

The State Opera of SA & Tutti Ensemble present The Opera Studio – *The Shouting Fence*

Composed by Adelaide-based composer Richard Chew and Orlando Gough *The Shouting Fence* is a vocal story of a community split in two. Following the 1967 Six Day War Israel occupied and illegally annexed the Syrian Golan Heights including a valley occupied by Majdel Shams community. Israel split the valley into two parts effectively prohibiting any communication or access between the Syrian communities on either side. The families that were separated by this partition re-named it the "shouting valley" because this became the only means of communication.

The production has been devised so that the audience becomes the barrier between the two communities thus allowing them to witness the emotional turmoil experienced when close knit communities are forcefully separated, as well as reinforcing the divisive and destructive nature of the 'fence' itself. *The Shouting Fence* importantly highlights the human needs of communication, mutual love and the frustrations of not being able to physically connect.

In 2007 State Opera and the Tutti Ensemble formed a new partnership called OperaTu with the aim of jointly creating productions involving State Opera young professional singers, directors and musicians in partnership with emerging performers, with and without disabilities, from the Tutti Ensemble.



Tutti is a key Producer with the Australia Council for the Arts and recently won top honours in the National Music in Communities Awards. As the judges put it, 'Tutti is a kind of under-the-radar national treasure the whole of Australia deserves to know about. It is radical social inclusion we can all celebrate'.

This powerful work, with its obvious relevance to the modern world, will bring together other community organisations including the Sudanese St Bhakita Choir, the Adelaide Secondary School of English, the Big Country Choir, singers from the Adelaide Harmony Choir and participants from Families SA Refugee Services. Originally commissioned by the South Bank Centre in London *The Shouting Fence* has been performed many times in the UK and Europe, notably at the Bath International Music Festival and the Chor Biennale in Amsterdam.

The Opera Studio
State Opera, 216 Marion Road,
Netley 5037.
Tickets*
\$30 Adult
\$25 Concession
*booking fees apply
Bookings (from 14 January 2009):
www.adelaidefringe.com.au
For more information, call
State Opera on (08) 8226 4790

Director: Cheryl Pickering
Musical Director: Richard Chew
Assistant Musical Director: Philip Griffin
Producer: Pat Rix
Designer: Louise Dunn
Lighting Designer: Nic Mollison

Performed in English
Running Time: forty five minutes
(no interval)