

Casting Brief Children's Chorus

Sydney Summer 2026

Turandot and Hansel & Gretel



Opera Australia is seeking to cast two Children's Choruses for our upcoming 2026 Summer Season at the Sydney Opera House. Our Children's Choruses will perform in either *Turandot* or *Hansel & Gretel*.

Production Information

Turandot

What is born at night and dies by dawn? What is hot as flame, yet gives no light? What is the ice that gives off fire?

Turandot never asked them to come, yet they came. She gave them every reason to turn back, even the threat of death. Shrouded in mystery, riddles were her last defence. What would happen if anyone ever cracked her armour?

International director and choreographer Ann Yee creates a spectacular new *Turandot* for Australia's national Opera Conference. Featuring monumental sets, immersive visuals 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, traversing the emotional extremes of his largest ever choral piece and the electrifying top notes of the iconic aria 'Nessun dorma'.

Two of Australia's most exciting dramatic sopranos take on the title role: Rebecca Nash, fresh from the Metropolitan Opera of New York, and Anna-Louise Cole, following her triumph in the Ring Cycle. Acclaimed tenor Young Woo Kim returns to Australia to share the role of Calaf with audience favourites Diego Torre and Rosario La Spina, under the batons of Henrik Nánási, Nicholas Milton, Andrea Battistoni and Tahu Matheson.

Turandot captivates audiences with its fable-like story, extraordinary music and grand spectacle. This dramatic new production promises to be a season highlight.

Turandot is performed in Italian.

Hansel & Gretel

Nibble, nibble, little mouse, who's that nibbling at my house? I'll lure them in with sweets to eat, a child is a witch's favourite treat!

Deep in the dark woods, Hansel and Gretel are hungry and looking for home. Just when it all seems hopeless, they stumble upon a spun-sugar house and an eccentric woman, who's not as sweet as she seems. Will the plucky siblings outwit the wicked witch?

This whimsical production is a classic from acclaimed director Elijah Moshinsky, with plenty of humour and heart to balance the dark undertones of the Grimms' fairytale.

Familiar characters roam a surreal storybook world, with larger-than-life sets and costumes by Mark Thompson. An all-star Australian cast features Margaret Plummer and Stacey Alleaume as the clever kids. Jane Ede is a delight in the role of the witch with Helen Sherman and Andrew Moran as the youngsters' parents.

Tahu Matheson conducts Humperdinck's magical score, which is filled with German folk tunes and luscious orchestration. Performed in English, *Hansel & Gretel* is an enchanting first opera for newcomers, and a nostalgic treat for opera fans.

Schedule Information

Performers must be available for the entire period for the respective production they are cast in. We cannot accommodate any non-availability.

Children can only be cast in one production, they cannot perform in both.

Both schedules are drafts, and are subject to change. We will update as we are able.

Turandot Schedule

Day	Date	Start Time	End Time	Type	Location
Friday	12/12/2025	11:30	13:30	Music Rehearsal	The Opera Centre, Surry Hills
Tuesday	16/12/2025	11:30	13:30	Music Rehearsal	The Opera Centre, Surry Hills
Wednesday	17/12/2025	11:30	13:30	Music Rehearsal	The Opera Centre, Surry Hills
Friday	19/12/2025	11:30	13:30	Music Rehearsal	The Opera Centre, Surry Hills
Monday	22/12/2025	14:30	17:30	Production Rehearsal	The Opera Centre, Surry Hills
Tuesday	30/12/2025	14:30	17:30	Production Rehearsal	The Opera Centre, Surry Hills
Friday	2/01/2026	14:30	17:30	Production Rehearsal	The Opera Centre, Surry Hills
Monday	5/01/2026	18:00	21:00	Sitzprobe	The Opera Centre, Surry Hills
Wednesday	7/01/2026	18:30	21:45	Piano Dress	Sydney Opera House
Thursday	8/01/2026	10:30	13:45	Piano Dress	Sydney Opera House
Friday	9/01/2026	12:00	15:15	Piano Dress	Sydney Opera House
Friday	9/01/2026	18:15	21:15	Stage Orchestral	Sydney Opera House
Monday	12/01/2026	18:00	21:15	Stage Orchestral	Sydney Opera House
Tuesday	13/01/2026	11:00	TBC	General	Sydney Opera House
Thursday	15/01/2026	19:30	TBC	Performance	Sydney Opera House
Saturday	17/01/2026	19:30	TBC	Performance	Sydney Opera House
Friday	23/01/2026	19:30	TBC	Performance	Sydney Opera House
Sunday	25/01/2026	14:00	TBC	Performance	Sydney Opera House
Wednesday	28/01/2026	19:30	TBC	Performance	Sydney Opera House
Saturday	31/01/2026	19:30	TBC	Performance	Sydney Opera House
Monday	2/02/2026	19:30	TBC	Performance	Sydney Opera House
Thursday	5/02/2026	19:30	TBC	Performance	Sydney Opera House

