

O|PERA AUSTRALIA

Season 2015
Media Kit



*A year of masterpieces,
music theatre and McVicar!*

Opera Australia Announces 2015 Season

Opera Australia has announced details of its 2015 season, consolidating the recent success in building audiences, with a program that is uniquely audience-focused. Clear in its aim to grow audiences even further with masterpieces of opera and music theatre, the program for the year ahead is highly accessible, with a roster of artists at the top of their game. Now more than ever is the time to experience opera and to discover just why it's moved hearts and minds for so long.

Opera aficionados will relish the international talents now working regularly with Opera Australia. One of the highlights of 2015 is **Sir David McVicar**, who will direct three productions for Opera Australia this season. The renowned Scottish director brings a dramatic intensity from the theatre to his opera work. *Don Giovanni* will be presented in Melbourne following a dynamite season at the Sydney Opera House in 2014 – the first of three new Mozart productions he will present with Opera Australia over three years. The second is a new *The Marriage of Figaro* in both Sydney and Melbourne.

His celebrated, gothic production of *Faust*, first performed at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, will be staged at the Sydney Opera House during the summer season.

A dazzling line up of international singers will make their Opera Australia debut in 2015.

- **Michael Fabiano** – Lyndon Terracini says “Michael is one of the great tenors of today though he’s only just 30!” Fabiano will perform the title role in *Faust*.

- **Ferruccio Furlanetto** – Lyndon Terracini says “Ferruccio has earned his reputation as probably the greatest Basso Cantante alive.” Furlanetto will perform his signature role of King Phillip in *Don Carlos*.

- **Lise Lindstrom** – Lyndon Terracini says “Lise is widely considered the very best Turandot in the world today – and Australian audiences will soon see why! She was spectacular when I saw her at Covent Garden and I’m thrilled she has agreed to join us in 2015.”

- **Anna Pirozzi** – Lyndon Terracini says “Anna is a genuine Verdi soprano with an incredible range.

When you find people who can sing Verdi the way it should be sung, then it’s absolutely thrilling. Anna is just that.” Pirozzi will perform in *Don Carlos*.

- **Maija Kovalevska** – Lyndon Terracini says “Maija Kovalevska is a true star. When I saw her at The Met recently, I knew we had to have her.” Kovalevska will perform as Mimi in the season opener, *La bohème*.

New initiatives pepper the 2015 season including an original work by **Kate Miller-Heidke**, called ***The Rabbits*** based on the beautiful Australian book by author John Marsden and artist Shaun Tan (a collaboration between Opera Australia and Barking Gecko Theatre Company). Opera Australia presents its **first Cole Porter musical, *Anything Goes*** in collaboration with John Frost, which will tour nationally throughout the year. And the now annual **Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour will grow** into a four-week season over Easter with its grandest opera yet - a brand new production of the grand spectacle, ***Aida***.

Complementing the new initiatives are a line-up of true **masterpieces of the repertoire** showcased by master performers of today, making it a year to see the greatest operas in the repertoire performed at their absolute best. Opera highlights will include the lavishly staged **Don Carlos** with its Velázquez-inspired painterly sets and cast of thousands, directed by Elijah Moshinsky; the gothic story of angel-turned-devil **Faust** directed by Sir David McVicar; and John Bell's spectacular and dramatic telling of **Tosca** which returns to Sydney.

Bringing masterpieces to life throughout 2015 are some very special **international artists** who now include Opera Australia in their regular performing circuit:

- **Giorgio Caoduro** who so impressed Sydney critics and audiences alike for his magnificent Rigoletto last season, will delight as Valentin in *Faust*.

- Audiences fell in love with Korean tenor **Yonghoon Lee** for his role in *Tosca* last year and in the coming season he will play Calaf in *Turandot*, opposite Lise Lindstrom.

- **Paolo Bordogna** was a smash hit in *The Turk in Italy* earlier this year – an immense talent both as a singer and actor. He returns to Sydney for *The Marriage of Figaro* in 2015.

- **Alexia Voulgaridou**, the Greek soprano who won hearts as *Tosca* in 2013, will return to play Cio-Cio-San in *Madama Butterfly* in Sydney.

- **Dalibor Jenis**, an intense and impressive Onegin earlier last season will tackle the role of the Count in *The Marriage of Figaro*.

Home-grown talents continue to flourish, with some outstanding star performers in some big roles. **Teddy Tahu Rhodes** has a year exploring his dark side, as the devil in *Faust*, and as the heartless *Don Giovanni*. **Nicole Car** showed her true star quality in *Eugene Onegin* last season, and in this coming year she tackles some major roles, under the guidance of Sir David McVicar. First she is the lover-turned-mad

Marguerite in *Faust*, opposite Teddy Tahu Rhodes and Michael Fabiano. Next she plays the maiden Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni*. And finally she takes on the role of the conniving Countess in *The Marriage of Figaro*.

