



moving opera!

MEDIA RELEASE

16 February 2006

Opera stars to coach Mount Isa students

Rising stars of Opera Queensland are heading to Mount Isa this month to coach local secondary school students in opera and music theatre as part of the *Moving Opera!* program.

Up to 30 students from Spinifex State College and Good Shepherd Catholic College will participate in an intensive, five day workshop and performance program from 27 February to 3 March 2006.

The program will culminate in a concert at the Mount Isa PCYC on **Friday, 3 March** where the students will showcase what they have learned in a musical performance with the opera singers. The concert, which is open to the public, will be a fundraiser for music education at the two schools, with entry by gold coin donation.

CS Energy's Mica Creek Power Station is sponsoring *Moving Opera!* to provide Mount Isa youth with the opportunity to hone their musical skills with professionals and learn more about career pathways available in music.

Spinifex State College Head of Senior Campus Philip Sweeney said he hoped the *Moving Opera!* visit would encourage greater participation in music at the school.

"We have a developing music program here at Spinifex, so this can only strengthen interest and increase opportunities in music education for our students," Mr Sweeney said.

"This tour is a fabulous opportunity for young people to experience a different form of music and the arts. For our students it's a window into a world I doubt they have ever seen."

Music buffs should also mark **Thursday, 2 March** in their diaries, as Opera Queensland will present a free community information session *Overture to Opera* at The Buffs Club from 6.15pm.

Opera Queensland Education Officer Kellie Kremmer said *Overture to Opera* would "debunk some of the clichéd views about opera" and include performances of excerpts from famous operas by the Opera Queensland singers.

"I'll be talking about how entertaining opera can be, its fascinating history and the process of staging a production," Ms Kremer said.

Further information:

CS Energy:
Lisa White
Marketing and Communications Adviser
Ph: (07) 3222 9386 / 0419 749 860

Opera Queensland:
Maria McCullough
Publicist
Ph: (07) 3735 3038 / 0417 199 372