

# The Casting Room

A behind-the-scenes look at casting approaches at Wiesbaden Opera, Germany.

*MTO German-Australian Opera Grant presents a forum with particular interest to opera singers, educators and industry professionals. In person and on zoom.*

**When** Wednesday November 12, 2025, 6.30 pm,  
**Where** Level 5, 45 William Street Melbourne CBD and on zoom.  
**Price** No charge for entry. *Tax-deductible donations are welcome.*  
**Book** [trybooking.com/DGRYS](https://trybooking.com/DGRYS)

**Enquiries**  
Dr David Kram AM  
[davidkram@bigpond.com](mailto:davidkram@bigpond.com)  
0412 114 725

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[WWW.MTO-GAOG.COM](https://www.mto-gaog.com)

With Casting Director Franziska M. Kaiser (Hessisches Staatstheater Wiesbaden) in conversation with Artistic Director and CEO Caroline Stacey <sup>OAM</sup> (The Street Theatre, Canberra). The evening is presented by More Than Opera German-Australian Opera Grant and moderated by Dr David Kram <sup>AM</sup>.

## Topics Include

How does casting works from inside a German opera house?

How do you connect with a German opera house for the first time?

Are self-tape auditions and a digital online presence a thing?

How do you figure out that you don't fit into one house mix but do another?

What are the casting dealbreakers?

The German Australian Opera Grant has a long history of being a significant and highly impactful Australian pathway to a performance career in Germany. However if one is not a recipient getting a toe in the door of a major German Opera House can be extremely challenging – especially if you live, train, and work half a globe away in Australia. So here we're going to strip away the myths and mystery and put casting on the slab for forensic investigation and career strategising.

Join us for this special "insider's perspective" to casting approaches at Wiesbaden and beyond, with Casting Director Franziska M. Kaiser in frank and forthright discussion with opera-stage director Caroline Stacey <sup>OAM</sup>, followed by a Q&A session.

Drawing on her decades of experience Franziska will share her insights of the post-covid German Opera sector in 2025–2026. Expect the wide-ranging conversation to flow from programming strategies and casting needs to finding where you fit - soloist, guest artist or ensemble to shaping the first approach. Diversity at work, cultivating connections and champions, and navigating working in a German Opera House company setting will also be in the mix with opportunity for an extended Q&A.

Get an inside view of the casting context and process, the conversations you want to have, need to have and find hard to have, or have an insatiable curiosity about.

RSVP

RSVP now to secure your place.  
A zoom link will be sent to guests  
who cannot attend in person.

**No charge for entry**

WED 12 NOV 6.30PM  
Level 5, 45 William St  
Melbourne CBD

### Enquiries

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## FRANZISKA M. KAISER

Following key operations positions in Zürich and Copenhagen, Swiss-born Franziska M. Kaiser has been the Casting Director and Artistic Production Director of Music Theater at the Hessisches Staatstheater Wiesbaden since Dorothea Hartmann & Beate Heine assumed their Co-Intendant (General Director) positions there two years ago.

Franziska is a regular jury member of many international singing competitions. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Vocal Studies and Vocal Pedagogy from the Bern University of the Art and a Master's degree in Cultural Management from the University of Basel.



## CAROLINE STACEY OAM

Caroline Stacey OAM is the Artistic Director/CEO of The Street Theatre, Canberra's award-winning theatre company and arts powerhouse. A multi-award winning director including Canberra Artist of the Year (2012), UN Women Canberra Centenary 100 Award, an ACT International Women's Day Award she was the recipient of an OAM in 2022.

Caroline has an extensive career as a festival director and stage director of theatre and opera working for leading Australian companies and also in New Zealand, where she did her Masters degree.

Caroline is a founder director of More Than Opera and serves on the adjudication panel of the MTO German-Australian Opera Grant.



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