



# Olive Pink Opera

Alice Springs - October 2022

*An exquisite operatic performance on the astonishing life of Olive Pink*



A new opera  
by composer  
Emerita Professor  
Anne Boyd AM



Olive Pink Botanic  
Gardens in partnership  
with Desert Song  
Festival...



...and the Central  
Australian Aboriginal  
Women's Choir



Honoring the life  
and work of  
Olive Pink

07 - 08 OCTOBER 2022

Olive Pink Botanic Garden



The Olive Pink Opera, produced by the Olive Pink Botanic Garden, and proudly presented by the 2022 Desert Song Festival by Central Australian Singing Inc.





# Olive Pink Opera

## *Two magical nights in the Desert*

07 - 08 OCTOBER 2022

SOMETHING UNIQUE, ORIGINAL AND BEAUTIFUL WILL TAKE PLACE  
IN THE CENTRAL DESERT AS PART OF THE ICONIC DESERT SONG FESTIVAL  
IN OCTOBER 2022: AN OPERA – IN THE DESERT!

Come and experience the magic of this ground-breaking event which will be a first for opera in Australia, a first for Alice Springs and a first for the Desert Song Festival.

This new and exciting Opera celebrates the extraordinary life of Olive Pink. A compelling, truly Australian story, the opera explores the life of a remarkable woman, her relationships with Arrernte and Warlpiri peoples and her outspoken advocacy for Aboriginal rights in Central Australia. The Olive Pink Opera is the story of the last decades of Olive Pink's life when she and Warlpiri man Johnny Jampitjinpa created what is now the

Olive Pink Botanic Garden. The Opera is a reconciliation work, based on stories from both Aboriginal and local non-Aboriginal people from Alice Springs. Through the telling of these stories, connections will be strengthened between communities in Alice Springs and indeed, the Australian community.

The Olive Pink Opera features the Central Australian Aboriginal Women's Choir and Alice Springs artists and musicians who, together with internationally acclaimed master musicians, will present the rich heritage of Aboriginal culture and opera to create a transformative arts experience and a new version of opera in Australia.

**Miss Olive Muriel Pink was an artist, anthropologist and outspoken advocate for Aboriginal rights in Central Australia - a woman ahead of her time.**



### THE COMPOSER

#### PROFESSOR EMERITA ANNE BOYD AM

The Olive Pink Opera is the second of Anne Boyd's trilogy of music theatre works on significant Australian women, all of whom worked closely with Aboriginal people (Daisy Bates, Olive Pink and Annie Lock). An award-winning and prodigious composer, Anne has enjoyed a distinguished career as a music educator, graduating from the University of Sydney (BA Hons) and the University of York (PhD in composition). A pioneer woman in academia, she has been a strong advocate for equality of women through her academic leadership roles at the University of Sussex, the University of Hong Kong as the Head of the Department of Music, and as the first Australian and the first woman to be appointed Professor of Music at the University of Sydney.



Anne Boyd's music is strongly influenced by landscape and Aboriginal and Asian traditions of storytelling. The opera exemplifies her collaborative 'two ways' approach to storytelling.

### THE LOCATION

#### OLIVE PINK BOTANIC GARDEN

Olive Pink Botanic Garden was established by Olive Pink, a pioneering gardener. Experience this special place as the sun sets over the West MacDonnell Ranges and dusk gives way to the music of the Centralian night under the Milky Way.



Central  
Australian  
Aboriginal  
Women's Choir



# DESERT SONG FESTIVAL

The Desert Song Festival invites you to take the essential Australian Journey to Alice Springs where the unique story of human occupation, resilience and culture, will be celebrated in Central Australia's most popular festival in September.

The Festival draws on the depth of wisdom and culture of 60,000 years of human occupation of Central Australia to shape the program and to explore its theme of 'Sustainability', through music, song, storytelling, and symposia.

Come and celebrate the best of ourselves. Our cradle is Mparntwe (Alice Springs), the country of the Arrernte people, the traditional custodians. Our stages are unique locations of outstanding beauty and cultural significance, including the Olive Pink Botanic Garden.

» BOOK NOW! [www.trybooking.com/BWZDR](http://www.trybooking.com/BWZDR)



## SPONSORS

