

## MEDIA RELEASE

Level 5, 10 Hickson Road The Rocks  
Sydney NSW 2000 Australia  
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sydneyfestival.org.au



# O Mensch!

## AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

A presentation by Sydney Chamber Opera, and Carriageworks in association with Sydney Festival.

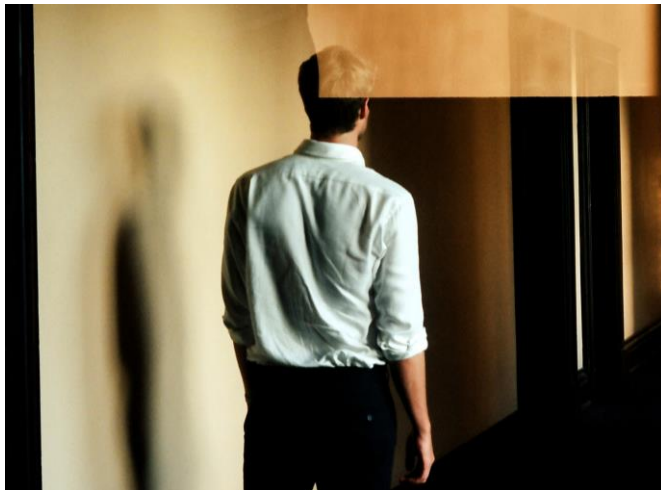


Photo: Samuel Hodge

*"..an impressively wrought achievement, a gallery of Nietzsche's obsessions and preoccupations, with vocal lines that always seem to be on the brink of something momentarily expressive, and piano writing that is economical and severely self-effacing".*

**The Guardian**

**Sydney Chamber Opera** and Melbourne based director **Sarah Giles** will be unveiling the Australian premiere of *O Mensch!* at Carriageworks as part of the *About an Hour* series at Sydney Festival.

Restoring the voice to one of the mightiest minds in history, *O Mensch!* transforms poems by **Friedrich Nietzsche** into a series of shattering musical declarations by French composer **Pascal Dusapin**.

In a virtuoso performance by baritone and piano, audiences are plunged into the agonies and the ecstasies of this era-defining genius, as fierce ideology collides with high emotion. Themes span death, humanity, despair, glory, love and nature in twenty one remarkable poems structured as a dramatised song cycle with piano interludes.

The stark production will be directed by former Sydney Theatre Company resident director Sarah Giles who was last seen at Sydney Festival directing *His Music Burns* (2014) – a double bill of masterpieces by composers **Gyorgy Kurtag** and **George Benjamin**. Lit by lighting installation artist **Katie Sfetkidis**, *O Mensch!* features the indomitable baritone **Mitchell Riley**, who also appeared in Sydney Chamber Opera's Kurtag-Samuel Beckett cycle *...pas à pas - nulle parte* for the 2014 Sydney Festival, where his performance was described by Sydney Morning Herald as a "tour-de-force vocally and theatrically".

Founded in 2010, Sydney Chamber Opera is critically acclaimed for creating compelling and innovative programming with a strong focus on ensuring that opera resonates with new and younger audiences.

*O Mensch!* is an intimate and inspired comparison piece to *Passion* (playing at City Recital Hall on 14 & 15 January) and a great chance to see another collaboration between Sydney Chamber Opera, Sarah Giles and Mitchell Riley.

Where	Carriageworks Track 8
When	22 January at 8pm 23 & 24 January at 8.30pm
Duration	70 minutes no interval

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Price General Admission \$35

Bookings Sydney Festival on 1300 856 876  
<http://sydneyfestival.org.au/mensch>

Performed in German with English subtitles

**Multipacks** are available for all Sydney Festival events. Book 3 or more events and save 10-15%. Discounts apply to full price A Reserve or General Admission tickets.



### For interviews and further information contact:

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**CARRIAGEWORKS**