



**Media Release:**

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## **Araluen Presents Popular Verdi Opera *La traviata***

Opera fans in Alice Springs can enjoy one of the greatest love stories of all time when Opera Australia's Oz Opera performs *La traviata* at Araluen Arts Centre on 1 and 2 September 2011.

Araluen Arts Centre Director Tim Rollason said the Oz Opera production brings Verdi's famous opera to life with strong performances, romantic music and lavish sets and costumes.

"The Centre is thrilled to be hosting Oz Opera's performance of *La traviata* in Alice Springs and to bring this high-calibre production to the people of Central Australia," said Mr Rollason.

"This romantic Italian masterpiece has a powerful story that everyone can relate to, whether they are long-time opera lovers or experiencing opera for the first time, and this version is sung in English to make it even more accessible for all audiences."

*La traviata* (the fallen woman) tells the tragic story of Violetta, a beautiful courtesan who attempts to leave her past behind and run off with her young lover, Alfredo.

Set in a fantasy version of Paris in the 1890s, director Rachel McDonald's production features a superb cast of 10 singers that includes Annabelle Chaffey and Leah Thomas in the role of Violetta and Martin Buckingham and Jason Wasley as Alfredo, as well as a chamber orchestra of 11 musicians, conducted by Vanessa Scammell.

The local *La traviata* performances are part of an eight-week tour of remote and regional Australia, in which Oz Opera is visiting 19 communities across the country.

The performances at Araluen Arts Centre will take place at 7:30pm on Thursday, 1 September 2011 and 7:30pm on Friday, 2 September 2011.

For tickets, contact the Araluen Arts Centre Box Office on 8951 1122. Ticket prices are \$55 for adults, \$50 for concession and Friends of the Araluen Arts Centre, and \$40 for students.

For more information on upcoming events at the Araluen Cultural Precinct, go to [www.araluen.nt.gov.au](http://www.araluen.nt.gov.au).

Ends

**Media Note – for more information, contact Tim Rollason on 8951 1126.**

**Images – *La traviata* cast members (left to right) Annabelle Chaffey, Jason Wasley, Martin Buckingham and Leah Thomas.**

**Oz Opera's *La traviata*.**

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