.com.au) or 1800 001 190.**

**Press contact, including interview and image requests:**

**Samuel Cairnduff**

**Director Marketing and Communications**

**0401 396 755 / [cairnduffs@tso.com.au](mailto:cairnduffs@tso.com.au)**



Victorian  
Opera



**The TSO is proudly supported by**

