



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

THE ROYAL OPERA

Music Director

SIR ANTONIO PAPPANO

Director of Opera

OLIVER MEARS

TURANDOT

LYRIC DRAMA IN THREE ACTS AND FIVE SCENES

Music **GIACOMO PUCCINI (COMPLETED BY FRANCO ALFANO)**

Libretto **GIUSEPPE ADAMI AND RENATO SIMONI AFTER CARLO GOZZI**

Property of Casa Ricordi SRL, Milan (Universal Music Publishing Group), by arrangement with G. Ricordi & Co (London) Ltd

Conductor **ANTONIO PAPPANO**

Director **ANDREI SERBAN**

Revival Director **JACK FURNESS**

Designer **SALLY JACOBS**

Lighting designer **F. MITCHELL DANA**

Choreographer **KATE FLATT**

Choreologist **TATIANA NOVAES COELHO**

ROYAL OPERA CHORUS

Chorus Director **WILLIAM SPAULDING**

ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

Principal Guest Concert Master by

Arrangement with Trittico **VASKO VASSILEV**

Directed for the screen by **PETER JONES**

Position of Music Director Maestro Antonio Pappano
Generously supported by **MRS SUSAN A. OLDE OBE**

Production supported by **Veuve Clicquot**

Generous philanthropic support from **JULIA AND HANS RAUSING, HUO FAMILY FOUNDATION, MELINDA AND DONALD QUINTIN, MR AND MRS CHRISTOPHER W.T. JOHNSTON** and **THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE ENDOWMENT FUND**

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In memory of **JAIME BURGUERA ELETA**

Broadcast live from the Royal Opera House on
WEDNESDAY 22 MARCH 2023 AT 7.15PM

APPROXIMATE TIMINGS

PRE-SHOW 15 minutes

ACT I 40 minutes

INTERVAL 25 minutes

ACT II 45 minutes

INTERVAL 20 minutes

ACT III 45 minutes

CURTAIN CALL 10 minutes

LANGUAGE

Sung in Italian with English subtitles

CAST

Princess Turandot **ANNA PIROZZI**

Calaf **YONGHOON LEE**

Liù **MASABANE CECILIA RANGWANASHA**

Timur **VITALIJ KOWALJOW**

Ping **HANSUNG YOO**

Pang **ALED HALL**

Pong **MICHAEL GIBSON***

Emperor Altoum **ALEXANDER KRAVETS**

Mandarin **BLAISE MALABA**

*Michael Gibson is a Jette Parker Artist

Children from the **YOUTH OPERA COMPANY**

Extra Chorus

Sopranos **YVONNE BARCLAY, JANET FAIRLIE, CELESTE GATTAI, SHAFALI JALOTA, KATHRYN JENKIN, SUSAN JIWEY, BERNADETTE LORD, ALISON RAYNER, ELIZABETH ROBERTS, JULIETTE SCHIEMANN, ROS WATERS, RACHEL WOLSELEY**

Mezzo-sopranos **JEANNETTE AGER, MARIA BROWN, TAMSIN DALLEY, SIOBHAIN GIBSON, MARIA JONES, DERVLA RAMSAY, JENNIFER WESTWOOD**

Tenors **ROBERT AMON, SIMON BIAZECK, PHILLIP BROWN, ED CHOO, JAMES GEER, RICHARD MONK, JAMES SCARLETT**

Basses **OLIVER GIBBS, GABRIEL GOTTLIEB, GAVIN HORSLEY, DARRON MOORE, MARK SABERTON, JOCHEM VAN AST, PETER WILLCOCK, JONATHAN WOOD**

Dancers **OTIS CAMERON CARR, MARIE CHABERT, NATASHA CHU, NAOMI COOK, CARMINE DE AMICIS, CHLOE DOWELL, AMY DREW, FREYA JEFFS, GARETH MOLE, TREVOR SCHOONRAAD**

Actors **CAMERON BALL, RAIN DE RYE BARRETT, JOY CONSTANTINIDES, SARAH EKHUHOHO-SHARMAN, KEIKO HEWITT-TEALE, JAMAL LOWE, ASHLEY-JORDON PACKER, BARBARA RHODES, JAMES UNSWORTH, ADDIS WILLIAMS**

PRODUCTION

Music preparation **PAUL WYNNE GRIFFITHS, EDWARD REEVE*, MICHAEL SIKICH, MICHAEL PAPADOPOULOS, BEN-SAN LAU, DAVID SUTTON-ANDERSON**

