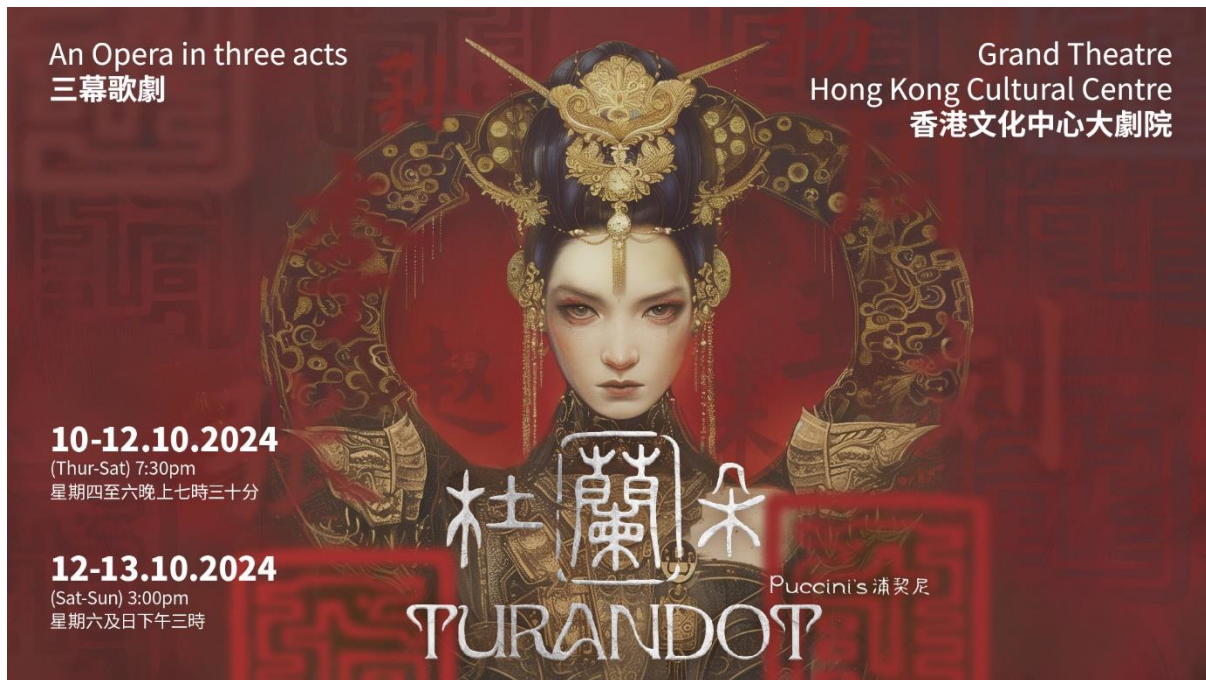


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:
Scarlett Chan
General Manager
scarlettchan@operahongkong.org

Debbie Liu
Manager, Marketing & Development
debbieliu@operahongkong.org



Opera Hong Kong Proudly Presents

Puccini's *Turandot* in a New Production marking the 75th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China

Hong Kong, 15 August 2024 – To commemorate the centennial of the death of Giacomo Puccini, one of the foremost opera composers of the early 20th century, Opera Hong Kong will present five performances of *Turandot* from October 10th to 13th at the Grand Theatre of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre. *Turandot* was Puccini's final and unfinished legacy. After his death, Franco Alfano completed the opera based on Puccini's drafts.

The plot revolves around Princess Turandot, who challenges her suitors with three riddles. The person who solves the riddles will receive her hand in marriage; those who fail will be executed. Prince Calàf falls in love with Turandot at first sight and is willing to risk his life to win her heart. Among the opera's highlights is Calàf's famous aria *Nessun Dorma*, whose melody is widely recognised and unforgettable.

A significant portion of the music in *Turandot* is based on Chinese melodies, most notably the children's choir's rendition of "Jasmine Flower" in the first act. This came about because Puccini was given a music box by a former Italian diplomat in China. To celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, Opera Hong Kong artistic director and the producer of

Turandot, Warren Mok, has created a production infused with Chinese cultural elements to both honour Puccini and celebrate Chinese culture.

Director Jia Ding is a National Class-I Playwright who has directed over 400 large-scale national performance events. He has frequently served as *CMG New Year's Gala's* chief planner, director, and overall designer. He has also created and directed major works such as the large-scale classic music epic *The Long March Suite*, the musical *Love Song*, and the opera *The Answer*. For Opera Hong Kong, the Director and his team will tailor a version of *Turandot* especially for Hong Kong SAR. The production will integrate elements of traditional Peking Opera, featuring a multi-dimensional immersive stage design, and ensuring that the Chinese elements are more than symbolism.

