

# Media Release

27 April, 2010

## The *Elixir* of Love

### ON DOCTOR'S ORDERS JOHN BOLTON WOOD WITHDRAWS FROM PRODUCTION ANDREW COLLIS TAKES OVER THE ROLE OF DOCTOR DULCAMARA

Opera Queensland's Chief Executive/Artistic Director Chris Mangin, regretfully announces the withdrawal of **JOHN BOLTON WOOD AM** as Doctor Dulcamara in the company's upcoming production of *The Elixir of Love*.

In this production, the role of Doctor Dulcamara requires a physically energetic performance. Several weeks ago, John sustained an injury to his Achilles tendon for which he's been receiving treatment. He soldiered on through the last two weeks of rehearsals, but on Friday was instructed by his physician that any further aggravation to the injury would most certainly lead to surgery. John has now returned to Sydney to continue his rehabilitation.

Mr Mangin is delighted to announce that renowned Brisbane bass-baritone **ANDREW COLLIS** takes over the role of Doctor Dulcamara. Andrew joins rehearsals today.

"We are incredibly fortunate to have an artist of Andrew's ability and standing in our community," said Mr Mangin. "We are even more fortunate that he was available to take over from John on very short notice."

Andrew has a long history with Opera Queensland, having featured in principal roles for the last six consecutive seasons. He's also no stranger to the 'Doctor' role. Last year, he performed the more dramatic role of Doctor Grenvil in the company's production of *La traviata*.



**ANDREW COLLIS** was a member of Germany's Cologne Opera from 1993 to 2003, during which time he performed the title role in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Schaunard and Colline in *La bohème*, Hobson in *Peter Grimes*, Mr Flint in *Billy Budd*, Doctor Kolenatý in *The Makropulos Affair*, Monterone in *Rigoletto*, Tchelio in *The Love for Three Oranges*, Leporello in *Don Giovanni*, Don Magnifico in *La Cenerentola* and Doctor Falke in *Die Fledermaus*. Since 2003, he has performed in the company's productions of *Les dialogues des Carmélites* and *Il barbiere di Siviglia*.

Andrew's other international engagements include appearing in productions of *Tosca* and *Un ballo in maschera* (at the Hong Kong Festival) and *Intolleranza* (at the Vienna Festival), performing the roles of Sarastro in *The Magic Flute* (for Lyric Opera of Singapore) and Colline in *La bohème* and Hobson in *Peter Grimes* (for San Diego Opera) and performing *St John Passion* (in the Canary Islands). He has also performed in Berlin, Frankfurt, Essen, Mannheim, Düsseldorf, Strasbourg,

Stuttgart and Bonn. He has worked with distinguished conductor James Conlon and the Cologne Philharmonic in numerous operatic concerts, most notably in the award-winning recording of Zemlinsky's *Der Zwerg* (for EMI).

Andrew's Australian engagements include the roles of Mr Flint in *Billy Budd*, Doctor Kolenatý in *The Makropulos Secret* and Friar Lawrence in *Roméo et Juliette* (for Opera Australia), Count Monterone in *Rigoletto*, Doctor Grenvil in *La traviata*, Speaker in *The Magic Flute*, Don Basilio in *The Barber of Seville*, Zaccaria in *Nabucco*, Colonel Frank in *Die Fledermaus*, Friar Lawrence in *Romeo and Juliet*, Zuniga in *Carmen* and the title roles in *Don Pasquale* and *The Marriage of Figaro* (for Opera Queensland), Swallow in *Peter Grimes* and Speaker and Second Priest in *The Magic Flute* (for West Australian Opera), Fasolt in *Das Rheingold* and Spalanzani, Luther and Crespel in *The Tales of Hoffmann* (for State Opera of South Australia), Luka in *The Bear*, Leporello in *Don Giovanni* and Duke Bluebeard in *Bluebeard's Castle* (for Victorian Opera) and Captain Cook in *The Trial of the Cannibal Dog* (for the New Zealand International Arts Festival).

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On the concert platform, Andrew has appeared with the Melbourne, Adelaide, West Australian and Tasmanian Symphony Orchestras and The Queensland Orchestra (now Queensland Symphony Orchestra). His repertoire includes Bach's *Magnificat*, *Coffee Cantata*, *Mass in B minor* and *Passions*, Handel's *Messiah*, *Samson* and *Semele*, Haydn's *Stabat Mater*, *The Creation* and *Die Schöpfung*, Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* and Ninth Symphony, the Mozart and Verdi *Requiems* and Mendelssohn's *Die erste Walpurgisnacht*.

Upcoming engagements include the roles of Kromow in a new production of *The Merry Widow* (for Opera Queensland) and Count Rodolfo in *La sonnambula* (for West Australian Opera)

*The Elixir of Love* launches Opera Queensland's 2010 when it opens on 15 May at the Lyric Theatre for six performances through to 29 May. This production, created by **Simon Phillips**, is new to Queensland audiences. Set in Australia in 1915, wall-to-wall corrugated iron will transform the Lyric Theatre stage into an outback station where Nemorino, a naïve shepherd, sets out to win the heart of the beautiful and wealthy landowner, Adina.

Brisbane tenor **Virgilio Marino** makes his role debut as Nemorino with Australian soprano **Natalie Jones** as Adina, **José Carbó** as Belcore, **Andrew Collis** as Doctor Dulcamara and **Emily Burke** making her role debut as Giannetta.

Here the production will be remounted by revival director **Christopher Dawes** under the baton of conductor **Graham Abbott**, who will lead the artists, the **Queensland Symphony Orchestra** and the **Opera Queensland Chorus**.

#### Creative Team:

Conductor	Graham Abbott
Original Director	Simon Phillips
Revival Director	Christopher Dawes
Set Designer	Michael Scott-Mitchell
Costume Designer	Gabriela Tylesova
Lighting Designer	Nick Schlieper

#### Cast:

Nemorino	Virgilio Marino
Adina	Natalie Jones
Belcore	José Carbó
Doctor Dulcamara	Andrew Collis
Giannetta	Emily Burke

Sung in Italian with projected English translations.

*This production is presented by arrangement with Opera Australia.*

*Please note that there is no vocal amplification used in this production.*

**Performance details: 15, 20 (30 Below), 22, 25 (30 Below), 27 (sunset, 30 Below) and 29 (matinee) May, 2010**

**Bookings: qtix 136 246 or online [www.qtix.com.au](http://www.qtix.com.au)**

**Single tickets from \$47.25\* to \$153.25\* (\*prices include qtix booking fee)**

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