

# GERMAN-AUSTRALIAN OPERA GRANT



In co-operation with



Sponsors



## Dr David Kram AM

More Than Opera

## & Hans Henkell

German-Australian Opera Grant

invite you to the

## OPERA FINALE

in the presence of

## Franziska Kaiser

Casting Director at the  
Hessisches Staatstheater Wiesbaden

## Phillipa Safey

Official Accompanist

15 November 2025

The Edge, Federation Square

## PROGRAMME:

- 2.00pm Welcome by Dr David Kram,  
Artistic Director
- 2.15pm The Finalists present 2 arias each
- 3.15pm Interval
- 4.00pm Special Guest Performance  
followed by the announcement  
of the recipient of the 2026  
German-Australian Opera Grant

*The MTO German-Australian Opera Grant  
aims to promote emerging Australian opera  
singers in the development stage of their  
professional career.*

## The Grant is offered by:

- More Than Opera Ltd (MTO) represented by  
Anthony Battaini and Dr David Kram AM
- Hessisches Staatstheater Wiesbaden represented  
by Artistic Director Dorothea Hartmann and  
Casting Director Franziska Kaiser
- Henkell Brothers Investment Managers  
represented by Hans Henkell (GAOG Director)

The GAOG Adjudication panel consists of Linda Thompson (ACOC0),  
Ian Lowe (Lieder Society of Victoria), Caroline Stacey OAM (The Street  
Theatre), Franziska Kaiser, Dr David Kram and Hans Henkell.

## BECOME A SPONSOR OR BENEFACTOR

You can help ensure that this wonderful opportunity  
continues to be possible in the future.

## SPONSORS:

You have a unique exposure opportunity in German and Australian  
commercial circles on all our stationery, advertising material  
and website. Please contact us to discuss possibilities.

– Corporate Sponsors: \$5000+

## BENEFACTORS:

All donations of \$2 or more are tax-deductible.  
Donations made under this category are payable to:

More Than Opera – Gift Fund

- Silver Benefactor: \$500 – \$999
- Gold Benefactor: \$1000 – \$4999
- Platinum Benefactor: \$5000+

T. (03) 9417 4144 info@mto-gaog.com



## OPERA FINALE

THE GATEWAY TO AN INTERNATIONAL CAREER

**15 November 2025**  
**2pm at The Edge,**  
**Federation Square**

[www.mto-gaog.com](http://www.mto-gaog.com)

**The Semi-Final Auditions**  
14 November 2025 at the Lithuanian  
Club Theatre in North Melbourne  
will determine the four Finalists

***Free Entry Bookings Essential***  
***RSVP 1 Nov 2025***



# GERMAN-AUSTRALIAN OPERA GRANT 2026

*James Young (right) on stage in Fantasio, Opera by Jacques Offenbach at the Hessisches Staatstheater Wiesbaden.*



*Photo by Thomas Aurin*

## PREVIOUS GRANT RECIPIENTS

2003 Sharon Kempton, VIC  
2004 Emma Foster, SA  
2005 Emma Pearson, WA  
2006 Angus Wood, VIC  
2007 Brett Carter, QLD  
2008 Anita Kyle, NSW  
2009 Christopher Busietta, VIC  
2010 Stephanie Gooch, WA  
2011 Hayley Sugars, QLD  
2012 Sarah Jones, TAS  
2013 Christopher Rickerby, VIC  
2014 Victoria Lambourn, VIC  
2015 Celeste Haworth, NSW  
2016 Alexander Knight, NSW  
2017 Joel Scott, NSW  
2018 Daniel Carison, VIC  
2019 Fleuranne Brockway, WA  
2020/21 Michelle Ryan, NSW  
2022/23 Darcy Carroll, VIC  
2024 James Young, VIC  
2025 Nathan Byron, NSW

## SEMI-FINALS 14 November 2025

The auditioning of the candidates starts with an acting and movement workshop which is an essential part of the audition process, requiring participation of all applicants.

This is followed by the individual audition of each singer in brackets of 25 minutes whereby voice, performance, response to conducting, as well as ensemble performance is tested and the suitability of each candidate is evaluated in a personal interview.

### ADDITIONAL GRANTS

MTO Development Grant \$4000

Audience Award \$3000

Encouragement Grant \$2000

*Image: The 2025 Finalists on 16 November 2024 at the Opera Finale in The Edge, Federation Square.*



## OPERA FINALE 15 November 2025

The recipient of the 2026 German-Australian Opera Grant will become part of the professional ensemble at the Hessisches Staatstheater Wiesbaden.

### The Grant consists of:

- A one-year employment contract at the Hessisches Staatstheater Wiesbaden
- \$5000 cash prize
- Return airfare to Germany
- An Intensive German Language course at the Goethe-Institut in Germany
- One month of work experience at the Opera House from early June 2026 to gain an insight into the procedures prior to the official start

## BOOK ONLINE

BOOKINGS CLOSE 1 NOVEMBER 2025

[www.trybooking.com/DFVVY](http://www.trybooking.com/DFVVY)

For enquiries phone (03) 9417 4144 or email us at [info@mto-gaog.com](mailto:info@mto-gaog.com)

## SEMI-FINALISTS 2026 German-Australian Opera Grant



**Breanna Stuart**  
Soprano  
VIC



**Kristina Fekonja**  
Soprano  
VIC



**Molly Ryan**  
Soprano  
NSW



**Sophie Blades**  
Soprano  
NSW



**Sophie Mohler**  
Soprano  
VIC



**Syrah Torii**  
Mezzo-Soprano  
VIC



**Callum McGin**  
Tenor  
SA



**Daniel Felton**  
Baritone  
VIC



**Henry Wright**  
Baritone  
NSW



**Nathan Breeze**  
Baritone  
VIC



**Jake Bigwood**  
Bass-Baritone  
WA



**Ziggy Harris**  
Baritone  
NSW