

MEDIA RELEASE
5 July 2018

TRISTAN UND ISOLDE

(sung in German with English surtitles)



WASO's 90th Anniversary Gala

Thu 16 August 6.00pm
Sun 19 August 2.00pm

PERTH CONCERT HALL

Asher Fisch: conductor

Stuart Skelton: Tristan
Eva-Maria Westbroek: Isolde
Ekaterina Gubanova: Brangäne
Boaz Daniel: Kurwenal

Ain Anger: King Marke
Angus Wood: Melot
Paul O'Neill: Young Sailor/Shepherd
Andrew Foote: Steersman

West Australian Symphony Orchestra
WASO Chorus
St George's Cathedral Consort

**Principal Conductor Asher Fisch conducts Wagner's
groundbreaking opera with the finest cast ever assembled
in Australia**

It isn't every day that a company - particularly an arts organisation - reaches its 90th birthday, so WASO's nine decades of classical music contribution to the community of Western Australia is a milestone worth celebrating.

And WASO is pulling out all the stops to mark the occasion with this 90th Anniversary Gala presentation of Richard Wagner's epic masterpiece *Tristan und Isolde*. Principal Conductor, Asher Fisch, one of today's supreme Wagner interpreters, leads two concert performances of this opera at the Perth Concert Hall.

Tristan und Isolde is one of the greatest of all tragic love stories. Two young lovers, Tristan, the noble knight and Irish princess, Isolde, who is betrothed to King Marke of Cornwall, share a passion so overwhelming that it transcends the bounds of their earthly existence. Thwarted in life, only in death can their love be transfigured and their souls be united in a metaphysical hereafter. Wagner pushed his music into unprecedented expressive territory to portray the heightened passions of this epic drama.

In many ways, it could be said that *Tristan und Isolde* is the culmination, thus far, of Asher Fisch's tenure as Principal Conductor and Artistic Adviser of WASO. Over the past five years, his artistic vision and astute programming have developed and confirmed the capability of the orchestra to take on this pinnacle of the orchestral/operaic repertoire. This Anniversary Gala also provides a noteworthy touchstone for how far WASO has come since those first concerts in the (now demolished) Regent Theatre some 90 years ago.

WASO is thrilled to secure the finest Tristan of our time, superstar tenor Stuart Skelton for this 90th Anniversary Gala. Critically-acclaimed for his outstanding musicianship, tonal beauty and intensely dramatic portrayals, Stuart was a natural choice for this headline role. Together with celebrated Dutch soprano, Eva-Maria Westbroek, a renowned Wagnerian lyric soprano in her own right who will take the role of Isolde, Stuart leads an exceptional cast of international and Australian singers.

Tristan und Isolde will be performed as an opera in concert rather than a fully staged/produced opera which enables the orchestra and soloists to be heard in "full glory". The musicians will sit on the stage instead of in an orchestra pit and will be the centre of the performance.

The duration of this concert performance is approximately five hours and includes a 40-minute interval after Act 1 with a further 30-minute interval following Act 2. Interval menus are available for patrons who wish to pre-purchase meals. Booking are essential.

Witnessing a great performance of *Tristan und Isolde* is a revelatory experience. Be transported by the emotions, intensity, drama and sheer sumptuous beauty of Wagner's magnificent masterpiece.

Tickets from \$55 on sale now at WASO on 9326 0000 or waso.com.au

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