

**MEDIA RELEASE 18 October 2017**

**Historic Event for Co-Opera as newly appointed MD makes his debut.**

In 2018 **Co-Opera**’s newly appointed Musical Director, distinguished South Australian conductor and organist **Josh van Konkelenberg**, will make his conducting debut for the company with Rossini’s, **The Barber of Seville**. It is an historic event for the company and one which **Co-Opera** hopes will also make this a very special tour for audiences. Josh is thrilled to be hitting the road as MD as he understands how significant live opera can be, and says:

“*Opera is about telling stories and the best of these are charged with deeply human, political, and social energy. Our repertoire tells stories that belong to everyone and need to be constantly retold in such a way that they touch people’s lives with a real force and immediacy.*

*At the same time, there is the sheer joy and sensuous pleasure of music, so I’m really excited to open my time with Co-Opera conducting Rossini’s hilarious and exhilarating The Barber of Seville. One of the great privileges of my life has been to see first-hand how a single performance can transform lives in an art-starved community, so I’m keen to get out there share the power and possibilities of music-making.”*

**Co-Opera’s** hilarious new production of *Rossini’s* ***The Barber of Seville*** will tour to South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales in March, April and May 2018, and plans are also afoot for a tour to Western Australia later in 2018. The new touring production captures the troubadour tradition of the travelling Italian **Commedia** **dell’ Arte.**  For 27 years **Co-Opera** performers have been Australia’s operatic troubadours and this wacky new production, brimming with laughter and sumptuous costumes, is here to transport the magic of that tradition to audiences across Australia.

***The Barber of Seville*** is the best known and most popular work in comic opera and **Co-Opera**’snewproduction, set in the Australian goldfields of the 1880’s, will show why. Marking the debut of the company’s new MD and featuring the most famous tune in opera, it is a must-see for anyone who loves a good laugh, good music and a good night out.

**Media Enquiries:** Brian Chatterton or Sara Lambert

**Mob** 0409 695 952 or 0424 115 542

**Email**: [Co.Opera@bigpond.com](mailto:Co.Opera@bigpond.com) or [sara.lambert@co-opera.com.au](mailto:sara.lambert@co-opera.com.au)