# Opera Clife Amplified



Mazda Summer of Opera 3 January – 26 March Sydney Opera House www.opera-australia.org.au



# Experience the power of the voice

# Do you you believe in love at first sight? Do you believe in magic? And do believe in destiny?

You will.

You will when you take a walk beside a moonlit harbour, step inside one of the world's most beautiful buildings and drink in the sparkling atmosphere of a night at the opera.

Then the music starts and your journey really begins. This summer, Puccini's Madama Butterfly takes you to Japan, and the Cavalleria

Rusticana and Pagliacci double bill is a night in steamy Southern Italy. Meanwhile, in the South of France, a young man loses his heart, and in Russia a housewife behaves very badly. Finally, Mozart's The Magic Flute takes you to an enchanted forest which is literally out of this world.

If you are tempted by three or more productions you can ring Opera Australia Ticket Services to secure great seats and extra savings with a Choose Your Own subscription.

# Planning your first summer of opera?

Treat yourself to not one but two magical nights with our Summer Nights package: two of the best, in A Reserve seats, for just \$250, a saving of \$146.

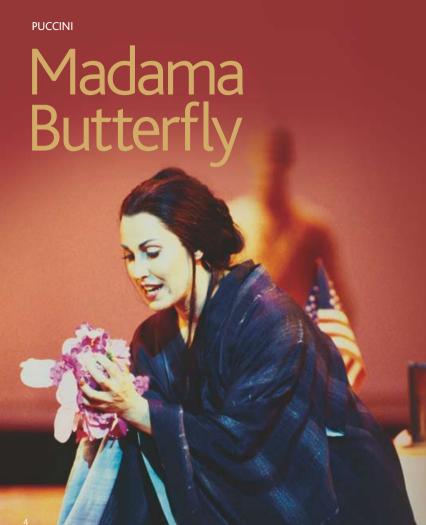
- Madama Butterfly is the perfect first opera, a night of music, dance and story-telling with gorgeous costumes and spectacular scenery
- Cavelleria rusticana/Pagliacci is a perfect partner – unfamiliar names, perhaps, but the music is instantly recognizable and the fast-moving tales of passion make for a thrilling night in the theatre.

MADAMA BUTTERFLY Monday 19 January 2009 or Monday 23 March 2009

and

CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA/ PAGLIACCI (CAV/PAG) Friday 23 January 2009 or Tuesday 3 February 2009

There are a few conditions: there are no exchanges or refunds. There are limited seats available and this offer is only valid until 31 January 2009 by calling Opera Australia Ticket Services on 02 9318 3200. So get out your diary and book now for two sensational summer nights.



Exquisite. It's the word used time and again to describe the music, the production and the star of this classic tale of love. Opera Australia is thrilled to welcome back Cheryl Barker to the classic production originally created for her, and an exciting new Butterfly, Antoinette Halloran, to follow.

While Puccini's music captures the wonder of love at first sight, the silk, paper, water and candlelight of the sets and costumes form the delicate backdrop for this most touching of stories.

At heart a simple tale of love and loss, it tells of the Japanese geisha, Madame Butterfly, and the American sailor who promises to love her. But when the time comes for him to sail away home, will he keep his promise? Find out when you experience this moving production of one of the world's favourite operas.

Evenings at 7.30pm:

December 30
January 3 | 6 | 9 | 14 | 19 | 21 | 24 | 29
February 4 | 7 | 10 | 13 | 18 | 25 | 27
March 4 | 7 | 13 | 16 | 23

latinees at 1pm: January 17 | February 21

Performed in Italian with surtitles. Running time: two hours and forty-five minutes including one twenty-minute interval. Conductor

Shao-Chia Lü (until Jan 29) Tom Woods

Director

Moffatt Oxenbould

Set & Costume Designers Peter England & Russell Cohen

Lighting Designer Robert Bryan

Cio-Cio-San Cheryl Barker Antoinette Halloran (from Jan 19 to Mar 4)

Suzuki
Catherine Carby

Registrar

Gregory Brown

Pinkerton Julian Gavin (until Jan 29)

Rosario La Spina

Graeme Macfarlane

Yamadori Luke Gabbedy (until Feb 13)

Andrew Jones

Andrew Moran

Sharpless Barry Ryan

Bonze Jud Arthur

Opera Australia Chorus Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra

Sponsored by

Commonwealth Bank



MASCAGNI | LEONCAVALLO

# Cavalleria rusticana Pagliacci From the heart of St two tales bundled in night at the theatre

From the heart of Southern Italy come two tales bundled into one enthralling night at the theatre. 'Cav and Pag', as this much-loved double bill is best known, is opera at its best: a fistful of characters crazy for love, singing some of the most beautiful music you will ever hear.

