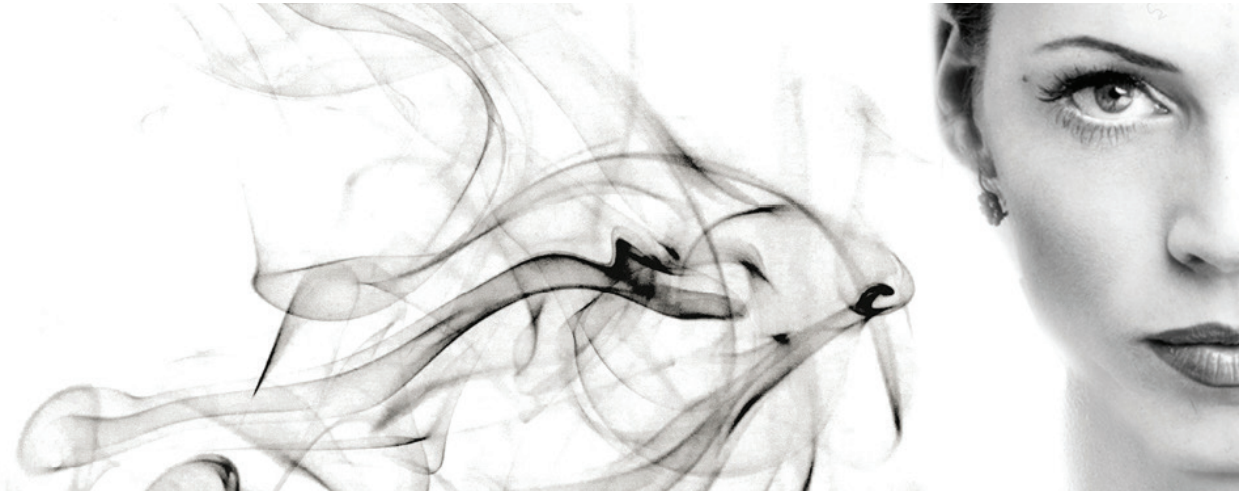


ARMIDA

Composer Joseph Haydn | Director Crystal Manich | Conductor Antony Walker

June 22, 24, 26, 28 | City Recital Hall, Sydney | Starring Rachelle Durkin, Leif Aruhn-Solén, Janet Todd, Christopher Richardson, Jacob Lawrence, Brenton Spiteri



Starring Rachelle Durkin in the title role of Armida and bringing conductor Antony Walker back to Australia after engagements at the Metropolitan Opera New York, Armida pits the contemporary against the mystical in the latest rarely performed gem to be breathed life by the formidable Pinchgut team this winter.

Armida is a pagan sorceress who falls tragically in love with the knight Rinaldo (played by Swedish tenor Leif Aruhn-Solén) Set against the backdrop of war and destruction, conflicting demands of love or duty becomes catalyst for vengeance. Haydn proclaimed it his most accomplished work.

Featuring an outstanding international cast of six vocalists and the Orchestra of the Antipodes on period instruments conductor Antony Walker states “the sound of a period orchestra, playing all on gut strings can go from elegant and nuanced to being really raw and dramatic in an instant. There are so many colours. There is nothing half hearted about their performance. “

Soprano Rachelle Durkin trained at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, and has since launched an international career, currently based in New York with regular engagements with The Metropolitan Opera. She returns to Australia to take up this title role. “ I have a real passion for early music and Baroque Opera. This particular opera has a lot of fast moving passages, coloratura, and I’m really looking forward to sinking my teeth into it. It will be very exciting. “

Rising US director Crystal Manich directs with set design by Sydney based Alicia Clements and costume by Christie Milton. The production plays for four performances only at City Recital Hall and will be recorded on the Pinchgut Opera recording label Pinchgut LIVE.

Hear Antony Walker, Rachelle Durkin and Crystal Manich introduce Armida - [Watch http://bit.ly/PinchgutArmida](http://bit.ly/PinchgutArmida)

More Information about the production:
www.pinchgutopera.com.au



ARMIDA

PINCHGUT OPERA

Creatives

Conductor **Antony Walker**

Director **Crystal Manich**

Set Designer **Alicia Clements**

Costume Designer **Christie Milton**

Lighting Designer **Matthew Marshall**

Orchestra of the Antipodes

Cast

Armida **Rachelle Durkin**

Rinaldo **Leif Aruhn-Solén**

Zelmira **Janet Todd**

Ubaldo **Jacob Lawrence**

Clotarco **Brenton Spiteri**

Idreno **Christopher Richardson**

Performance Information

22, 24, 28 June at 7pm

26 June at 5pm

City Recital Hall, Sydney

Running time 2 hours and 30 minutes including one interval.

Sung in Italian with English surtitles.

Bookings

Adult tickets from \$90

Group prices available

(booking fee: Internet \$6, Phone \$8)

Phone: 02 8256 2222

www.cityrecitalhall.com

www.pinchgutopera.com.au

Media enquiries

Sarah Gilchrist | sarah@pinchgutopera.com.au | 0400 226 566

Jessica Bird | jessica@pinchgutopera.com.au