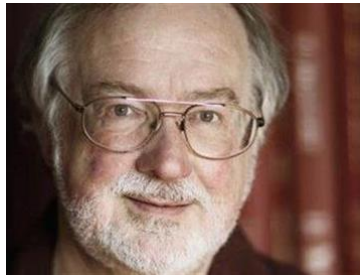




VALE



Richard Divall AO OBE

1945 - 2017

It is with great sadness LPA acknowledges the passing of revered conductor, composer and scholar Professor Richard Divall AO OBE, on 15 January 2017 at the age of 71.

Born in Sydney in 1945, Richard grew up in Manly leaving high school at the young age of 15. He worked as a music producer at ABC radio in the 1960s and attended night school at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and Opera School. He performed as an opera singer before moving into conducting.

He held several esteemed roles including Musical Director of Victoria State Opera (1972 to 1996), a Principal Resident Conductor of Opera Australia and was also the Founding Patron of Melbourne Opera.

Over the span of his career Richard conducted more than 150 operas paying particular attention to reviving early Australian works. He was also a research fellow at the State Library of Victoria for two years.

Ken Mackenzie-Forbes, Artistic Director of The Production Company and former CEO of the Victoria State Opera who worked closely with Richard Divall for 19 years commented 'Richard was an utterly unique force in opera in Australia. He was blessed with a charisma that charmed opera audiences. Richard had the ability to engender every performance with excitement and elegance. Opera singers and musicians alike all responded to his

musical direction by giving thrilling and memorable performances. His time as Musical Director of the VSO was a golden age for opera in Melbourne.'

He was awarded for his services to music when he was made an Officer of the British Empire (OBE) in 1981 and a Member of the Order of Australia (AO) in 2009.

We extend our sincerest condolences to Richard's family, friends and colleagues.



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[Live Performance Australia](#)

Level 1, 15-17 Queen Street
Melbourne, VIC 3000
Australia


Ph: +61 3 8614 2000

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