Renowned conductors are amongst the many highlights of the 2015 season. Newcomers Andrea Battistoni (*Tosca*) and Gianluca Martinenghi (*Madama Butterfly*) will join a stellar international line up of conductors now making regular guest appearances with Opera Australia. They include Christian Badea (*Turandot*), Renato Palumbo (*La Traviata*), Andrea Molino (*La bohème*), Guillaume Tourniaire (*Faust, Madama Butterfly*), Andrea Licata (*Don Carlos*) and Jonathan Darlington (*The Marriage of Figaro*). Esteemed local conductors Benjamin Northey, Brian Castles-Onion and Anthony Legge also feature in the year's stable.

The year of masterpieces opens and closes with the traditional New Year's Eve extravaganza featuring two performances at the Sydney Opera House, plus pre-show fine dining and the Midnight Party held in the city's best location. The glass-fronted foyers that play host to these special events afford unrivalled views of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the spectacular fireworks, around which the performances and events are timed to perfection. For the opera lover, the tourist, or the Sydney-sider wanting to experience the best of their city on this special night, New Year's Eve with Opera Australia is the ultimate way to spend the night.

Opera Australia offers subscription packages ranging from three performances to the complete set, with pricing to fit all budgets. Under 30s can put together a package starting from \$180. And those not wanting to miss a thing can see the full year of opera including *Anything Goes* and *Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour: Aida* in one spectacular year of performances.

Details and bookings: opera.org.au

The 2015 Season is an operatic hit parade. Don't miss these highlights:

Nessun dorma in *Turandot*

Signore, ascolta! in *Turandot*

Un bel di Vedremo in *Madama Butterfly*

Vissi d'arte in *Tosca*

Te Deum in *Tosca*

Brindisi in *La Traviata*

The Soldiers' Chorus in *Faust*

Song of the Golden Calf in *Faust*

Marguerite's Jewel Song in *Faust*

The Triumphal March in *Aida*

Celesta Aida in *Aida*

Porgi amor in *The Marriage of Figaro*

Plus

It's De-Lovely in *Anything Goes*

I Get a Kick Out of You in *Anything Goes*

Media

Enquiries:

Imogen Corlette, National PR & Communications Manager
(02) 9318 8327 // 0410 520 776 // imogen.corlette@opera.org.au

Sarah Wilson, Senior Publicist

(02) 9318 8332 // 0405 364 643 // sarah.wilson@opera.org.au

Resources:

Downloadable images, video clips and media releases can be found in the media centre of Opera Australia's website opera.org.au

PRINCIPAL PARTNER



HERO PARTNERS



GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



PERFORMANCE PARTNERS





Sydney Summer Opera

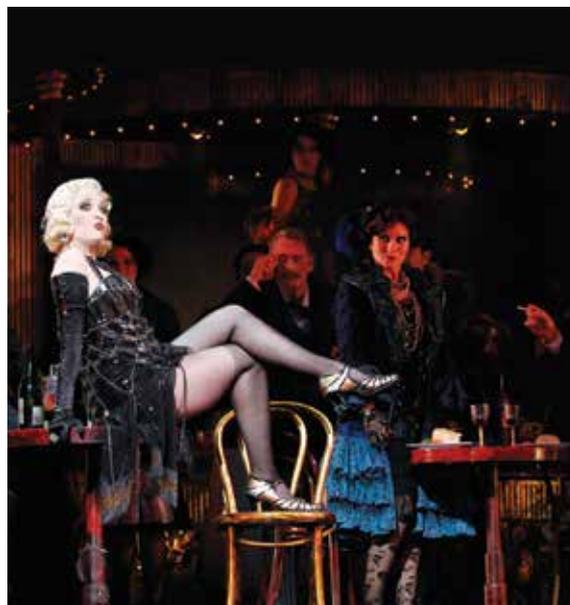
La bohème

Nearly 120 years after Puccini wrote his smash-hit *La bohème*, this story of first love is still performed more than any other opera. The tale of four friends living for art and love is eternal: even cold winters and empty pockets can't take away the lure of a bohemian life.

Gale Edwards sets Puccini's emotional music in the streets of 1930s Berlin, amid the colourful chaos of street fairs and burlesque bars, fairylights and fishnet stockings.

