

media release  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



## ***TSO's Tristan und Isolde* nominated for 2017 Helpmann Award**



The Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra was last night included in the list of nominees for the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Helpmann Awards in the category 'Best Symphony Orchestra Concert' for its acclaimed concert performance of Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde*.

The concert, which took place on November 19, 2016 at Federation Concert Hall in Hobart, featured world-renowned Swedish soprano Nina Stemme and Australian heldentenor Stuart Skelton reprising their roles as Wagner's star-crossed lovers direct from The Metropolitan Opera in New York, and was conducted by TSO Chief Conductor and Artistic Director Marko Letonja. Renowned mezzo-soprano Monika Bohinec was also featured in the role of Brangäne.

A major cultural coup for Tasmania, concert-goers travelled from all over the country as well as overseas to attend the one-off performance which was greeted with a resounding and spontaneous standing ovation.

Established in 2001 by [Live Performance Australia \(LPA\)](#) the annual Helpmann Awards, celebrate and promote the Australian live performance industry, similar to the Tony Awards on Broadway and the Olivier Awards in London, and acknowledge distinguished artistic

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achievement and excellence in the many disciplines of Australia's vibrant live performance sectors.

The TSO was previously recognised with a 2016 Helpmann Award in the category 'Best Australian Contemporary Concert' for its contribution to the concert 'Kate Miller-Heidke and the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra with visuals by Amy Gebhardt' which was part of MOFO 2016.

The TSO continues its commitment to presenting opera projects in Tasmania with a recently announced multi-year collaboration with Victorian Opera launched during Dark Mofo 2017 with 3 performances of Victorian Opera's critically acclaimed Melbourne production of Respighi's *The Sleeping Beauty* featuring the TSO at the Theatre Royal, Hobart. Funded by the Australia Council, the relationship will span at least the next 4 years.

The partnership with Victoria Opera will be next represented on August 12 with a sold-out 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 Puento, Teddy Tahu Rhodes the concert will be again conducted by Letonja, who continues to build his stellar reputation as one of the world's leading conductors of opera having just completed the monumental task of conducting *The Ring* with the Royal Swedish Opera in Stockholm.

TSO Director Artistic Planning Simon Rogers said, "The TSO is delighted to be nominated for a Helpmann Award. This concert with Nina Stemme and Stuart Skelton was a landmark achievement for the TSO and one of our key artistic highlights in recent years. Through his work at the best operatic houses in the world, we are fortunate that Marko is able to bring us world class operatic soloists to us in Tasmania."

The TSO performs 'Simple Gifts' this Sunday, June 25 at 2.30pm as part of its Matinee Series. Letonja returns to Tasmania to conduct 'Colours of the East' with the TSO August 4.

The 17th Annual Helpmann Awards ceremony will be held at the Capitol Theatre, Sydney Monday 24<sup>th</sup> of July.

[www.helpmannawards.com.au](http://www.helpmannawards.com.au)

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

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