

# **It's Still Her Voice**

adapted by the company from Jean Cocteau's 1928 play and  
Francis Poulenc's 1958 opera *La Voix Humaine*

**Karina Bailey – Soprano**

**Pollyanna Nowicki – Actor**

**Antonio Fernandez – Music Director**

**Kate Gaul – Producer & Director**

**Amandine Elise – French Language Coach**

**Sarah Cherlin – Surtitled Operator**

**Catherine Mai – Lighting Board Operator**

**Production photography – Alex Vaughan**

**Videographer – Syl Marie**

With special thanks: The Song Company, Sydney Theatre School, Lisa Doust,  
Jane Phegan, Thomas Campbell, the incredible support of Brand X!

---

*Siren Theatre Co acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as Australia's First Peoples and traditional owners of the land on which we create and share stories, and pay respect to elders past and present*

---



#### Karina Bailey

Australian soprano Karina Bailey is currently based in Sydney where she has been working as a chorus member for Opera Australia since the start of 2021. With the company she performed in *La Traviata* in the open-air event; *Handa Opera* on Sydney Harbour and is currently in the chorus of *La Bohème*, *Turandot* and *Otello* in the 2022 summer season.

Karina completed her Master of Music (Opera School) at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland under the tutelage of Kathleen McKellar Ferguson in June 2020. Karina made her professional debut in 2016 as Papagena (*The Magic Flute*) with the State Opera of South Australia and was a member of their Young Artist Program until 2018. With the company she also played the roles of Elaine (*Cloudstreet*) and Ida (*Die Fledermaus*). Also for SOSA she covered the roles of Bubba (*Summer of the Seventeenth Doll*), Adele (*Die Fledermaus*) and Norina (*Don Pasquale*). She made her UK professional debut as Sylviane/Lolo in *The Merry Widow* with Opera Bohemia in 2019.

Role highlights at the Royal Conservatoire included Lucia (*The Rape of Lucretia*), Barbarina (*Le nozze di Figaro*), and Jazz Trio (*Trouble in Tahiti*). She was engaged to perform the role of Sœur Constance (*Dialogues des Carmélites*) at the Conservatoire (performances cancelled due to COVID-19). Other past role highlights include Adina (*L'elisir d'amore*), Servilia (*La clemenza di Tito*), Gretel (*Hansel and Gretel*), Pamina (*The Magic Flute*), Peep-Bo (*The Mikado*) and Anne (*A Little Night Music*). Chorus highlights include Opera Australia's *La Traviata* (2021), and the Glyndebourne productions of *Saul* (2017) and *Hamlet* (2018) in the Adelaide Festival.

Competition highlights include winning the MTO Developing Artist Grant (Runner up in the German-Australian Opera Grant) in 2020, appearing as a finalist in the Ye Cronies Opera Award in Glasgow (2019 and 2020), Royal Melbourne Philharmonic Aria Competition Finals 2020 (third place) and 2018 (Conductor's Award), the Dawn Wallace Memorial Prize 2017 (winner), 5MBS Young Virtuoso Competition Vocal Section 2016 (winner) and the Arnold Matters Scholarship Competition, 2016 (winner).



#### Pollyanna Nowicki

Pollyanna Nowicki is an Australian-made Polish bilingual, who was brought up in Cabramatta on a diet of Russian cartoons, Chinese Ballet, and Queen. She grew into a cheerful queer storyteller, with a passion for history, research, and an eye for photography.

Pollyanna graduated from the NIDA BFA acting course in 2019 and has received the NSDF Sunday Times Emerging Artist Award For Acting at the 2009 Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Credits include; Feature Film *Witkacy i Malinowski* as supporting lead Jadwiga Janczewska dir. John Gillies for the Sydney Film Festival, *Starstruck The Musical* as Pearl dir. Kim Hardwick, *Taming Of The Shrew* as Katrina dir. Damien Ryan, *Closer* as Anna dir. Mark Gaal, *Tragedy Of Antigone* as Tiresias dir. Shy Magaslin, *Hamlet* as Hamlet dir. Dominica Nicholls, *On Hold The Short Film Musical* dir. Matthew Predney & Jake Neilson which won Flickerfest, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as Puck dir. David McSwan, Short Film *Catathrenia* dir. Adrian Powers, *Twelfth Night* as Viola dir. Sarah Goodes.



#### Antonio Fernandez

Antonio is a Spanish-born Australian pianist and music director specialised in collaborative practice. Based in Sydney, Antonio studied at the Royal Conservatory of Music of Madrid and holds a Postgraduate degree in Arts Administration. Antonio's experience as a collaborative musician is eclectic, never allowing genre to set boundaries. His practice as a creative collaborator and professional musician has seen Antonio work in opera, music theatre, contemporary music, arts music, theatre, cabaret and for choirs and orchestras.