Assistant Directors **SIMON IORIO, KIRSTY TAPP**

Language Coach **EMMA ABBATE**

*Edward Reeve is a Jette Parker Artist

SYNOPSIS

ACT I

Princess Turandot of China has sworn an oath that no man will possess her. However, she offers her suitors a chance: if one of them can answer correctly the three riddles which she asks him, he can marry her. If not, he must die. Inside the walls of Peking, a crowd wait for the execution of the Prince of Persia, who has failed the test of the riddles. As the guards push back the excited people, a blind old man falls, and is helped up by his companion, a young girl. A young man comes to help them and recognizes the blind man as the exiled King Timur of Tartary. He reveals himself as Timur's son Calaf, who was separated from his father after the loss of their kingdom. Timur's companion is Liù, a former slave, who has cared for him since their exile. It becomes clear that Liù cares deeply for Calaf. The Prince of Persia is led in by the servants of the executioner. Turandot arrives to confirm the Prince's death. Calaf is horrified, but, as soon as he sees the Princess, is captivated by her beauty. Despite the warnings of the ministers Ping, Pong and Pang, he vows to win Turandot himself. Liù implores him to leave with her and Timur (*Signore, ascolta*). Calaf tries to console her (*Non piangere, Liù*) but remains determined, and strikes the gong to signal his intention to woo the Princess.

INTERVAL

ACT II

Ping, Pong and Pang complain about the endless executions caused by Turandot's obstinacy. Each longs to leave Peking for the peace of his country home. Wise men arrive holding the scrolls containing the answers to Turandot's riddles. Calaf, calling himself the 'Unknown Prince', is brought before Turandot's father, the Emperor Altoum. The Emperor begs the 'Unknown Prince' to leave, and explains how he must die if he fails to answer Turandot's riddles correctly. Calaf remains obstinate. Turandot arrives for the test of the riddles. She explains the reason for her cruelty (*In questa reggia*). Many centuries before, her ancestress Princess Lo-u-Ling was raped and killed by an invader. Turandot sees herself as the reincarnation of Lo-u-Ling and has therefore vowed that no one will possess her. The riddles are her one concession. She reminds Calaf that their outcome has so far always been death. Calaf insists on attempting to solve the riddles. Turandot asks him: what is the ghost which all the world invokes and is constantly renewed; what flickers like a flame when a man dreams of conquest; what is frost that burns, that makes a king of the one it accepts as a slave? Encouraged by the crowd, Calaf correctly answers: Hope! Blood! Turandot! Turandot is now his. But Calaf does not wish the Princess to give herself to him unwillingly, and therefore proposes another test. Turandot does not know his name – if she can discover it during the night, he is prepared to die at dawn. If not, he will possess her.

INTERVAL

ACT III

Calaf awaits dawn, while the voices of heralds announce that no one in Peking shall sleep until the name of the 'Unknown Prince' has been discovered. Calaf is confident that he will win Turandot (*Nessun dorma*). Ping, Pong and Pang attempt to get him to leave, offering him beautiful women, riches and glory if he renounces Turandot. Calaf remains firm, to the annoyance of the ministers and the rage of the crowd, who begin to threaten him. Timur and Liù have been discovered and are dragged in. They were seen with Calaf the day before and are

suspected of knowing his name. Turandot is summoned, and orders Liù to be tortured until she reveals the identity of the 'Unknown Prince'. Liù explains to Turandot that she can bear the torture due to her love of the stranger (*Tu, che di gel sei cinta*). Still refusing to reveal his name, she kills herself. Timur and the crowd lament her death and carry her body away. Calaf and Turandot are left alone, and Calaf accuses Turandot of inhumanity. To begin with, she is cold and unyielding, but finally she succumbs to Calaf's embrace. Still not wishing Turandot to marry him unwillingly, Calaf tells her his name and places himself in her power. Turandot summons the Emperor and people, and proudly declares that she now knows the name of the foreigner. It is Love, she states. As Calaf and Turandot embrace, the crowd rejoices.

THE ROYAL OPERA

Patron **THE FORMER PRINCE OF WALES**

Music Director **SIR ANTONIO PAPPANO**

Director of Opera **OLIVER MEARS**

Director of Casting **PETER MARIO KATONA**

Administrative Director **CORMAC SIMMS**

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