The international soloists include Russian soprano Veronika Dzhioeva and Ukrainian soprano Oksana Nosatova as Princess Turandot. The role of Calaf will be performed by the Russian tenor Ivan Gyngazov and the South Korean tenor Andrea Shin. Calaf's slave girl, Liù, will be sung by Chinese soprano Wang Bing Bing and the Hong Kong soprano Louise Kwong. They will perform alongside artists from mainland China, including Zhang Wen Wei, Sun Li, Lin Zi Hao, Yao Zhong Yi, Liu Nai Qi, and Zhou Jian Kun, as well as Hong Kong local singers, Henry Ngan, Chen Yong, Apollo Wong, and Wesley Lam.

The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, Opera Hong Kong Chorus, and Opera Hong Kong Children Chorus will perform under the baton of maestro Yuan Ding, the principal resident conductor of the National Opera House in Beijing. He has successfully led numerous international orchestras, including the MDR Leipzig Symphony Orchestra, and collaborated with top ensembles in China such as the National Symphony Orchestra and Choir. Renowned for his profound skill and precise interpretations, Maestro Yuan Ding has conducted over 40 Western classic operas and original Chinese-language operas and excels in showcasing the artistic allure of diverse styles.

Tickets are now available for booking online via URBTIX (<https://www.urbtix.hk/event-detail/12145/>) from \$1,080, \$920, \$720, \$620, \$420, and \$220, early bird booking is 20% Off until 5th September. Limited concession tickets are available for full-time students, citizens aged 60 or above, people with physical impairment, and Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients.

- ENDS -

Program Details

Program: **Puccini's *Turandot***

Date and Time: 10-12 October 2024 | 7:30 pm, 12-13 October 2024 | 3:00 pm

Venue: Grand Theatre, Hong Kong Cultural Centre

Ticket Price: \$1,080, \$920, \$720, \$620, \$420, \$220

Sung in Italian with Chinese and English Surtitles

Production Team

Producer	Warren Mok
Conductor	Yuan Ding
Stage Director	Jia Ding

Cast

Turandot	Veronika Dzhioeva # Oksana Nosatova ^
Calaf	Ivan Gyngazov # Andrea Shin ^
Liù	Wang Bing Bing # Louise Kwong ^
Timur Ping	Zhang Wen Wei Sun Li # Lin Zi Hao ^
Pang	Henry Ngan # Yao Zhong Yi ^
Pong	Chen Yong # Liu Nai Qi ^
Mandarin	Apollo Wong # Zhou Jian Kun ^
Emperor	Wesley Lam

#Evenings of October 10 & 12, Afternoon of October 13 ^ Evenings of October 11, Afternoon of October 12

Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Opera Hong Kong Chorus

Opera Hong Kong Children Chorus

The high-res photos can be downloaded from the link: [Please Click Here](#)

About Opera Hong Kong

Founded in 2003, Opera Hong Kong (OHK) is Hong Kong's first professional opera company. Over the years, the company has gone from strength to strength under the artistic direction of Warren Mok, the internationally acclaimed Hong Kong tenor. OHK has elevated opera in Asia's world city, with many world-class productions covering all major works in the operatic canon and has collaborated with opera houses and festivals including Teatro dell'Opera di Roma, Taormina Opera Festival, Theater Erfurt, Opéra de Nice, National Centre for the Performing Arts and the Shanghai Opera House.

In 2019, OHK was selected by the Hong Kong Arts Development Council as one of the three recipients of the coveted "Eminent Arts Group Scheme". The Scheme's consecutive five-year funding has become a boost to further the company's development. In 2024, OHK was named as a recipient of the "Eminent Arts Group Scheme" for a further five years.

OHK is committed to promoting the city's brightest, young opera singers. In 2015, OHK launched the Jockey Club Opera Hong Kong Young Artist Development and Education Programme (the Programme), a three-year opera training programme designed to nurture ten young local artists. The success of the Programme led to its renewal by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust for another three years from 2019 to 2022. In 2024 OHK launched the inaugural "LKSFHK Young Artist Overseas Fellowships" Programme, generously sponsored by the Li Ka Shing Foundation, to provide short-term international residencies for six selected young artists who are Hong Kong residents to elevate their vocal artistry.

OHK also places a strong emphasis on education and community activities. Opera school tours, summer schools and master classes are held regularly to reach young audiences. The music centre in Wanchai provides a wide range of courses for early-age children to adults in addition to Children Chorus classes. The OHK Chorus and the OHK Children Chorus were established in 2004 and 2008 respectively and are recognised contributors to the local choral scene.

The recent development of the Greater Bay Area has created an environment for OHK to initiate more collaborations and bring the art of opera to a wider audience.

Official website: www.operahongkong.org

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/OperaHongKongLimited

Instagram: www.instagram.com/operahongkong

YouTube: www.youtube.com/operahongkong