



QMF 2009 JUL17–AUG 2
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MEDIA RELEASE
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FIDELIO
by Ludwig van Beethoven

This powerful new production of Beethoven's only opera makes its Australian première at the Conservatorium Theatre as part of the 2009 Queensland Music Festival in July. South African director and designer **Marthinus Basson**, who will be making his Australian debut, has given this dramatic piece a contemporary new edge.

In the most secret dungeon of a state prison, Florestan, a young nobleman unjustly imprisoned for his stand against tyranny, is slowly nearing death. His political enemy, the ruthless Don Pizarro wants him dead before the imminent visit of the Minister, Don Fernando. Florestan's wife Leonore is determined to find and save him. Disguised as a young man, Fidelio, she must manipulate the corrupt jailer Rocco and at the same time manoeuvre her way around the unwelcome affections of his daughter Marzelline in order to gain access to her husband. Her unrelenting courage and heroism drive a harrowing rescue to free the man she loves.

Beethoven's *Fidelio* is a tribute to freedom and the human spirit in the face of the power of the state. The heroic themes of this triumphant work deliver some of opera's greatest arias and choruses of lament and liberation.

Anke Höppner (last seen in Brisbane as Procne in *The Love of the Nightingale*) sings the role of the loyal wife Leonore with **Rafael Soler** performing the role of the victimised Florestan.

The Queensland Music Festival is a state-wide biennial celebration of musical excellence that makes the joy of music accessible to all. Whether your primary interest is in serious contemporary music, world music, regional cultural development or just taking in fantastic entertainment, QMF offers 44 events in over 20 regions throughout the State to connect with.

Creative Team:

Conductor Graham Abbott
Director and Designer Marthinus Basson
Lighting Designer Donn Byrnes

Cast:

Leonore Anke Höppner
Florestan Rafael Soler
Don Pizarro Barry Ryan
Rocco Richard Anderson
Marzelline Sarah Crane
Jaquino Bradley Daley
Don Fernando Peter Axford

With **The Queensland Orchestra** and the **Opera Queensland Chorus**.

Sung in German with English surtitles.

Please note that there is no vocal amplification used in this production.

Performance details: 11, 14, 16, 18, 21, 23, 25, 28, 30 July and 1 August, 2009

Bookings: qtix 136 246 or online www.qtix.com.au

Single tickets from \$46* (*prices include booking fees)

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This is a new Opera Queensland production presented by Queensland Music Festival, Opera Queensland and Brisbane City Council.

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