In Cavalleria rusticana trouble brews – over a girl, of course – between two hot-blooded lads in a small village in Sicily. Then in Pagliacci a band of travelling players come to town and a dramatic crime of passion plays out.

In this atmospheric production two consummate masters of their art, Dennis O'Neill and Jonathan Summers, take the central roles opposite leading ladies Nicole Youl and Amelia Farrugia. Laugh, cry and melt into the glorious musical melodrama of this perfect introduction to opera.

Evenings at 7.30pm: January 10 | 15 | 17 | 20 | 23 | 28 February 3 | 6 | 12

Matinee at 1pm: February 14

Performed in Italian with surtitles. Running time: two hours and fifty-five minutes including one thirty-minute interval. Conductor Andrea Licata

Director
Andrew Sinclair

Set Designer Shaun Gurton

Costume Designer Victoria Rowell

Lighting Designer **Donn Byrnes** 

# Cavalleria rusticana

Santuzza Nicole Youl

Mamma Lucia Jacqueline Dark

Turiddu Dennis O'Neill

Alfio Jonathan Summers

# Pagliacci

Nedda **Amelia Farrugia** 

Canio Dennis O'Neill

Beppe Stephen Smith

Silvio José Carbó

Tonio Jonathan Summers

Opera Australia Chorus Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra

An Opera Conference co-production

**MOZART** 

# The Magic Flute

(Die Zauberflöte)

Prince Tamino and the lovely Pamina are lost in a mysterious land of fantastical creatures and strange characters. Will they be steadfast, will they discover the truth, and will they find each other? Welcome to the enchanting world of *The Magic Flute*.

David Freeman's daring production of Mozart's final work for the theatre combines a talented array of singers with the aerial wizardry of physical theatre company Legs on the Wall. Expect exotic beasts, dancing animals and death-defying stunts. Above all, be amazed by Mozart's music, which reaches out to young and old.

Evenings at 7.30pm:

January 22 | 27 | 30

February 2 | 5 | 11 | 14 | 17 | 19 | 21 | 26 | 28

March 5 | 10 | 19

Matinees at 1pm: January 24 | February 7

Performed in German with English dialogue and surtitles.

Running time: two hours and fifty minutes including one twenty-minute interval.

Sponsored by



Conductor Ollivier-Philippe Cunéo Director David Freeman Set & Costume Designer Dan Potra

Lighting Designer Damien Cooper

Choreographer **Debra Batton** 

Sarastro

Daniel Sumegi

Tamino Andrew Goodwin (until Feb 11) Henry Choo

Speaker **Stephen Bennett** 

Priest
Graeme Macfarlane

Queen of the Night Lorina Gore

Pamina Emma Matthews (until Mar 5) Hye Seoung Kwon

Hye Seoung Kwor First Lady Sarah Crane

Second Lady
Catherine Carby

Third Lady Dominica Matthews

Papageno
Warwick Fyfe (until Mar 5)
Andrew Moran

Monostatos Kanen Breen

First Armoured Man Andrew Brunsdon

Second Armoured Man Richard Anderson

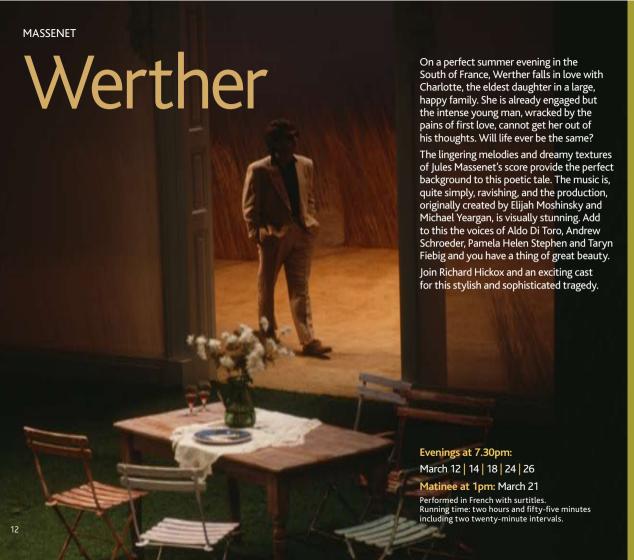
Opera Australia Chorus Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra



