

MEDIA RELEASE
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***La Traviata* to make a triumphant return to the Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour stage in 2020**



Opera Australia today announced the return of its spectacular production of Verdi's hugely popular *La Traviata* to the Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour stage in March and April 2020.

The inaugural Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour in 2012, *La Traviata* opened to great fanfare and success, marking the beginning of an annual event that has grown bigger and better every year.

Opera Australia's Artistic Director Lyndon Terracini is thrilled to be presenting this iconic opera in an arena that has established a firm reputation as one of the world's greatest outdoor theatrical experiences.

"Bringing back *La Traviata* has a sense of nostalgia. This event has come so far in the last nine years and has successfully brought the art of opera to so many new audiences. We are proud of what we have accomplished," Mr Terracini said.

Minister for Tourism Stuart Ayres said Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour continues to go from strength to strength.

"This event is like no other – combining world-class performances, colourful costumes, majestic sets and exhilarating fireworks with the unbeatable backdrop of Sydney Harbour," Mr Ayres said.

"More than 62,000 tickets were sold for the 2019 Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour production of *West Side Story*, which is an incredible result.

"It is clear why Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour is regarded as a must-see event on our State's cultural calendar, as it continues to attract audiences from every corner of the globe. I have no doubt the return of the quintessential opera *La Traviata* will be bigger and better than ever before."

Director Constantine Costi will take the reins for the first time in 2020 to present a production based on celebrated director Francesca Zambello's original production.

Daring set designer Brian Thomson will return to conjure a new vision of Verdi's classic, confirming he will be keeping the breathtaking 9 metre high chandelier with its glistening 10,000 crystals that wowed the crowds in 2012.

The show-stopping aria 'Sempre Libera' and the legendary drinking song 'Brindisi' will be elegantly performed by an outstanding cast and conducted by acclaimed maestro Brian Castles-Onion who will be making a welcome return to the overwater stage.

Attracting more than 400,000 attendees from across Australia and around the globe since its inception, Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour is considered a signature not-to-be-missed event for Sydney locals and visitors.

It brings together internationally celebrated singers, musicians and creative talent to an open stage set against the stunning sunset backdrop of Sydney's skyline. Hailed as the perfect night out, the custom-built site includes an impressive range of themed dining and drinking options that make the most of the magnificent harbour views.

For the first time, guests can purchase dinner and show packages as soon as tickets go on sale to the public later this month. An Italian-inspired menu will be on offer at the Travel Associates Platinum Club, the finest pop-up harbourside dining venue in town.

Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour is supported by the NSW Government via its tourism and major events agency Destination NSW and Dr Haruhisa Handa through the International Foundation for Arts and Culture.

Cast

To be announced

Creatives

Based on an original production by Francesca Zambello

Conductor | Brian Castles-Onion

Director | Constantine Costi

Set Designer | Brian Thomson

Original Costume Designer | Tess Schofield

Lighting Designer | John Rayment

Performance Details

27 March – 26 April 2020

Excluding Good Friday on 10 April.

Performed in Italian with English and Simplified Chinese subtitles

Runtime 2 hours 35 minutes including one interval

Bookings

Tickets will be on sale to the public from 16 July 2019

Sign up to receive email from Opera Australia to access pre-sale tickets.

<https://opera.org.au/e-signup>

Single adult tickets from \$99 (fees may apply)

Group and concession prices available for most performances.

Opera Australia Box Office

02 9318 8200

Media Enquiries

For interview and image requests please contact:

Publicist | Emma O'Brien

+61 2 9318 8242 | +61 423 453 307

emma.o'brien@opera.org.au

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