

MEDIA RELEASE

22 June 2016

Erin Helyard to lead Pinchgut Opera as sole Artistic Director

Pinchgut Opera today announced that Erin Helyard will lead Pinchgut Opera as sole Artistic Director, with conductor Antony Walker to remain as Conductor Emeritus.

The change from co-artistic to sole artistic leadership of Pinchgut Opera will take place after the company's latest production of *Armida* with Erin Helyard programming the 2017 Season to be launched in August.

Erin Helyard said, "Antony was the driving force behind the inception of Pinchgut in 2002 and *Armida* is his tenth production for the company. His high standards of musical excellence have ensured our critical success and he has fostered and nourished many Australian singers who have been welcomed into the Pinchgut family."

Armida marks the final production in which Antony will be an Artistic Director of Pinchgut with career commitments taking him around the world.

Erin Helyard added "His career has taken a meteoric rise, with Antony regularly conducting at the Met in New York and other major houses in the States in addition to his duties as Music Director of Pittsburgh and Artistic Director of Washington Concert Opera.

Pinchgut Opera Chair Liz Nielsen added, "All of us here at Pinchgut salute Antony's formidable work as an Artistic Director over the past 14 years. We are delighted to continue our association with him as Conductor Emeritus and we look forward to hearing about his future triumphs and working with him soon."

Pinchgut Opera rediscovers seventeenth- and eighteenth-century operatic masterpieces. Their production of Haydn's *Armida* opens Wednesday 22 June and plays Friday 24, Sunday 26 and Tuesday 28 June at City Recital Hall. Bookings 8256 2222.

For further information contact Sarah Gilchrist, General Manager
sarah@pinchgutopera.com.au 0400 226 566
pinchgutopera.com.au