Antonio's credits include work with Opera Australia as pianist répétiteur and assistant music director for the school tour productions of *The Magic Flute*, *By The Light of The Moon*, *El Kid*, *The Barber of Seville*, as well as the main stage productions of *La Bohème*, *Wocceck* and *La Traviata* - and a bunch of other unfortunately cancelled productions he'd rather forget about. As music director and collaborative musician, Antonio has worked extensively with independent theatre companies such as Little Triangle (*Nine*, *Anyone Can Whistle*), The Hayes Theatre (*In The Heights*, *Triplight*, *Merrily We Roll Along*), Darlinghurst Theatre Company (*Amelie*) and for the 2021 Sydney Festival run of *H.M.S Pinafore* (Siren Theatre Co.). In the commercial theatre field, Antonio was also part of music team for the latest production of *Billy Elliot* (LWA), and has recently been appointed assistant music director for the upcoming Australian national tour of *Mary Poppins* (Cameron Mackintosh/Michael Cassel Group). In 2019, Antonio received the Richard Bonyngne Accompanist Award at the Sydney International Song Prize. Awarded by the maestro himself, he admitted "normally these competitions are very boring, but your performance today... well, that was not boring at all." High praise indeed! [www.antoniofernandezpianist.com](http://www.antoniofernandezpianist.com)



#### Kate Gaul

Kate Gaul is a graduate of NIDA (Directing 1996) and Artistic Director of Siren Theatre Co. Kate undertook a residency with SITI Company (NYC) and was Associate Director at Ensemble Theatre. Kate has established herself as a distinctive and inventive director, with directing credits including plays, opera, physical theatre, devised works, and classics for theatre companies and schools in Australia. Her passion is for text-based drama challenges artists and audiences to have bold imaginative experiences.

Kate has also directed festivals (World Interplay, Playlist, Invisible Circus, Cabaret, and Short Play Festivals), and Sydney Mardi Gras Parade.

Recent credits include the fabulous *H.M.S Pinafore* (Sydney Festival), *A Midsummer Nights Dream* (Sydney Con/NIDA). In 2022 Kate directed Noelle Janaszewska's *The End of Winter* at the SBW Stables Theatre and the production will tour in 2023. Kate adapted the novel *Girl Running*, *Boy Falling* (by Kate Gordon) and its receives its premiere production at the end of March by Mudlark Theatre, Launceston. She is the revival director on Opera Australia's *Attila* later this year. [www.kategaul.com](http://www.kategaul.com)



#### Sarah Cherlin

Described as "dramatic, quietly technical, and at the same time so mischievous and witty" (The Underground Stage), Sydney-based soprano Sarah Cherlin is quickly making her mark on the Australian operatic stage. Upcoming performances include the role of Flora (and covering Miles) in Britten's *The Turn of the Screw* with Sydney's newest opera start-up, The Cooperative. Cherlin's debut with the Concordia Ensemble this year saw her sing Pierre (*The Wandering Scholar*), to be followed by Hans (*Werther*) and First Witch (*Dido and Aeneas*) later this year.

In addition to her operatic career, Cherlin has already established a passionate audience as a singer/songwriter, recently releasing folk/pop EP, "Small Machines", and winning 1st place in the Sydney Eisteddfod Singer/Songwriter section for 2021. Testament to her cross-genre talent, Cherlin also received 2nd place in the Sydney Eisteddfod Operetta section and Ryde Eisteddfod Operatic Aria, as well as 1st in the Ryde Traditional Folk section. Cherlin has completed language studies at home and abroad, having a 3ème degré from the DEFLE Université Bordeaux 3 - Michel de Montaigne, France, and a Bachelor with French major from Macquarie University. She has studied advanced Italian at the Università di Bologna, Italy, where she returned in 2015 to sing with Opera in Celle, in Forte Sangallo, Nettuno.

Since completing advanced vocal studies at Macquarie University, Cherlin has received high-level instruction from some of Australia's most expert vocal instructors including: Rachael Cunningham (Opera Australia) and Christine Douglas (Opera Australia). Cherlin currently studies under internationally-renowned heldentenor, Glenn Winslade.



**Anyone who is experiencing a personal crisis, contemplating suicide or caring for someone in crisis can contact Lifeline. Regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation, trained Crisis Supporters are ready to listen without passing judgement and to provide support and referrals. Call Lifeline 13 11 14**