Hear Metropolitan Opera star Maija Kovalevska sing the role of Mimì in this glittering production that finds a place for spectacle and lets passion speak for itself. *La bohème* also features Mexican tenor Diego Torre, as well as local favourites Lorina Gore and Andrew Jones. Conducted by Andrea Molino.

La bohème opens at Sydney Opera House on New Year's Eve, with additional performances on January 3, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16.



The Magic Flute

Emma Matthews makes her debut as The Queen of the Night in this well-loved version of *The Magic Flute*. Created especially for families, Julie Taymor's production of Mozart's famous pantomime is full of colourful, larger-than-life puppets, enchanting stilt-walkers and fantasy characters. Jam-packed with great tunes and witty English-language dialogue, it's a great introduction to opera for people of all ages.

The Magic Flute stars Australian singers Emma Matthews, Samuel Dundas, Taryn Fiebig and Daniel Sumegi. Conducted by Anthony Legge.

The Magic Flute opens at Sydney Opera House on January 2, 2015, and runs until January 30.



Tosca

The story of an ordinary woman in extraordinary circumstances, *Tosca* is a gripping drama. She has found true love in a time of war and secrets, but the powerful Scarpia desires her for his own. To save her lover, she will risk everything. In her agony, she sings the famous 'Vissi d'arte' (I lived for art), one of those exquisite arias you must hear live in your lifetime. Australia's master of the stage, John Bell has created a thrilling, realistic production of this powerful drama that will leave your heart breaking – and gasping for more.

Tosca stars international artists Amanda Echalaz, Riccardo Massi and Claudio Sgura, with young Italian conductor Andrea Battistoni.

Tosca opens at Sydney Opera House on January 13, 2015, and runs until March 17.



Madama Butterfly

A woman capable of great love, a man transfixed by exotic beauty – *Madama Butterfly* is one of the world's great love stories. With a stunning set and costume design inspired by Japan, the combination of wood, water, coloured silks and flames on stage is breathtaking in its elegant simplicity. Get swept up in Puccini's rousing music as the opera takes you from love, to wonder, to hope and at last, despair. This is one of Opera Australia's most loved productions, directed by Moffatt Oxenbould.

Madama Butterfly stars international soprano Alexia Voulgaridou and Australian tenor James Egglestone, and is conducted by Gianluca Martinenghi.

Madama Butterfly opens at Sydney Opera House on January 27, 2015 and runs until March 18.



Faust

Two true stars of Australian opera make their role debuts in this timeless opera about temptation and redemption. Teddy Tahu Rhodes plays the alluring yet debauched devil, leading the hero astray. Nicole Car is the embodiment of beauty as the innocent, desirable Marguerite. This elaborate production created for Covent Garden by David McVicar will leave you asking: what would I give up my soul for?

Guillaume Tourniaire conducts a star-studded cast including international stars Michael Fabiano and Giorgio Caoduro, together with Nicole Car and Teddy Tahu Rhodes.

Faust opens at Sydney Opera House on February 17, 2015 and runs until March 13.



Special Events

Aida

NEW PRODUCTION

Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour has become the hottest ticket in town, and in 2016, it's going to be bigger than ever. *Aida* is the grandest of all operas: a gilded, glamorous epic set in Ancient Egypt, with the famous 'Triumphal March' and huge battle scenes. What grander setting is there than the sparkling water-top stage on Sydney Harbour? You'll be seduced by Verdi's masterpiece, which puts the intimate affairs of the heart against the grandeur of the universe.

Directed by Gale Edwards, with Set and Costume Designs by Mark Thomson and conducted by Brian Castles-Onion, *Aida* features international artists Latonia Moore and Daria Masiero alternating in the title roles opposite Roberto Aronica and Arnold Rawls as Radamès.

Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour: *Aida* opens on March 27, 2015 and runs until April 26.



The Rabbits

NEW COMMISSION

Kate Miller-Heidke turns her remarkable talents to opera in 2015, writing an exciting new work based on the beautiful picture book *The Rabbits*, by John Marsden and Shaun Tan. This original and truly Australian performance is brought to life with a contemporary yet ethereal score composed by Miller-Heike, who will also perform the lead role alongside Opera Australia artists. Gabriela Tylesova's kooky sets and costumes realise Tan's pictures in all of their mystical wonder, while Lally Katz has turned Marsden's poetic words into an enchanting libretto.

The Rabbits is a story for Australians of all ages: an allegory of Australia's settlement set in a landscape of larger-than-life machines and mystical birds. This work promises to be a milestone work of theatre, and a delight for the whole family.

An Opera Australia and Barking Gecko Theatre Company co-production. In association with West Australian Opera. Commissioned by Melbourne Festival and Perth International Arts Festival.

