

OPERA AUSTRALIA 2027 MELBOURNE SEASON OVERVIEW

Melbourne's rich cultural heritage is an essential part of any visit to the city. Immerse yourself in Melbourne's vibrant arts scene with an unforgettable Opera Australia performance.



TURANDOT

by Puccini

5 – 27 May 2027

Arts Centre Melbourne

Epic | Passionate | Resonant

Turandot will stop at nothing to protect her people – and her heart.

International director and choreographer Ann Yee creates a spectacular new *Turandot*. Featuring monumental sets, immersive digital technology and mesmerising dance, this is unmissable theatre.

Yee draws the threads of the story – Turandot's courage, her ancestor's trauma, and another woman's sacrificial love – into a powerful tale of strength and resilience. Puccini's atmospheric music takes you to another world, culminating in the electrifying top notes of iconic aria 'Nessun dorma'.

This dramatic new production promises to be a highlight.

A must-see if you love Music that gives you goosebumps, contemporary dance, mythic fairytales reimagined for today.

Performed in Italian with English surtitles.

This production of Turandot is by the Opera Conference, Australia's national partnership of professional opera companies.



THE MAGIC FLUTE

by Mozart

13 – 28 May 2027

Arts Centre Melbourne

Magical | High-flying | Funny

Set out on a surprising journey through a surreal and spectacular world with a new production of Mozart's most inventive opera.

Filled with humour and heart, *The Magic Flute* follows Prince Tamino's daring quest to rescue Pamina — and the perilous trials the young pair face as they find their way back to the light.

With fabulously fun sets and costumes inspired by the works of Jules Verne and HG Wells, this is a feast for the eyes and the ears, with some of Mozart's most famous music, including the extraordinarily high notes of the Queen of the Night aria.

A must-see if you love Fantasy, magical stories like *Narnia*, famous tunes, H.G. Wells and Jules Verne.

Performed in German with English dialogue and surtitles.

The Magic Flute. A Scottish Opera Production.



THE DROVER'S WIFE

by Palmer

21 – 29 May 2027

Arts Centre Melbourne

Raw | Expansive | Groundbreaking

Molly Johnson is the Drover's Wife, a woman, a survivor, a force of nature. She faces down snakes, mad bullocks, and predatory men as she cares for her children in the remote Snowy Mountain ranges while her husband works away, droving sheep.

Leah Purcell's adaptation of Henry Lawson's classic short story gets the operatic treatment in this monumental new work with a ravishing score by George Palmer. Emotional melodies, lush orchestration and operatic grandeur meet contemporary Aboriginal storytelling in this season highlight.

A must-see if you love Australian stories, outback thrillers, Henry Lawson, contemporary treatments of classic works.

Performed in English with English surtitles.

The Opera is co-commissioned by Queensland Performing Arts Centre and Opera Australia. It is based on The Drover's Wife play, originally commissioned and produced by Belvoir St Theatre in association with Oombarra Productions through The Balnaves Foundation Indigenous Playwright's Award.



TANNHÄUSER

by Wagner

5 – 14 November 2027

Arts Centre Melbourne

Epic | Seductive | Climactic

Tannhäuser is lost in Venus's carnal paradise. Satiated, he returns to earth, hoping to win the pure Elisabeth's love at a singing contest. But he can only sing of passion and pleasure, and the crowd condemns him for his sins. Can true love save his soul? Or will temptation prevail?

No one could write desire like Wagner. In this brand-new production, exclusive to Melbourne, Sir David McVicar brings his incisive style to the epic story. Andrea Battistoni conducts the ravishing score, featuring tenor Sergei Skorokhodov in the title role.

A must-see if you love Wagner!, insightful directors who offer food for thought, gorgeous music with extraordinary performers, psychological thrillers like *Black Swan*.

Performed in German with English surtitles.



BEETHOVEN SYMPHONY No 9

13 November 2027

Arts Centre Melbourne

Monumental | Uplifting | Grand

From its mysterious opening to the electrifying, famous Ode to Joy finale, Beethoven's ninth symphony is one of the most extraordinary achievements in music.

Written as Beethoven's hearing faded, the symphony reaches beyond the orchestra and embraces the human voice. Experience this monumental work brought to life by the Opera Australia Chorus and Orchestra Victoria, under the baton of our Music Director Andrea Battistoni, in the grand setting of the Ian Potter State Theatre.

A must-see if you love Classical music's greatest hits, the full forces of an orchestra and choir, the Ode to Joy section of Carols by Candlelight.

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