

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release – 16th October 2016

2016 Lady Fairfax New York Scholarship WINNER

The Opera Foundation *for young Australians* (formerly Opera Foundation Australia) is pleased to announce the Winner 2016 Lady Fairfax New York Scholarship is soprano **Zoe Drummond from New South Wales**.

The winner of this prestigious scholarship was announced at the public recital with the six finalists on Sunday 16th October 2016 commencing at 4.00pm at the Verbruggen Hall of Sydney Conservatorium of Music. Zoe will receive \$43,000 to study with internationally acclaimed vocal, language and movement coaches in New York.

"This afternoon at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music with His Excellency General, The Hon. David Hurley, Governor of NSW, and Mrs Hurley in attendance, we proudly announced our 52nd winner of the Lady Fairfax New York Scholarship. This signature Award was the first ever offered by the Foundation that was founded by my mother in 1963. Each year we offer a portfolio of Awards and Scholarships that open the doors to the world of opera for all young Australian operatic performers, conductors, designers, directors and répétiteurs. Our alumni continue to enhance the operatic world across the globe and in Australia. Next year we are particularly thrilled to have four previous Lady Fairfax New York Scholarship Winners performing principal roles in the Opera Australia's 2017 season," says Anna Cleary, Chair of The Opera Foundation for young Australians and Lady Fairfax's daughter.

Guy Noble, 2016 Head Adjudicator and Member of the Foundation's Music Advisory Council says: *"From a very strong field of singers, Zoe stood out for her warm and rich voice, her technique and maturity for someone so young, but even more importantly in the final bars of her second song, the emotional connection to raise a tear in the eyes of the audience"*

Zoe Drummond - soprano – NSW – 24 years old



Zoe Drummond graduated at the Sydney Conservatorium with a Bachelor of Music Performance (1st Class Hons) and is a Melba Opera Trust scholar, on the 2016 Dame Nellie Melba Scholarship and Patrick & Vivian Gordon Award. In 2016, Zoe won second place in the Mietta Song Competition and was a finalist in nearly all of Australia's most prestigious singing competitions. Performing highlights include Monica in Menotti's *The Medium*, Papagena in Mozart's *The Magic Flute* and Giannetta in Donizetti's *L'elisir D'amore*. She is thrilled to be making her Opera Australia debut as a principal in *Sydney Opera House - The Opera*.

The sponsor of this Award is Lady Fairfax AC OBE. The Foundation receives no government funding and relies on the generosity of philanthropic individuals & foundations to support other awards, scholarships & special initiatives.

Also announced tonight were the winners of the **2016 Vienna State Opera Award** for a stage experienced opera singer – soprano **Anna-Louise Cole** from Sydney, **2016 Berlin New Music Opera Award** winner **Sydney-based Costume & Set Designer – Aleisa Jelbart**, **2016 Dalwood-Wylie American Institute of Musical Studies Award Winner – soprano Sylvie** from Sydney (currently residing in Switzerland) and **Sam Roberts-Smith, Baritone from Western Australia** winning the **2016 Deutsche Oper Berlin Award** (10 month contract Deutsche Oper Berlin).

The Opera Foundation *for young Australians* was founded in 1963 by Lady Fairfax and has been in operation for over 50 years. The Opera Foundation *for young Australians* provides international Awards & Scholarships to renowned opera houses & institutions in the world to young Australian artists. The Awards and Scholarships offered by The Opera Foundation *for young Australians* have provided the springboard for launching the successful international careers of many Australian opera singers for more than 50 years. Since 1963 the Foundation has provided over \$5 million in funding and support and offered over 300 Awards and Scholarships.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Alison Cole, General Manager, on 0414 383848 or alison@theoperafoundation.com.au