The Rabbits will premiere at the Perth International Festival on 13 February, and runs for eight performances. *The Rabbits* will then run as part of Melbourne Festival from October 9, and runs for eight performances, until October 13.



Anything Goes

NEW PRODUCTION

Opera Australia and John Frost are proud to present Cole Porter's smash-hit musical comedy, *Anything Goes*. For decades, *Anything Goes* has captivated millions with its delightful story of madcap antics aboard the *S.S. American*, featuring some of Cole Porter's best songs including "You're The Top"

and "I Get A Kick Out Of You". Winner of three Tony Awards during its most recent Broadway revival, *Anything Goes* is a stunning nautical favourite.

All aboard for this brand new Australian production of *Anything Goes* sailing into Melbourne from June 2015 and touring to Brisbane before docking in Sydney from September 8, 2015.



New Year's Eve

It's the ultimate spot to watch the spectacular fireworks that ring in Sydney's New Year: the Sydney Opera House itself. Opera Australia celebrates New Year's Eve with two separate performances in the two famous sails to choose from: the glittering

Gala Concert or the glamorous *La bohème*. Don't miss the lavish Midnight Party – held in the Opera House' glass foyers on the harbour's edge, with an unrivalled view of the fireworks.

December 31 from 5.30pm.



Melbourne Autumn

Madama Butterfly

A woman capable of great love, a man transfixed by exotic beauty – *Madama Butterfly* is one of the world's great love stories. With a stunning set and costume design inspired by Japan, the combination of wood, water, coloured silks and flames on stage is breathtaking in its elegant simplicity. Get swept up in Puccini's rousing music as the opera takes you from love, to wonder, to hope and at last, despair. This is one of Opera Australia's most loved productions, directed by Moffatt Oxenbould.

Two sensational international artists appear; Svetla Vassileva as Cio-Cio San and Nester Martorell Perez as Pinkerton. Guillaume Tourniaire conducts.

Madama Butterfly opens at Arts Centre Melbourne on May 4 and runs until May 30.



Don Giovanni

See Teddy Tahu Rhodes in the role he was born to sing: the legendary Casanova with more than 2,000 women in his 'little black book'. His magnetic stage presence and dark, deep voice are a perfect match for Mozart's swoon-worthy serenades. Emma Matthews joins the cast, playing Donna Anna, and Nicole Car is Donna Elvira. David McVicar's provocative production offers

plenty to think about amid a visual feast of period dresses and a dramatic set with plenty of places for an anti-hero to hide.

Teddy Tahu Rhodes leads an all-star Australian cast.

Don Giovanni opens at Arts Centre Melbourne on May 11 and runs until May 30.



Don Carlos

The rarely performed opera *Don Carlos* is simply exquisite. Fiendishly difficult, it takes singers at the top of their game, well-versed in Verdi, to do it justice. When it is, it's an elaborate affair: eighteen principal singers in lavish Spanish period costumes, a huge chorus and 140 extras, a dark marble set and a burning at the stake. This is bound to be the opera-lovers' highlight of 2015. Don't miss hearing some of the world's best singers in this truly spectacular political

thriller directed by Elijah Moshinsky in his first new production in twenty years.

Conducted by Andrea Licata, *Don Carlos* features international artists Anna Pirozzi, Diego Torre and Giacomo Prestia together with major Australian artists José Carbó and Milijana Nikolic.

Don Carlos opens at Arts Centre Melbourne on May 20 and runs until May 29.



Sydney Winter

Turandot

You've heard the hit, 'Nessun dorma'. Now see the opera: an exotic adventure of poetry and myth, set in a world where fear and love go hand in hand and death is always just around the corner. After astounding audiences in last year's *Tosca*, powerhouse tenor Yonghoon Lee will sing that glorious, victorious aria made famous by Pavarotti. Opposite Lee is Lise Lindstrom, the most famous Turandot in the world today. Christian Badea conducts.

Turandot opens at the Sydney Opera House on June 24, 2015 and runs until August 28.



La Traviata

Velvet dresses and heaving bosoms, lavish party scenes and intimate arias – *La Traviata* is the quintessential operatic tragedy. With rousing music including ‘Sempre libre’ and the famous drinking song, the ‘Brindisi’ set against a spectacular set, it’s a perfect escape from our everyday life. This sumptuous production is an Opera Australia classic featuring Lorina Gore in her role debut for Opera Australia, opposite young international tenor Rame Lahaj and conductor Renato Palumbo.

La Traviata opens at Sydney Opera House on July 3, 2015 and runs until July 22.



