

Queensland Ballet in association with QPAC and generous support from the
Messa da Requiem Giving Circle present

Messa da Requiem

Music by Giuseppe Verdi, direction and choreography by Christian Spuck



Staatsoper Berlin + Staatsballett Berlin in Messa da Requiem. Photo by Serghei Gherciu

Brisbane, 16 October, 2025: In a major coup for Queensland audiences, Queensland Ballet proudly presents acclaimed European choreographer, Christian Spuck's monumental production, *Messa da Requiem*, in an exclusive season at the newly opened Glasshouse Theatre, Queensland Performing Arts Centre from 27 March 2026.

A landmark collaboration with— Queensland Symphony Orchestra, Brisbane Chorale and Canticum Chamber Choir — *Messa da Requiem* unleashes the full force of dance, music, and opera to elevate Verdi's score to new heights.

Minister for Education and the Arts, the Hon John Paul Langbroek said he was delighted to confirm the new state-of-the-art Glasshouse Theatre will open next March to showcase Queensland's creative talent and kick off Queensland Ballet's 2026 season with an ambitious season of *Messa da Requiem*.

"Queensland Performing Arts Centre has long been home to transformative performing arts experiences and this exciting collaboration featuring some of Queensland's great arts companies, Queensland Ballet, Queensland Symphony Orchestra together with local choirs, is a fitting housewarming for the new Theatre," Minister Langbroek said.

"Work of the scale of *Messa da Requiem* reinforces the Orisafulli Government's commitment to ensure engaging arts and cultural experiences attract local audiences and visitors to the state that reinforces our reputation as a creative powerhouse that grows our experience economy."

The Artistic Director Ivan Gil-Ortega describes the production as a masterwork that delivers a transcendent experience and redefines the possibilities of ballet.

With a cast of over 100 artists, *Messa da Requiem* sweeps across the stage as Verdi's score takes shape in movement and sound – summoning all the emotions we universally associate with mortality and hope for redemption."

"More than a performance, *Messa da Requiem* is an emotional and spiritual journey brought vividly to life by extraordinary artists," Gil-Ortega said.

"Verdi's score will soar under the mastery of Queensland Symphony Orchestra, led by internationally celebrated conductor, Simon Hewett, alongside sought-after soloists in partnership with a commanding chorus. This is a convergence of astonishing talent and vision, delivering a dramatic tapestry of music and dance, that will stay with audiences long after the final note," Gil-Ortega added.

Queensland Performing Arts Centre Director and CEO Rachel Healy said *Messa da Requiem* stands as a bold cultural statement.

"For Queensland, this collaboration of leading cultural companies, celebrates who we are and where we are headed as a creative state. With the opening of the Glasshouse Theatre, we are not only expanding our artistic horizons but also cementing a cultural legacy that will inspire pride and recognition well beyond our borders," Healy said.

Winner of the 2019 Prix Benois de la Danse (Oscars of the ballet world) Spuck said his production reaches beyond the religious ideas of death and resurrection.

"Verdi's *Messa da Requiem* stands as one of the most profound statements on life and death ever set to music. Verdi blended the drama of his operas with the solemnity of the Latin mass – it is a colossal fusion of operatic drama and sacred intensity."

"However, I did not want to place the religious interpretation of the text at the centre. Rather, my intention was to transform Verdi's score into a mass of human expression — about the inevitability of death, the need for consolation, and our eternal hope for redemption," Spuck explained.

"Verdi's music is beyond words. It's a powerful reminder of how music can bring us together, and an invitation to reflect on something beyond ourselves," Spuck added.

Written and first performed in 1894, *Messa da Requiem* is based on the Roman Catholic liturgy and is a Mass to honour those who have died.