Conductor Richard Hickox Director Francesca Zambello Set Designer Hildegard Bechtler Costume Designer Tess Schofield Lighting Designer Jean Kallman

**Boris Ismailov** John Wegner Zinovy Ismailov David Corcoran Katerina Ismailova Susan Bullock Sergei Simon O'Neill Aksinva / Woman Convict Iacqueline Dark Shabby Peasant / Teacher Kanen Breen Steward / Sentry Richard Anderson Sergeant / Porter Barry Ryan Foreman 1 / Coachman Stephen Smith Foreman 2 Graeme Macfarlane Mill-Hand / Foreman 3 **David Thelander** Priest Gennadi Dubinsky Chief of Police Warwick Fyfe Policeman Shane Lowrencev Drunk Guest David Lewis Sonyetka Dominica Matthews Old Convict **Jud Arthur** 

Opera Australia Chorus Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra



Richard Hickox

Elijah Moshinsky

Revival Directo Elke Neidhardt

Michael Yeargan

Costumes based on a concept by Michael Yeargan

Costumes provided by designers from The Strand

Lighting Designer Robert Bryan

Sophie Taryn Fiebig

Charlotte
Pamela Helen Stephen

Aldo Di Toro

Stephen Smith

Albert

Andrew Schroeder

Le Bailli **Stephen Bennett** 

Johann **David Thelander** 

Opera Australia Children's Chorus Australian Opera an Ballet Orchestra

ponsored by



# Introduction to Opera

# Thinking about going to the opera for the first time?

Our 2008 seasons have plenty to offer the first time opera-goer.

Here are some considerations as you embark on your love affair with great musical entertainment which, we believe, will ensure your first opera experience is an enjoyable one.

# Choose familiar operas

When choosing your first opera it's important to consider your familiarity with the story and the music. Many people will have heard the famous 'Toreador aria' from *Carmen* or heard the famous duet from *The Pearlfishers*.

Opera Australia's website www. opera-australia.org.au has a page summary on each opera and an 'Opera for Beginners' page to help you decide.

# Check the length

You probably don't want to be sitting through six hours of Wagner on your first visit - so check the length of the show. Most operas are between two and three hours, with at least one interval, but some are even shorter.

# Let the surtitles tell the story

There's no language barrier at the opera any more with all performances presented with surtitles – instant English translations of the opera, projected on a screen above the stage. Even operas that are sung in English have surtitles, so there's no need to worry about not understanding the story. If you wear glasses don't forget to bring them along!

# But I don't have anything to wear! If you don't know what to wear, the

answer is: dress comfortably. These days black tie and evening dresses are certainly not compulsory opera attire, although it can be fun to 'frock-up' occasionally.

# Attend an Opera Talk and hear the stories behind the operas

Members of Opera Australia's artistic team share their insights into each opera 45 minutes before selected Opera Australia performances. Held at the Sydney Opera House, these informal, informative talks help you get the most out of your opera-going experience.

# Call Opera Australia

If you're still unsure, call Opera Australia on (02) 9318 8200 and have a chat to one of our experienced Customer Services. Operators about which opera would best suit you, because it's really important when experiencing opera for the first time to choose the right one.

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# The Domain, 8pm Saturday 31 January Opera Australia presents –

Cavelleria rusticana and Pagliacci

It is time to put the champagne on ice and pack the picnic for one of Sydney's favourite nights out: Mazda Opera in the Domain. This year get ready for double delight as we present two one-act operas. Cavalliera rusticana and Pagliacci - Cav and Pag to their friends – will transport you to the passionate heart of Southern Italy. On the way you will hear the amazing vocal talents of Dennis O'Neill, Jonathan Summers, Nicole Youl and Amelia Farrugia with the Opera Australia Chorus and Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra, all conducted by Maestro Andrea Licata.

Performed in Italian with surtitles. IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

The range of food and beverages is available in the Domain from early afternooon to the end of the evening, or you can bring your own picnic. For the comfort of our patrons high chairs and beach umbrellas are not allowed and, to protect the lawns, plastic sheeting and ice are not permitted on the grass. opera domain



Venue Supporter



SPECIAL CONCERT PERFORMANC

# Radiance

# Richard Hickox conducts a dazzling celebration of the voice

The exquisite soprano line soars with elegiac loveliness over the rich orchestral sound of Strauss's Four Last Songs. At last, an opportunity to hear the glorious voice of Cheryl Barker in these transcendent duets for orchestra and singer.

