September 20, 2026

Return of the Queens – Kings Arise next weekend!





Our legendary queens from Ancient, Medieval and Tudor times are back, bringing with them Macbeth, Rusalka's Prince, Queen Shemakha, King Arthur and Peter the Great!

3pm Sunday September 27

ST LUKE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
4 HEYDON ST MOSMAN

Emmeline Booth, Nadia Cassidy, Sarah Cherlin, Sam Elmi, Matt Gaskin, Damien Hall, Emma Häll, Maria Hemphill, Louise Keast, Mandy Kelly, Dana Kingsford, Michael Lampard, Hongxin Jiang, Lisa Munckton, Kerry Nicholson, Sandra Oldis, Laura Scandizzo, Dale Schilling, Jill Sullivan, Emily Turner and Maestro Simon Kenway.

www.ticketebo.com.au/queens

A Glimpse Behind the Crown

Why *Return of the Queens — Kings Arise?*



Power, intrigue, romance, murder, myth — and the occasional spectacularly unhappy marriage. Royalty and opera were made for each other.

Return of the Queens — Kings Arise gathers rulers from history, legend and imagination — and discovers what happens when we glimpse the people behind the crowns.

The Tudors are represented by **Catherine of Aragon** (Louise Keast) and **Anne Boleyn** (Kerry Nicholson), while **Cleopatra** and **Marc Antonio** (Maria Hemphill and Emmeline Booth) discover that love and politics are rarely comfortable bedfellows. Emma Häll brings us the legendary **Helen of Troy**, Emily Turner the dazzling **Queen of Shemakha,** and Hongxin Jiang enters Dvořák's enchanted world as **Rusalka's Prince**.

The kings arise too: Damien Hall enters the legendary world of **King Arthur,** while Matt Gaskin appears as **Grimoaldo**, the usurper with his eye firmly on the throne. Michael Lampard has his hands full as **Peter the Great, Macbeth** and **Wotan** — three rather different approaches to power. **Macbeth** will kill for a crown; Chabrier's **Henri de Valois**, in *Le roi malgré lui*, would cheerfully escape his.

And Wagner's **Fricka** and **Wotan** (Jill Sullivan and Michael Lampard)? Gods, certainly — but also strong contenders for opera's most dysfunctional marriage.

Finally, we return to the deadly business of royal succession with **Mary Stuart**, sung by Louise Keast. Stripped of power and facing death, Donizetti's Queen turns instead to prayer in the magnificent *Preghiera* from *Maria Stuarda* — bringing our royal gathering to a moving close.

Crowns, conspiracies, usurpers, lovers, gods — and some very complicated families. Just another afternoon at the opera.

Click here to see the Programme for Queens



Kerry Nicholson ~ Soprano

From Lady Macbeth to Anne Boleyn

One concert, two formidable women — and two very different sides of soprano **- Kerry Nicholson**.

First, Kerry steps into the role of **Lady Macbeth** for Verdi's exhilarating *Brindisi* — a queen who certainly knows how to get a party going, even when there is murder in the air. It's Lady Macbeth at her most dazzling and dangerous, presiding over the festivities while darker events gather around her.

Later, Kerry becomes **Anne Boleyn** in Donizetti's *Anna Bolena*, singing the beautiful bel canto aria "Come, innocente giovane", joined by Emmeline Booth as **Giovanna Seymour** and chorus. Here we encounter a very different queen: vulnerable, haunted and movingly human as the splendour of the Tudor court gives way to tragedy.

Kerry has been part of the TOSC family since 2024, when she sang the title role in our production of ***Rusalka***, and has appeared in numerous TOSC concerts since.

A winner of the Australian National Operatic Aria and former Pacific Opera Young Artist, her roles range from Violetta, Lucia and Pamina to Santuzza, Donna Anna and Gerhilde.

And there is plenty more Kerry to come: she appears as guest soloist with the Sutherland Symphony Orchestra on 25 October, sings at St Patrick's Sutherland in November, and returns to TOSC for ***Shadow to Champagne*** on 20 December.



MEET THE QUEEN: FRICKA

Goddess of Marriage. Her own? Complicated.

Fricka is often dismissed as **Wotan's** nagging wife in Wagner's *Die Walküre*. But look a little closer and she has one of the strongest cases in opera.

As goddess of marriage and oaths, **Fricka** is confronted with a husband who has fathered children elsewhere, manipulated their destinies and is now attempting to bend the very laws on which his own authority rests. She sees straight through **Wotan's** elaborate argument that Siegmund is a "free hero" — and, devastatingly, proves that he is anything but.

TOSC Artistic Director **Jill Sullivan** brings **Fricka** to ***Return of the Queens*** fresh from Berlin, where she recently sang the role in concert during the **2026 Dramatic Voices Program.**



Jill Sullivan as Fricka and Haakon Schaub as Wotan
Dramatic Voices Program - Berlin 2026

Fricka may be the goddess of marriage, but hers is surely one of operas, most gloriously dysfunctional.

Book Now - www.ticketebo.com.au/queens

Coming Next -



STORMLIGHT

Contemporary Voices: Light & Shadow

Sunday 25 October | 3pm

A celebration of contemporary musical voices, bringing composers and performers together in a programme of discovery, collaboration and new perspectives. Music by Kaija Saariho, Thomas Pasatieri, Ross Edwards, David Tunley and composers Christine Draeger, Tristan Entwistle, Douglas Hemphill and Michael Lampard connected directly with the TOSC artists performing their work.

Bookings open
www.ticketebo.com.au/stormlight

SAVE THE DATE -

OUR DECEMBER FINALE



SHADOW TO CHAMPAGNE

Strauss & Strauss

Sunday 20 December 3pm

St Luke's Angelican Church, Mosman

From the sumptuous, searching world of Richard Strauss to the irresistible sparkle of Johann Strauss, TOSC ends 2026 in style.

Opera and Lieder from Ariadne auf Naxos, Arabella, Capriccio and Die Frau ohne Schatten give way to the wit, waltzes and effervescence of Die Fledermaus and Eine Nacht in Venedig.

Bookings Open - www.ticketebo.com.au/strauss

TOSC ARTIST NEWS

From the Rehearsal Room -



Ensemble and solo rehearsals are in full swing under the direction of our Music Director for ***Return of the Queens - Kings Arise*** - Maestro Simon Kenway.









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One of my major tasks as the TOSC EP is now baked to perfection. After two days of intensive cookie crafting, the shortbread supply is fully restocked. Now, there's enough buttery goodness for the entire Stormlight Series of Concerts, ensuring all can indulge their sweet tooth post-show!



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