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Event Details

- **What:** Messa da Requiem
- **Venue:** Glasshouse Theatre, QPAC
- **Dates:** 27 March – 4 April 2026, **Tickets:**
- **Choreographer:** Christian Spuck
- **Collaborators:** Queensland Ballet, Queensland Symphony Orchestra, Brisbane Chorale and Canticum Chamber Choir, Queensland Performing Arts Centre

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Images, biographies [here](#)

FAST FACTS ON *MESSA DA REQUIEM*

- **First performed in Milan in 1874**, the seeds of *Messa da Requiem* were sown with the death of Verdi's compatriot, Gioachino Rossini. Shortly after, Verdi's close friend, Alessandro Manzoni, also passed away.

2/3

- **Verdi composed *Messa da Requiem* in honour of both men**, sending the completed score to his publisher in Milan, who not only printed it but also promoted it through the newspapers.
 - ***Messa da Requiem* is structured in seven movements: *Dies Irae* (Day of Wrath), *Offertorio* (Offertory), *Sanctus* (Holy), *Agnus Dei* (Lamb of God), *Lux Aeterna* (Eternal Light), and *Libera Me* (Deliver Me).**
 - **The most well-known musical moment, *Dies Irae*, appears in the second movement.** It symbolizes death, with the chorus crying out in fear of the approaching Judgment Day. Its thunderous percussion and dramatic vocals include some of the most recognisable phrases in classical music.
 - **The haunting and lyrical *Agnus Dei* (Lamb of God) is a simple yet deeply moving acappella piece performed by the opera singers.**
 - **Christian Spuck first heard Verdi's *Messa da Requiem* on the radio at age 17.** At the time, he was writing a paper on Franz Kafka and recorded the legendary Toscanini interpretation on his cassette recorder.
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[About Queensland Ballet](#)

Queensland Ballet's mission is to contribute to Australia's cultural landscape by being an integral part of the national and international ballet ecology - striving for artistic excellence, pathways for emerging artists, and impact through our community outreach, education, and Dance Health programs. We aim to enrich lives and contribute to wellness across society through the magic of ballet.

[About Queensland Performing Arts Centre \(QPAC\)](#)

QPAC is Queensland's premier performing arts centre with four venues including three theatres and one concert hall. Since opening in 1985, QPAC has welcomed more than 30 million people and played host to more than 33, 500 performances on its stages. The Centre's fifth venue, the Glasshouse Theatre will open in 2026, making QPAC Australia's largest performing arts centre under one roof. QPAC is a venue for hire as well as a producer, investor, presenter and public place for live performance. QPAC embraces the best in live performance: the world-renowned alongside the emerging, local and new. It aims to amplify the voices of diverse communities, to provoke thought and reflection, and deliver remarkable live arts experiences to audiences.

[About Queensland Symphony Orchestra](#)

Queensland Symphony Orchestra (QSO) is the state's flagship orchestra, bringing the joy of live music to audiences across Queensland and beyond. Based in Brisbane, QSO performs a rich and diverse program of classical masterpieces, contemporary works alongside an extensive regional tours and community engagement each year. Renowned for its world-class musicians and dynamic performances, QSO celebrates the power of music to connect, inspire and transform. Each year, QSO performs for more than 1 million people making music accessible to all Queenslanders. Learn more at qso.com.au

[About Brisbane Chorale](#)

Brisbane Chorale is a well established symphonic choir with a reputation for outstanding choral performance. Under the artistic leadership of Emily Cox AM, Chorale's extensive repertoire spans music from the baroque to the present day and includes Australian and world premières. Chorale has collaborated extensively with all of Brisbane's major orchestras, festivals, professional and emerging artists and has appeared in international touring productions. The choir's mission is to bring the joy and exhilaration of great choral symphonic works to audiences in southeast Queensland and beyond.

[About Canticum Chamber Choir](#)

Canticum Chamber Choir is one of Brisbane's finest small choral ensembles. Known for presenting diverse, virtuosic repertoire in innovative ways, Canticum is equally at home in multi-artform productions and traditional choir settings. Under the artistic leadership of founding Music Director Emily Cox AM, the ensemble has collaborated with major professional arts companies, has performed in spaces from modern art galleries to state concert halls and international choral events, and its recordings are heard frequently on ABC Classic FM. Canticum's mission is to explore the western choral canon, to present Australian premieres of works by international composers, and to foster works by Australian composers.