Welcome to a very special night of the year, the night when Australia's most versatile orchestra steps out of the pit and into the limelight. The Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra are in the Opera Theatre for over 250 performances of opera and ballet each year but for this performance they will fill the Concert Hall of the Sydney Opera House with radiant sounds.

Cheryl Barker is the perfect partner for Strauss's masterly final work, and the Opera Australia Chorus will also shine in Rossini's wonderfully theatrical Stabat Mater. Resphigi's vivid tone poem, The Pines of Rome completes an evening of vocal and orchestral brilliance not to be missed.

## **TICKET PRICES PER PERSON**

Reserve	Prem	A Res	B Res	C Res
Full price	\$123	\$105	\$92	\$72
Conc	\$118	\$100	\$87	\$67



8pm Friday 20 March 2009 Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House

Pines of Rome (Pini di Roma) | Ottorino Respighi

Four Last Songs (Vier letzte Lieder) | Richard Strauss

Stabat Mater | Gioachino Rossini

Conductor Richard Hickox with Cheryl Barker

Opera Australia Chorus Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra



# PURVELL & HANDEL NEW PRODUCTION Baroque Masterpieces



Yvonne Kenny reveals the perils of love as noble Queen Dido in Purcell's Dido and Aeneas, while Taryn Fiebig breaks a monster's heart in a new production of Handel's one act wonder, Acis and Galatea, directed by Patrick Nolan and conducted by Antony Walker.

Evenings at 7.30pm: June 27 July 1 | 3 | 9 | 14 | 18 Matinee at 1pm: July 11

# VERDI NEW PRODUCTION Aida



There will be love and death amongst the pyramids as the thundering choruses and spine-tingling arias of Verdi's grandest opera come to Sydney for the first time in twenty years. One of Australia's true visionaries, Graeme Murphy directs an epic new production.

# Evenings at 7.30pm:

July 7 | 11 | 15 | 21 | 29 August 1 | 5 | 8 | 15 | 19 | 28 | 31 September 3 | 8 | 11 | 15

Matinees at 1pm: July 18 | 25 August 22 September 19

# Manon Lescaut



Manon faces a stark choice: a heartless life of luxury or impoverished happiness. Which will she choose? Cheryl Barker plays the free-spirited beauty in this sumptuous production of Puccini's romantic adventure.

# Fidelio



Beethoven's one and only opera burns with the spirit of revolution as brave Leonore risks her all to release Florestan. Jonathan Darlington conducts heroic voices of Lisa Gasteen, Julian Gavin, Peter Coleman-Wright and the Opera Australia Chorus in a stirring battle for freedom

Evenings at 7.30pm: July 16 | 22 | 28 | 31 August 6 | 10 | 13

Evening at 8pm: July 25

Evenings at 7.30pm:

July 30 August 4 | 7 | 12 | 18 | 21 | 24 | 26 | 29

Matinee at 1pm: August 15

# NEW PRODUCTION The Capulets and the Montagues



Opera Australia's first ever production of Bellini's bel canto masterpiece brings together soprano Emma Matthews and contralto Catherine Carby for a dramatic, visual and vocal extravaganza. Orpha Phelan directs a stylish new take on the runaway love of Romeo and Juliet.

Evenings at 7.30pm: August 11 | 14 | 20 | 22 September 1 5 9

Matinee at 1pm: August 29

# GILBERT & SULLIVAN The Mikado



Anthony Warlow stars as the Lord High Executioner with Tarvn Fiebig as the delectable Yum Yum in Gilbert and Sullivan's zany romp through love, life and death in the town of Titipu.

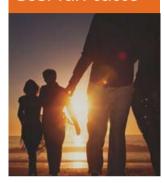
# Evenings at 7.30pm:

August 27 September 2 | 10 | 12 | 16 | 18 | 22 | 24 25 29 30 October 3 | 7 | 8 | 13 | 16 | 19 | 22 | 24 | 28 | 31

Matinees at 1pm: September 5 | 26 October 3 | 10 | 31

Wednesday matinee at 1pm: October 28

# NEW PRODUCTION Così fan tutte



Are all women the same? What about the men? Take a rollercoaster ride through innocence, experience and sexual intrigue when the legendary Jim Sharman directs a fresh look at Mozart's bittersweet romance.

