

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 14 March 2016

The countdown is on for the most spectacular production of Puccini's Turandot ever staged**Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour 2016**

Opera Australia tonight unveiled the magnificent stage for this year's Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour production of **Turandot**, the biggest and most ambitious to date with two huge feature pieces dominating the over-water stage.

A giant 9m high and 60m long dragon incorporating the Great Wall of China and an 18m high illuminated pagoda will tower over the stage and set the scene for one of the most spectacular productions of *Turandot* ever staged.

As the soaring notes of the world's most famous aria, *Nessun Dorma* rang out over the waters of Sydney Harbour for the first time, Opera Australia's artistic director Lyndon Terracini is counting days to opening night on Thursday 24 March.

"We really have raised the bar this year," said Terracini.

"All the elements are coming together beautifully. We have some of the most talented artists in the world working on this event, from our director Chen Shi-Zheng and designer Dan Potra, through to our incredible cast and crew and all the supporting craftsmen and women who are working tirelessly to pull this together, it is going to be our most spectacular to date.

"We want everyone to come to *Turandot*. It's the perfect opportunity for people who have never been to an opera, and if you know *Turandot* already, then you're going to be amazed by this production," Terracini said.

Puccini's *Turandot* is a fantasy opera of poetry and myth, set in an exotic world where fear and love go hand in hand and death is always just around the corner. When Pavarotti sang out the top B in *Nessun Dorma* across a huge crowd at the 1990 FIFA World Cup, the world collectively held its breath. A generation of football fans were learning what opera was all about – music that can transport you to another world, another place, a place where emotion wells up inside you at the sound of a single note.

MEDIA RESOURCES: Download broadcast quality time-lapse of the dragon construction
http://opera.org.au/aboutus/media_centre

Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour *Turandot* runs from 24 March to 24 April 2016 and is proudly supported by the NSW Government through its tourism and major events agency Destination NSW.
Bookings: Tickets from \$70 + booking fee. Opera Australia Box Office (02) 9318 8200

www.opera.org.au

Media enquiries: Janet Glover (02) 9318 8246 / 0412 601 816 / janet.glover@opera.org.au

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