

David Hobson takes a stand for the importance of music education
Musica Viva In Schools new Ambassador is passionate about music and kids



Sydney, March 28, 2008--Musica Viva announced today that it has appointed one of Australia's best-known and favourite opera singers, tenor David Hobson, to the newly created role of Musica Viva In Schools Ambassador.

The singer, musician and composer has agreed to be the public face of Musica Viva In Schools with the aim of raising awareness of the importance of music education in Australia. As Ambassador, he will endorse the Musica Viva In Schools program and undertake a strong advocacy role for music education.

Musica Viva General Manager, Mary Jo Capps, says: "It is well documented that active participation in music from an early age can help children optimise their potential by improving capabilities in a number of key learning areas – such as reasoning and problem solving, maths and language, lateral thinking and memory, time management and eloquence, social and team skills – not to mention the transformative impact music can have on a child for the rest of their life."^[1]

Musica Viva In Schools helps achieve these outcomes in over 400,000 Australian children every year.

"We are delighted that David Hobson has agreed to be the face of Musica Viva in Schools. His versatility and experience as a composer as well as a performer align perfectly with the principle of Musica Viva In Schools – of experiencing music by performing, listening, moving and creating."

^[1] As summarised by the Australian Music Association, see http://www.mca.org.au/mpfl/research1.htm#_ednref1

Growing up in country Victoria, David was interested in a variety of sports and different forms of music. He began his performing career in pop and jazz music, which provided television exposure and recording experience. While demonstrating a music theatre work he had composed for the Victoria State Opera, his amazing voice was discovered. Subsequently and quite unintentionally, he became an opera singer, making his operatic debut with the VSO in 1987 and going on to win the nation's hearts as Rodolfo in Baz Luhrmann's *La bohème* production for Opera Australia.

David believes that every child is born with musical ability but if this is not developed and nurtured from an early age it dies.

"As a musician and now a father, I am deeply conscious of the value that music can bring to children as they progress through school," says David Hobson. "I am honoured to have been invited to take on this role and look forward to working with Musica Viva In Schools to promote the benefits of music education in the classroom."

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Contacts

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About Musica Viva In Schools

Musica Viva In Schools is an interactive music education program that has been working in schools throughout Australia since 1981, with subsequent expansion into Singapore (1998). It reaches 400,000 children annually and is regularly cited as a model program linking professional musicians, classroom teachers and the student community leading to achievement of curriculum priorities. It is based on three core principles: offering professional development courses and curriculum-based resources to enable teachers to deliver music education successfully in their school; providing students with unique live interactive music experiences that enhance and affirm the learning process; and developing the skills of professional performers to become true educational collaborators with teachers.

In 2006, Musica Viva In Schools was awarded the Australian Classical Music Award for Outstanding Contribution to Australian Music in Education.

For further information call: 1800 688 482 or visit www.musicaviva.com.au

DAVID HOBSON - Tenor

David Hobson began his operatic career with Victoria State Opera in 1987 as Rodolfo in *La bohème* and Frederic in the company's production of the Broadway version of *The Pirates of Penzance*. The following year marked his debut with The Australian Opera as Perchik in *Fiddler on the Roof*, followed by Lawrence in the world premiere of Brian Howard's *Whitsunday*. In the same year he was awarded the Dame Joan Sutherland Scholarship.

Since this time, David Hobson has become one of Australia's best known opera singers. He has performed many roles for Opera Australia, including Count Almaviva (*Il Barbiere di Siviglia*), Marco (*The Gondoliers*), Tamino (*The Magic Flute*), Don Ramiro (*La cenerentola*), Eisenstein (*Fledermaus*), the Architect in the world premiere of *The Eighth Wonder*, Ferrando (*Così fan tutte*), Don Ottavio (*Don Giovanni*), Rodolfo in the Baz Luhrmann production of *La bohème*, Nanki Poo, Lindoro (*L'Italiana in Algeri*), Piquillo (*La Pericolosa*), Orphée (*Orphée et Eurydice*) - the last five being televised nationally, Nadir (*Les pêcheurs de perles*) and Michael Chamberlain in the world premiere of Moya Henderson's *Lindy*. He has also performed for Victoria State Opera as Ernesto (*Don Pasquale*), Ferrando, Lindoro and, in concert, the title role in *The Student Prince* and Alfred (*Die Fledermaus*); and Nadir for West Australian Opera. In 1994 he appeared with San Francisco Opera as Chevalier de Danceny in the world premiere of *Dangerous Liaisons*, partnering Renée Fleming, Thomas Hampson and Frederica von Stade under the baton of Donald Runnicles.

