

**PRESS RELEASE**  
11 August 2016

## **LOVE, LONGING & DANGEROUS LIAISONS PINCHGUT OPERA ANNOUNCES 2017 SEASON**

Pinchgut Opera will showcase two of the most influential opera composers of all time in its 2017 season – the company's first in its 15-year history with a sole artistic director at the helm.

Erin Helyard will lead Pinchgut into a new era with a program that includes revolutionary Italian composer Claudio Monteverdi, and one of the most important French composers of the Baroque era, Jean-Philippe Rameau.

The winter season will feature two *actes de ballets* by Rameau, *Anacréon* and *Pigmalion*, together with a contrasting Italian intermezzo by Vinci. Tickets go on sale to the general public on Monday 15 August.

Erin Helyard said; "*Anacréon* and *Pigmalion* have long been recognised as some of Rameau's best work, containing some of his most memorable and tuneful ariettes. We revive the intermezzo tradition in the best traditions of the genre of the *acte de ballets* themselves: which were sparkling, diverting, lyrical genres centred on a short story that revolve around the theme of love and pleasure."

Love, longing and dangerous liaisons abound in Pinchgut's summer season with Monteverdi's epic *Coronation of Poppea*. Celebrating 450 years since the birth of Monteverdi, Pinchgut will perform the opera in the format used at the original performance, with various characters doubling roles.

Erin Helyard said; "A towering masterpiece of superbly crafted characterisation, biting satire, and heartbreaking beauty, I'm looking forward to revisiting the colours, poetry, and melodies of the seventeenth century—a sound world we haven't revisited since the enormous critical success of *Giasone* in 2013."

Mark Gaal directs *Coronation of Poppea*, his third collaboration to date with Erin Helyard, with Crystal Manich returning to direct *Anacréon* and *Pigmalion*. The Orchestra of the Antipodes will feature on period instruments, conducted by Erin Heylard.

Pinchgut Opera focuses on new creations of rediscovered masterpieces, bringing the music of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries to life with intelligence and passion. Pinchgut performances are presented in the intimate surroundings and superb acoustics of Sydney's City Recital Hall.

### **2017 Season Works**

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#### **ANACRÉON & PIGMALION by Rameau**

**Dates:** Thurs 15 Jun 7pm | Sat 17 Jun 2pm | Sun 18 Jun 5pm | Tues 20 Jun 7pm

**Venue:** City Recital Hall, Sydney

**Program:** Rameau - Anacréon \* | Vinci - Erighetta e Don Chilone \* | Rameau - Pigmalion

\* Australian premiere

**Booking Details:** Visit [www.pinchgutopera.com.au](http://www.pinchgutopera.com.au) or phone City Recital Hall on (02) 8256 2222

The delights of love and booze are celebrated with an impeccably crafted triple bill showcasing some of Rameau's most deliciously perfect and joyous music, contrasted with an Italian intermezzo in the style of the period. L'Amour (Cupid) intervenes in an argument over the relative merits of wine in *Anacréon* and returns in *Pigmalion* to celebrate the power of love with the title character, a sculptor besotted with a statue he creates. Taryn Fiebig leads an outstanding cast of party-goers.

**Taryn Fiebig:** The Priestess of Bacchus (*Anacréon*), The Statue (*Pigmalion*) and Erighetta (*Erighetta e Don Chilone*), **Richard Anderson:** Anacréon (*Anacréon*) and Don Chilone (*Erighetta e Don Chilone*), **Lauren Zolezzi:** L'Amour (*Anacréon*) and L'Amour (*Pigmalion*), **Samuel Boden:** Pigmalion (*Pigmalion*), Agathocle (*Anacréon*), **Morgan Balfour:** Cephisé (*Pigmalion*)

**Conductor:** Erin Helyard, **Director:** Crystal Manich, **Set Designer:** Alicia Clements, **Lighting Designer:** Matthew Marshall

Sung in French and Italian, with English surtitles. Running time approx 2 hours and 20 minutes including an interval.

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### **CORONATION OF POPPEA by Monteverdi**

**Dates:** Thurs 30 Nov 7pm | Sat 2 Dec 2pm | Sun 3 Dec 5pm | Tues 5 Dec 7pm | Wed 6 Dec 7pm

**Venue:** City Recital Hall

**Booking Details:** Visit [www.pinchgutopera.com.au](http://www.pinchgutopera.com.au) or phone City Recital Hall on (02) 8256 2222

Set in the decadent court of Ancient Rome, the *Coronation of Poppea* traces the fallout from the scandalous liaison between courtesan Poppea Sabina and Nero, Emperor, madman and murderer. *Coronation of Poppea* is the first opera to have been based on historical figures, and is set to sensuous, exquisitely beautiful music, culminating in the famous duet "Pur ti miro".

The cast is headed by mezzo soprano Helen Sherman, who thrilled audiences in the Pinchgut Opera production of *Bajazet*, and the Korean-American countertenor Kangmin Justin Kim, a rising international star.

**Helen Sherman:** Poppea, **Kangmin Justin Kim:** Nero, **Natalie Christie Peluso:** Ottavia, Drusilla, **Roberta Diamond:** Amore, **Kanen Breen:** Arnalta, Nutrice, Familiari I, **Adam Player:** Soldato I, Familiari II, Lucano, **Jacob Lawrence:** Soldato II, Liberto, Console, **David Greco:** Seneca, Littore, **Jeremy Kleeman:** Mercury: Familiari III, Tribuno

**Conductor and Harpsichord:** Erin Helyard, **Director:** Mark Gaal, **Designer:** Charles Davis **Lighting Designer:** Ross Graham

Sung in Italian, with English surtitles. Running time approx 3 hours including an interval

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