



Industry &
Investment



MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday September 29

Opera stars perform in Canowindra

Australian opera stars bring Mozart, Puccini, Sondheim and Rogers and Hammerstein to Canowindra for a unique concert during Wine Week this October.

Opera Australia regulars Dimity Shepherd and Byron Watson, Orange-based soprano Helen Barnett and Opera Australia conductor Simon Kenway will perform Saturday October 17 at food, wine and art venue, taste Canowindra.

The new music event, called Opera Out There, is part of Orange Wine Week and is the first of what is hoped will be a major annual event on the region's calendar. Each year a set of high profile opera stars will perform in a different iconic central west venue.

Whilst the stars of the show are most used to performing in major opera houses in front of thousands, co-organiser and performer Helen Barnett didn't have to do too much arm twisting to get her colleagues to head west for a night.

"Opera friends have been visiting for years, commenting how great it would be to perform out here," she said, "we're all excited about performing our favourite pieces in such an intimate setting. As a professional singer you don't often get such an open choice of programme. The audience is in for a real treat."

Dimity Shepherd recently received a Green Room Award nomination for her role in the world premiere of The Children's Bach. Australian/British baritone Watson this year performed in Opera Australia's A Little Night Music and with Richard E Grant in My Fair Lady. Byron Watson and pianist/ conductor Simon Kenway last worked together on a concert in Sydney in February for ABC Classic FM.

The central west's own opera star Helen Barnett is a graduate of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and recently released a solo album of opera classics.

The night includes a glass of wine matched with each course: nibbles to start, a light main course between brackets and dessert at the end of the performance.

Opera Out There has the support of the state government's Department of Industry and Innovation, Taste Orange, Arts OutWest and Cabonne Council.

Opera Out There is on Saturday October 17, 6pm at taste Canowindra.

Tickets from: www.tastecanowindra.com.au or 02 6344 2332.

Media enquires: Maryanne Jaques, Communications Officer Arts OutWest 02 6338 4657 / artsoutwest@csu.edu.au / 0408 867 354