David Hobson's concert engagements have included *Messiah* with the Tasmanian and Sydney Symphony Orchestras, Gala New Year's Eve concerts in Perth and Hobart, a Bernstein concert at the Sydney Opera House, numerous appearances with The Australian Pops Orchestra and for Carols in the Domain, Carols by Candlelight, *Elijah* with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra under Christopher Hogwood, a performance in the presence of Prince Edward, a recital of French Lieder for the Australian National Gallery, and *Opera in the Vineyards*.

David Hobson is an equally versatile artist who has worked in the areas of rock, jazz, recording and television. As a composer, his works include a music theatre version of *Macbeth*, workshopped by the Victorian Arts Centre, the chamber composition, *Remembering Rosie*, which was premiered in 2001 by Opera Australia's *OzOpera* and the *Loch Ard Suite* for the laser show at the Warrnambool Maritime museum. He composed the score to the feature film, *One Perfect Day*, released in Australia in 2004 and subsequently in the USA. This score was nominated for the AFI, APRA and IF awards for best original score and awarded the Film Critics Circle of Australia award for best original score. Together with the Australian composer David Hirschfelder, David Hobson released a highly acclaimed CD of original compositions titled *Inside this Room*. He also features on the soundtrack to the films, *Elizabeth* and *Better than Sex*, made television appearances on *Class Acts* for the ABC, *Good Morning America*, *Hey Hey It's Saturday*, *Good Morning Australia* and *The Today Show*, and featured in the 1999 ARIA and AFI award telecast.

David Hobson's discography includes Opera Australia's productions of *The Gondoliers*, *Don Giovanni*, *Così Fan Tutte* and *La bohème* - the latter is also available on CD/DVD and was nominated for an ARIA award - and *Something for Everybody*. His performances have been distinguished by numerous awards including Operatic Performer of the Year/MO Awards, Sydney Critic's Circle Award for Rodolfo, Piquillo and Orphée, and The Age Performing Arts Award for Best Performer in Opera. In 1998 he received an ARIA award for his video collaboration with Christine Anu and Baz Luhrmann, *Now until the break of day*. For ABC Classics, he has recorded *French and Italian Arias*, *Handel Arias* (ARIA Nomination), *Cinema Paradiso*, *David Hobson Live*, *Presenting David Hobson*, *The Exquisite Hour - French Collection*, and most recently *The Promise* on the Universal Music/ABC Classics Label.

Additional performances for OA have included Pluto (*Orpheus in the Underworld*), Florville (*Il Signor Bruschino*) and Dorvil (*La scala di seta*), a gala concert with the Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra and a return to West Australian Opera to sing Belmonte (*Die Entführung aus dem Serail*).

Performances in 2004/2005 included Ralph Rackstraw (*HMS Pinafore*) and the Defendant (*Trial by Jury*) for Opera Australia, Nanki-Poo at the Adelaide Festival Centre, a recital to open the 2005 season at Her Majesty's Theatre, Ballarat, *Opera in the Alps*, *Opera in the Market*, concerts with The Australian Pops Orchestra, Sealord Opera in the Park in New Zealand, *Carols by Candlelight*, *Carols in the Domain* and a performance of *The Impossible Dream* to an audience of millions at the AFL Grand Final.

2006/07 engagements included Frederic in a national tour of *The Pirates of Penzance* (Opera Australia), the title role in *Candide* (Perth International Festival), recitals in Melbourne, Victorian regional centres and the Utzon Room/Sydney Opera House, *Opera in the Alps*, *Opera at the Loch*, a concert with the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra, a performance in the presence of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II in Canberra's Great Hall, *Carols in the Domain*, *Messiah* (Royal Melbourne Philharmonic Choir) and various corporate events. He was the highly acclaimed co-winner of Channel 7's 2006 hit series *It Takes Two* and enjoyed great success with Channel 7's 2007 *Dancing with the Stars*. 2008 engagements include Lewis Carroll in the world premiere of Alan John's *Through the Looking Glass* and Nemorino in *The Elixir of Love* (Victorian Opera), a recital for *Musica Viva* in Melbourne, concerts at the Sydney Town Hall, *Opera in the Loch* for Australian Music Events plus a series of recitals in regional Victoria.

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