Saturday	7/02/2026	19:30	TBC	Performance	Sydney Opera House
Tuesday	10/02/2026	19:30	TBC	Performance	Sydney Opera House
Friday	13/02/2026	19:30	TBC	Performance	Sydney Opera House
Wednesday	18/02/2026	19:30	TBC	Performance	Sydney Opera House
Saturday	21/02/2026	12:30	TBC	Performance	Sydney Opera House
Tuesday	24/02/2026	19:30	TBC	Performance	Sydney Opera House
Friday	27/02/2026	19:30	TBC	Performance	Sydney Opera House
Wednesday	4/03/2026	19:30	TBC	Performance	Sydney Opera House
Saturday	7/03/2026	19:30	TBC	Performance	Sydney Opera House
Tuesday	10/03/2026	19:30	TBC	Performance	Sydney Opera House
Friday	13/03/2026	19:30	TBC	Performance	Sydney Opera House
Monday	16/03/2026	19:30	TBC	Performance	Sydney Opera House
Saturday	21/03/2026	12:30	TBC	Performance	Sydney Opera House
Monday	23/03/2026	19:30	TBC	Performance	Sydney Opera House
Friday	27/03/2026	19:30	TBC	Performance	Sydney Opera House

Day	Date	Start Time	End Time	Type	Location
Friday	2/01/2026	11:30	13:30	Music Rehearsal	The Opera Centre, Surry Hills
Saturday	3/01/2026	15:30	17:30	Music Rehearsal	The Opera Centre, Surry Hills
Tuesday	6/01/2026	15:30	17:30	Music Rehearsal	The Opera Centre, Surry Hills
Wednesday	7/01/2025	11:30	13:30	Music Rehearsal	The Opera Centre, Surry Hills
Thursday	8/01/2026	14:30	17:30	Production Rehearsal	The Opera Centre, Surry Hills
Saturday	10/01/2026	14:30	17:30	Production Rehearsal	The Opera Centre, Surry Hills
Monday	12/01/2026	14:30	17:30	Production Rehearsal	The Opera Centre, Surry Hills
Wednesday	14/01/2026	14:30	17:30	Production Rehearsal	The Opera Centre, Surry Hills
Friday	16/01/2026	14:30	17:30	Production Rehearsal	The Opera Centre, Surry Hills
Tuesday	20/01/2026	13:30	16:30	Sitzprobe	TBC
Wednesday	21/01/2026	13:30	16:45	Piano Dress	Sydney Opera House
Wednesday	21/01/2026	18:15	21:30	Piano Dress	Sydney Opera House
Thursday	22/01/2026	10:30	13:30	Stage Orchestral	Sydney Opera House
Friday	23/01/2026	11:00	14:15	Stage Orchestral	Sydney Opera House
Saturday	24/01/2026	11:00	TBC	General Rehearsal	Sydney Opera House
Tuesday	27/01/2026	19:30	TBC	Performance	Sydney Opera House
Friday	30/01/2026	19:30	TBC	Performance	Sydney Opera House
Tuesday	3/02/2026	19:30	TBC	Performance	Sydney Opera House
Friday	6/02/2026	19:30	TBC	Performance	Sydney Opera House
Thursday	12/02/2026	19:30	TBC	Performance	Sydney Opera House
Sunday	15/02/2026	14:00	TBC	Performance	Sydney Opera House
Tuesday	17/02/2026	19:30	TBC	Performance	Sydney Opera House
Thursday	19/02/2026	19:30	TBC	Performance	Sydney Opera House
Sunday	22/02/2026	14:00	TBC	Performance	Sydney Opera House
Wednesday	25/02/2026	11:30	TBC	Performance	Sydney Opera House

Thursday	26/02/2026	19:30	TBC	Performance	Sydney Opera House
Saturday	28/02/2026	19:30	TBC	Performance	Sydney Opera House

Audition Briefs

All children for either production must live within 90-minutes travel (one way) of all venues.

Turandot Audition Brief

Child Choristers x 18 (any gender)

Age: 10-16 years old (must be 16 or under at final performance)

Height: No taller than 170cm tall

Range: Treble range

Hansel & Gretel

Child Choristers x 18 (9 male presenting, and 9 female presenting)

Age: 10-16 years old (must be 16 or under at final performance)

Height: No taller than 170cm tall

Range: Treble range

Some children in *Hansel & Gretel* may be required to perform some simple ballet choreography. Please include any ballet experience on the audition form.

Audition Application Information

Audition applications will be accepted via the following web form only: [Audition Form](#)

You will be able to indicate on the audition form if your child is auditioning for just one, or both operas.

You will need to include a **short one-minute video** of your child singing.

- Please choose a classical or musical theatre piece, it does not need to be the entire piece.
- The video does not need to be of professional quality or high production value. Please check the recording before uploading that it is clear and audible.
- Do not use a microphone or amplification.
- Musical accompaniment, backing track or singing acapella (without accompaniment) is fine to use.
- You will be able to upload the video, or include a link. Please ensure we are able to

access any links.

Please also include:

- Current CV (in PDF format, maximum 2 pages)
- Headshot (this does not need to be a professional photo)

If successful, an audition will be offered.

Auditions will be held from **10:30am on Saturday 13 September and Monday 15 September 2025 at the Sydney Opera Centre**, in Surry Hills. They must be accompanied by an adult to their audition.

Everyone will be notified of the outcome of your child's application, once applications have closed.

Children invited to audition will be asked to perform a short solo from classical repertoire or musical theatre repertoire. They may be asked to learn a short section of music, or work on some aural skills.

For further information please contact rebecca.mychael@opera.org.au

Submissions close 5pm (AEDT) Wednesday 27 August 2025