#### Evenings at 7.30pm:

September 17 | 19 | 23 | 26 | 28 October 1 | 6 | 10 | 14 | 20 | 23 | 26 | 29

Matinee at 1pm: October 17

Sponsored by



# BRITTEN NEW PRODUCTION



Neil Armfield directs a new production of Benjamin Britten's masterpiece with Stuart Skelton in the title role. Peter Coleman-Wright as Captain Bulstrode and acclaimed British soprano Susan Gritton as Ellen Orford

Evenings at 7.30pm: October 15 | 17 | 21 | 27 | 30 Matinee at 1pm: October 24

# **TICKET PRICES**

#### OPERAS Reserve Mon-Fri & Saturday Matinees Evening Premium Full \$250 \$256 Conc \$225 A Res Full \$198 \$204 Conc \$178 R Res Full \$140 \$146 \$126 Conc C Res Full \$103 \$106 Conc \$93 D Res Full \$68 \$70 Conc

THE MIKADO				
Reserve	Mon-Fri & Matinees	Saturday Evening		
Premium Full	\$158	\$163		
Conc	\$142	-		
A Res Full	\$124	\$128		
Conc	\$112	-		
B Res Full	\$106	\$110		
Conc	\$95	-		
C Res Full	\$73	\$76		
Conc	\$66	-		
D Res Full	\$57	\$59		
Conc	\$57	-		

For children 16 years and under, a special child concession of \$50 is available for Matinee performances only. No concessions available on Saturday evenings.

# **CHOOSE YOUR OWN (CYO) PRICES**

Save money by buying three or more operas. Prices below are per opera.

		BUY 3 OPERAS		BUY 4 OR MORE OPERAS	
Reserve		Operas	The Mikado	Operas	The Mikado
Premium	Full	\$248	\$156	\$225	\$142
	Conc	\$223	\$140	\$203	\$128
A Res	Full	\$196	\$122	\$178	\$112
	Conc	\$176	\$110	\$160	\$101
B Res	Full	\$138	\$104	\$126	\$95
	Conc	\$124	\$93	\$113	\$86
C Res	Full	\$101	\$71	\$93	\$66
	Conc	\$91	\$64	\$84	\$59

# PACKAGE SUGGESTIONS

You can design your own opera package to suit your taste and budget. All you do is choose from between three and thirteen operas, selecting any performance dates listed in this brochure. Using the adjacent pricing tables, calculate the price per opera, the number of operas you wish to attend and then multiply this by the total number of people attending. To get you started, we have put together these CYO package suggestions

# **CLASSIC ROMANCE**

Madama Butterfly

The Magic Flute

Aida

Ready for a romantic night out? Experience the visual and vocal delights of operatic storytelling in Classic Romance.



# THE POWER OF THE VOICE

Cavalleria rusticana/Pagliacci

Madama Butterfly

Manon Lescaut

Fidelio

Swept away by song? Try The Power of the Voice and hear divas and heroes in spectacular flight.



## **NEW VISIONS**

Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk

Werther

Baroque Masterpieces

Così fan tutte

Feeling adventurous? Don't miss the brand new repertoire and bold new interpretations of classics in New Vision.



22 OF CLASSICS III NEW VISION.

# GENERAL INFORMATION

#### PERFORMANCE TIMES

Evening performances start at 7.30pm and matinees at 1pm. *Orlando* evening performances commence at 7pm and matinees at 12.30pm.

#### **GROUP BOOKINGS**

Why not get a group of friends or colleagues together and add to your enjoyment by sharing the experience of a night out at the opera. Special discount prices are available for groups, with complimentary tickets for larger group bookings. Flexible payment terms are also available. To arrange your night out, please call our dedicated Groups Consultant on (02) 9318 8391 or email groups@opera-australia.org.au.

#### CONCESSIONS

Concession pricing is available to

- full pensioners
- full-time students
- children aged 16 years and under. When placing your booking you will need a photocopied proof of age, a photocopy of your student ID card or a photocopy of your pensioner concession card. Concessions are not available on Saturday evenings.

## **CHILD MATINEE CONCESSION**

For children 16 years and under a special child concession of \$50 is available FOR MATINEE PERFORMANCES ONLY when accompanied by an adult. For evening performances the standard concession rate applies.