Don Carlos

The rarely performed opera *Don Carlos* is simply exquisite. Fiendishly difficult, it takes singers at the top of their game, well-versed in Verdi, to do it justice. When it is, it’s an elaborate affair: eighteen principal singers in lavish Spanish period costumes, a huge chorus and 140 extras, a dark marble set and a burning at the stake. This is bound to be the opera-lovers’ highlight of 2015. Don’t miss hearing some of the world’s best singers in this truly spectacular political thriller directed by Elijah Moshinsky in his first new production in twenty years.

Conducted by Verdi specialist Andrea Licata, *Don Carlos* stars Mexican tenor Diego Torre, Australian baritone José Carbó, and Italian bass Ferruccio Furlanetto.

Don Carlos opens at the Sydney Opera House on July 15, 2015 and runs until August 15.



The Marriage of Figaro

Upstairs, downstairs, inside, outside, dressups and dressing downs: this is the Downton Abbey of opera, but a whole lot more fun! Figaro is marrying Susanna, but the Count wants to bed her first. Marcellina wants Figaro and the Countess just wants her husband back. Masters lusting over servants, servants outwitting their masters – Mozart’s comic masterpiece is an hilarious account of a household’s adventures over one crazy day.

David McVicar directs a cast of gifted comic singers including international artists Dalibor Jeniš and Paolo Bordogna alongside Australians Nicole Car and Taryn Fiebig, conducted by Jonathan Darlington.

The Marriage of Figaro opens at the Sydney Opera House on August 6 and runs until August 29.



Melbourne Spring

The Marriage of Figaro

Upstairs, downstairs, inside, outside, dressups and dressing downs: this is the Downton Abbey of opera, but a whole lot more fun! Figaro is marrying Susanna, but the Count wants to bed her first. Marcellina wants Figaro and the Countess just wants her husband back. Masters lusting over servants, servants outwitting their masters – Mozart’s comic masterpiece is a hilarious account of a household’s adventures over one crazy day. David McVicar directs a cast of Australia’s best comic singers.

Anthony Legge will conduct Shane Lorencev, Nicole Car, Andrew Jones and Taryn Fiebig through this comic masterpiece.

The Marriage of Figaro opens at Arts Centre Melbourne on November 12 and runs until November 28.



The Elixir of Love

Donizetti’s sparkling Italian comedy gets the rural Aussie treatment, in an hilarious adaptation by Australia’s king of comedy Simon Phillips. An all-star Australian cast turn their hands to this tale of the hapless Nemorino, lovesick and desperately seeking a miracle potion to win the love of a pretty girl. A travelling larrikin promises he has just the thing...

Expect country slang, corrugated iron sheep and that irresistible Australian sense of humour.

Benjamin Northey conducts a stellar cast of Australian artists including Rachelle Durkin, Aldo Di Toro, Andrew Jones and Conal Coad.

The Elixir of Love opens at Arts Centre Melbourne on November 21 and runs until November 28.



In the Community

Mazda Opera in the Domain

It's become a Sydney tradition – every year, thousands of people head to the Domain with picnics packed and friends in tow. In 2015, they're in for a treat: a free concert of opera's best loved arias sung by some of

Opera Australia's brightest stars. Performed under the stars with the backing of a full orchestra, it's a delightful way to spend a midsummer's eve.

Saturday, January 24 at 8pm.



Regional Tour: The Magic Flute

Thousands of people across regional Australia will fall in love with the Indiana-Jones inspired touring production of *The Magic Flute* when it continues in 2015. Michael Gow has brought Mozart's popular fantasy firmly down to earth with his comedic and adventurous English-language version of the classic hero's tale. Full of catchy music, pop culture references and plenty of laughs, it's an adventure for the whole family. *The Magic Flute* will tour Queensland, the Northern Territory, Western Australia and Victoria.

11 July till 22 August.



Opera Australia on social media

Online Media Room on OA Website: opera.org.au

- High res production images
- Media releases
- Broadcast quality video clips
- Broadcast quality audio clips

The Opera Blog: theoperablog.com

- Behind the scenes news, photos and insights
- Artist blogs
- Making of... props, sets, costumes, opera
- International opera round up – every Friday

Opera Australia is on

Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram

Team Contacts

Imogen Corlette, National PR & Communications Manager

Imogen.corlette@opera.org.au (02) 9318 8327

Sarah Wilson, Senior Publicist

Sarah.wilson@opera.org.au (02) 9318 8332

Elizabeth Matkovich, PR Coordinator

Elizabeth.matkovich@opera.org.au (02) 9318 8331

PRINCIPAL PARTNER



HERO PARTNERS



GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



PERFORMANCE PARTNERS

