

Jack Symonds, Artistic Director

Sydney Chamber Opera
Carriageworks, 245 Wilson St.
Eveleigh NSW 2015

11 December 2014

To whom it may concern:

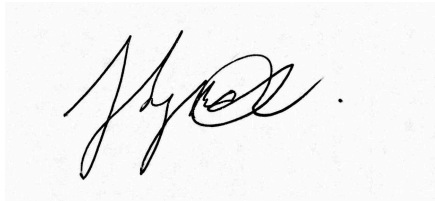
Netta Yashchin has directed two productions for Sydney Chamber Opera and I am writing to recommend her talents and inspired skills as a stage director.

In 2011 Netta directed SCO's inaugural production *Notes from Underground* at the Cellblock Theatre, which was a great success artistically, critically and financially. It was a world premiere of a new opera of some complexity, and Netta's strong and urgent vision of the work's essential substance allowed her to guide it towards the stage in a viscerally creative way. Her deep knowledge of and affinity with Russian culture allowed her to find levels of expression perhaps unavailable to directors without her extraordinary background and cultural capital. Speaking as the work's composer and music director of the production, I believe Netta's instinctive understanding of musical situations on both the micro and macro levels allowed her to create the ideal of what we strive for at SCO: a creative unity of music and text-driven stage action. This was demonstrated most acutely in her intense and dynamic staging rehearsals where her emotional understanding of the work as a whole guided a cast of four singers, four actors and ten dancers to reach a single aesthetic and expressive goal.

It was Netta's unique and emotionally unapologetic style that drew SCO to select her to direct a second world premiere in 2013, *Climbing Toward Midnight* at NIDA. This contemporary re-imagining of Wagner's *Parsifal* posed enormous challenges textually, musically and dramatically and Netta's unfailing creativity and visionary intensity ensured the production was lauded in the national press for being a bold, controversial and

uncompromising creative act. Even in the face of significant cast injury, Netta's inspired, on-the-fly solutions kept the production on track in a whole new dimension and truly demonstrated the best application of her ceaseless, passionate and volcanic stream of ideas.

I would highly recommend her as a director of theatre which takes risks, asks questions and requires a complex emotional and spiritual understanding of the world.

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light grey background. The signature is cursive and appears to read 'Jack Symonds'.

Jack Symonds, Artistic Director
Sydney Chamber Opera