## TRANSPORT INFORMATION

#### Public transport

Many buses, trains and all ferries stop at Circular Quay. It is then a 7 to 10 minute walk to the Sydney Opera House. The Sydney Opera House operates a transit shuttle for elderly and less mobile passengers between Stand E at Circular Quay and the Concourse. For more information visit sydneyoperahouse.com.

#### **Taxis**

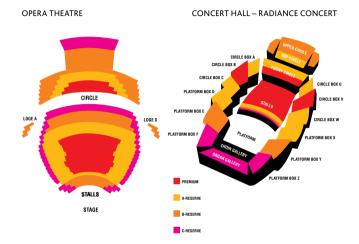
Taxis can drop off passengers at the Sydney Opera House Concourse, and can usually be hailed from the roundabout at the end of Macquarie Street.

#### Patrons with disabilities

Limited parking for patrons with disabilities is available on the vehicle concourse under the Monumental Steps. Please book a space at least one day prior on (02) 9250 7185. Drivers can drop off passengers with mobility difficulties at the turning circle beside the Monumental Steps. Vehicles should then be parked elsewhere. If passengers require staff assistance to enter the building, please notify the Gatehouse as you enter the Sydney Opera House precinct.

#### **CLOAKING FACILITIES**

For the safety and comfort of patrons, bags larger than a small, A4-sized handbag must be left with Cloakroom staff during performances.



# HOW TO BOOK

Opera Australia Ticket Services (02) 9318 8200

480 Elizabeth Street, Surry Hills Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm www.opera-australia.org.au

Sydney Opera House

(02) 9250 7777 (single tickets only)

Monday to Saturday, 9am to 8.30pm

**Group Bookings** 

(02) 9318 8391

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# SUMMER SEASON CALENDAR

	DECEMBER 2008/JANUARY 2009					
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat Mat	Sat Eve
	30 Butterfly	31 NYE Gala	1	2	3	3 Butterfly
5	6 Butterfly	7	8	9 Butterfly	10	10 Cavalleria
12	13	14 Butterfly	15 Cavalleria	16	17 Butterfly	17 Cavalleria #
19 Butterfly #	20 Cavalleria	21 Butterfly #	22 Magic Flute	23 Cavalleria	24 Magic Flute	24 Butterfly
26	27 Magic Flute #	28 Cavalleria	29 Butterfly	30 Magic Flute	31	31 Domain

FEBRUARY 2009						
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat Mat	Sat Eve
2 Magic Flute	3 Cavalleria	4 Butterfly	5 Magic Flute	6 Cavalleria #	7 Magic Flute #	7 Butterfly
9	10 Butterfly	11 Magic Flute	12 Cavalleria	13 Butterfly	14 Cavalleria	14 Magic Flute #
16	17 Magic Flute #	18 Butterfly #	19 Magic Flute	20	21 Butterfly #	21 Magic Flute
23	24	25 Butterfly	26 Magic Flute	27 Butterfly	28	28 Magic Flute

	MARCH 2009					
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat Mat	Sat Eve
2	3 Lady Macbeth	4 Butterfly	5 Magic Flute	6 Lady Macbeth	7	7 Butterfly
9	10 Magic Flute	11 Lady Macbeth #	12 Werther	13 Butterfly	14 Lady Macbeth #	14 Werther #
16 Butterfly	17 Lady Macbeth	18 Werther	19 Magic Flute	20 Concert	21 Werther #	21 Lady Macbeth
23 Butterfly	24 Werther	25 Lady Macbeth	26 Werther	27	28	28

Butterfly = Madama Butterfly Cavalleria = Cavalleria rusticana/Pagliacci Magic Flute = The Magic Flute Domain = Mazda's Opera in the Domain Lady Macbeth = Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk Concert = Radiance Concert

# Free opera talk prior to the performance

Opening Night	Mazda's Opera in the Domain
Final performance	Radiance Concert

All opera performances are staged in the Opera Theatre and unless otherwise specified, evening performances commence at 7.30pm and matinees at 1pm.

The New Year's Eve Gala and the *Radiance* concert commence at 8pm in the Concert Hall.

Mazda Opera in the Domain commences at 8pm.

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#### Hero Partners





#### Gold Partners









PHILIP BACON GALLERIES

#### Dr Doualas Mitchell

#### Silver Partners















#### **Major Sponsors**































#### Government Partners





Opera Australia is assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.



Opera Australia is assisted by the NSW Government through Arts NSW.

# VICTORIA



Opera Australia acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government through Arts Victoria.



Performances feature the Opera Australia Chorus and the Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra.