



Victorian
Opera

CHAMBER
MADE
OPERA

MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW OPERA FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

NEW OPERA VENTURES AUSTRALIA (NOVA)

MELBOURNE, 5 May 2010— Five works have been shortlisted for workshop in the brand new initiative **New Opera Ventures Australia (NOVA)**, **Victorian Opera and Chamber Made Opera's partnership** to enable the creation and development of new Australian opera and music theatre.

"It is worth remembering all work was once new work. It is vital, therefore to keep supplying the theatre with new work for our cultural well-being." Richard Gill, Music Director of Victoria Opera

From an open national call in August 2009, 43 entries were submitted and then reviewed by an esteemed panel including **Victorian Opera Musical Director Richard Gill**, **Chamber Made Opera's Artistic Director David Young**, **Robyn Archer**, **Matthew Lutton**, **Gerald Brophy** and **Caroline Stacey**.

The finalist composers and their works are: **Peter J Casey** *The Devil Builds a Chapel (ACT)*, **Chris Dench** *WE (VIC)*, **Sandra France** *Playing With Fire (ACT)*, **Kevin March** *Razing Hypatia (VIC)* and **David Stanhope** *The Un-Dead (NSW)*.

Each of the selected pieces will now be workshopped and presented at Victorian Opera's home **Horti Hall in August 2010** with a small orchestra and support from **Richard Gill** (Music Director, VO), **Brett Kelly** (Resident Conductor, Chamber Made Opera) and **David McSkimming** (Head of Music, VO). Three of the works will be developed for a small orchestra and the other two developed with a piano score.

One of the finalists Kevin March says, **"It is a real privilege to have my work chosen for the NOVA workshop and to work with Australia's leading opera artists to take it to the next stage. To my knowledge Chamber Made Opera and Victorian Opera are running the only program supporting professional development for composers interested in opera – making NOVA a unique and treasured opportunity."**

NOVA is a distinct program that works within the Australia Council of the Arts strategy to develop new contemporary opera and music theatre works in 2010 and 2011 to workshop stage, for Australian audiences.

More information and interviews are available with finalists.

For media enquiries:

Pia Johnson

0413 450 951

pia.johnson@gmail.com

Thomas Drent 03 9001 6414

0410 585 578

thomasd@victorianopera.com.au

NOVA has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body. NOVA is also supported by Arts Victoria.