

WESTERN DOWNS IN HARMONY FOR QUEENSLAND MUSIC FESTIVAL'S OPERA AT JIMBOUR

The opera returns to the **Western Downs** on **Saturday July 27** with **Opera at Jimbour** melding high art together with **fine wine, fresh food** and a regional Queensland **spirit of fun**.

An event produced by the **Queensland Music Festival** since 2003 and presented in partnership with **Opera Queensland** and **Western Downs Regional Council**, **Opera at Jimbour** is now a Queensland institution. Each year the festival brings thousands of people from across the state and beyond to celebrate **music, culture and local produce** at the historic **Jimbour House Estate** under the glorious Western Downs winter sun.

In celebration of **Queensland Music Festival's** 20th year, the 2019 event will deliver a spectacular new **Gala program** of opera favourites from some of Australia's biggest stars including internationally celebrated tenor **Simon Kim**, soprano **Sarah Crane**, mezzo soprano **Hayley Sugars**, baritone **Shaun Brown** and more. The line-up of talented artists will surely surprise and delight both aficionados as well as those new to the artform, or those just looking for a **great day out with a nice glass of bubbles**.

The event also welcomes renowned conductor **Vanessa Scammell** as well as Queensland opera favourite **Jason Barry-Smith** as the event's MC and director, teaming up with the **Toowoomba Chorus** led by Chorus-Master **Arthur Johnson** and the celebrated **Queensland Youth Orchestra**.

The gala promises to not only bring opera to Western Queensland, but to bring Western Queensland to the Opera. A country experience with a classical twist, **Opera at Jimbour** brings great **local produce, market stalls** and of course **fine wine** to create a **luxury festival experience** that is a must-see event for regional Queenslanders and city-dwellers alike.

"We are incredibly proud of our **Opera at Jimbour** program and are positive that both long-time patrons of the event and newcomers will be delighted with this year's event changes and line-up of **opera classics**," said **QMF Artistic Director Katie Noonan**. "Music is for everyone and our carefully curated gala will be a **world-class showcase of opera** in one of the most picturesque settings imaginable—the **warm winter sun** and **crisp country air** on a Queensland cattle station steeped in



history. We welcome everyone to come and experience **the joy of music** and the glorious **Western Downs** at this uniquely Queensland event.”

“**Opera at Jimbour** is one of our favourite events, there is nothing quite like the beauty of **Jimbour House** and the warmth and generosity of the audiences. We are thrilled to bring some of Queensland's and Australia's finest performers together to sing operatic favourites, from **Mozart to Verdi to Puccini**, and more, it is going to be a great celebration of fine music amongst friends,” said **Patrick Nolan**, Artistic Director of **Opera Queensland**.

The new format promises a **full day of entertainment** with gates opening at 10am for the public to view the pre-show rehearsal, **bring a picnic** or feast on local cuisine and sing along to **favourite opera classics** before the main event begins at 2.30pm. The event will also provide free parking, free entry to kids under 12 and a range of **camping and accommodation options** creating a country weekend away for families like no other.

Improved sound and visuals, upgraded amenities, more food options, better transport and facilities management are just some of the improvements put in place at this year's festival, designed to maintain a **high-end patron experience** while retaining an **affordable, family-friendly** and truly unique Western Downs experience.

Tickets go on sale **Monday 25th February** from 9am. For more details and to purchase your tickets, visit our website at www.operaatjimbour.com

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Opera at Jimbour is presented by Queensland Music Festival, Western Downs Regional Council, Opera Queensland and Russell Pastoral Company, and supported by AGL Energy, Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University, Tourism & Events Queensland & Empire Theatres.

Opera at Jimbour is supported by the Queensland Government through Tourism and Events Queensland and features on the It's Live! in Queensland events calendar, worth \$800m to the state's economy in 2019.

Queensland Music Festival is an initiative of the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland. Queensland Music Festival is a state-wide celebration of music with a vision to transform lives and communities through music.

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