

## *The Phantom of the Opera* still breaking records 40 years on from West End debut



Ahead of its opening this Friday night, Opera Australia (OA) today announced that *The Phantom of the Opera* has become its most successful Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour production, already breaking its own previous box-office record as the highest grossing season of the annual harbourside event.

In 2026 *The Phantom of the Opera* on Sydney Harbour has sold more tickets than any other year in the event's 15-year history, with more than 70,000 tickets booked and many performances of the extended five-week season already sold-out.

OA CEO Alex Budd said, "Forty years on, *The Phantom of the Opera* continues to pull audiences that most productions never attain. We're thrilled to be a part of this 40th Anniversary global celebration with our Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour season.

"Supercharged by our unique outdoor setting on the shores of Sydney Harbour, there's nowhere else in the world to see a Phantom like this."

Minister for Jobs and Tourism Steve Kamper said: "It's wonderful to welcome one of the world's most beloved musicals back to the Harbour City for its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Staged on the harbour under the stars with Sydney's iconic city skyline in the background, this is a truly world-class experience not found anywhere else.

"Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour showcases our city's unique combination of cultural vibrancy and natural wonder, highlighting Sydney's position as one of the world's premier destinations for unforgettable cultural experiences."

This epic outdoor production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's iconic musical will be the first in a year-long program of international events to celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The story of the mysterious Phantom and his ingénue Christine Daaë set in a Paris opera house continues to enthral audiences around the world, having played to more than 160 million people in 205 cities across 58 territories, and in 21 languages.

Starring newcomer Jake Lyle, making his musical theatre debut as The Phantom, soprano Amy Manford in her highly acclaimed signature role of Christine and rising musical theatre star Jarrod Draper as Raoul, alongside a brilliant cast of some of Australia's best singers, dancers and musicians, this production is overflowing with local talent.

With Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour's stunning views, live orchestra, fireworks every night and pop-up restaurants and bars, it is a guaranteed night to remember. *The Phantom of the Opera* is a strictly limited season and must close on Sunday 3 May.

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DR HARUHISA HANDA



Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour is supported by the NSW Government, via its tourism and major events agency Destination NSW, and through the International Foundation for Arts and Culture as Naming Rights Partner, Dr Haruhisa Handa OA's Patron in Chief, and OA's Principal Partner HSBC.

### Creatives

Musical Supervisor **Guy Simpson**  
 Director **Simon Phillips**  
 Set & Costume Designer **Gabriela Tylesova**  
 Choreographer & Associate Director **Simone Sault**  
 Lighting designer **Nick Schlieper**  
 Sound Designer **Shelly Lee**  
 Assistant Director **Matt Heyward**

### Cast

The Phantom **Jake Lyle**  
 Christine Daaé **Amy Manford**  
 Raoul, Vicomte de Chagny **Jarrold Draper**  
 Monsieur Firmin **Brent Hill**  
 Monsieur André **Martin Crewes**  
 Madame Giry **Debora Krizak**  
 Carlotta Giudicelli **Giuseppina Grech**  
 Ubaldo Piangi **Daniel Belle**  
 Meg Giry **Jayne Jo Massoud**

### Ensemble

Jessica Bock, Mia Byrnes, Georgia Cosgrove, Mia Coutts, Matt Cranleigh, Zac de Gersigny, Anthony Garcia, Michaela Hodgson, Bianca Hopkins, Catrin Lewis, Josephine Lonergan, Natalie Lui, James MacAlpine, Imogen-Faith Malfitano, Sofia Mancini, Jake Maskill, Madeline McCartney, Ella Nonini, Ryan Ophel, Ellise Pellizzer, Matthew Reardon, Annabelle Rosewarne, Julian Seguna, Anna Stephens, Leon Vitogiannis, Vanessa You, Cathy-Di Zhang and Massimo Zuccara

### Swings

Paul Whiteley, Tom Sharah and Rachel Breeze

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### Performance Information

**Evenings at 7.30pm**

**27 March – 3 May**, excluding Mondays and Good Friday on 3 April.

### Running Time

Approximately 2 hours and 50 minutes with one interval.

### Bookings

Adult tickets from \$79 (fees may apply)  
 Opera Australia Box Office  
 (02) 9318 8200  
[opera.org.au/harbour](https://opera.org.au/harbour)

**Fleet Steps,  
 Mrs Macquaries Point, Sydney**

**Images, Video + Audio available:** <https://opera.org.au/about/media-centre/handa-opera-on-sydney-harbour>

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# Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour 2026: *The Phantom of the Opera*

## Facts & Figures Summary

*All figures are subject to change.*

Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera*, one of the world's most celebrated musicals, has been seen by over 160 million people in 205 cities across 58 territories and 21 languages. This staging will launch the 40th anniversary celebration of the iconic production since its West End debut.

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### About *The Phantom of the Opera* on Sydney Harbour

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- *The Phantom of the Opera* is the most popular Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour production in the annual event's 15 year history.
- Ahead of Opening Night on Friday 27 March there are already:
  - 70,000 tickets booked
  - 5 sold out shows
  - Season extended to five weeks
- The set designed by Gabriela Tylesova took approximately 10,000 hours to manufacture by 100 workshop staff and was inspired by the Palais Garnier in Paris
- Over 50 wardrobe staff worked to create the costumes, also designed by Gabriela Tylesova
- Almost the entire set is painted or covered in gold - 10km of gold foil was needed for the set decoration
- Major set pieces include:
  - 16m high, 18 tonne tower with 2 balconies
  - A giant staircase, 30m in length and winding down from 6m at its highest point around to the front of the stage
  - The famous Phantom chandelier is 4m X 4m in this production, inspired by the original chandelier at Palais Garnier and moved around the stage via crane during each performance
  - 7m long gondola glides around the front of the stage
  - A chariot carrying The Phantom flies over the stage via one of two cranes that help move set pieces throughout the show.
- The production incorporates
  - 220 costumes
  - 101 wigs
  - 80+ props
  - 170 moving lights
  - 6 follow-spots
  - 2 cranes
- Cast and Crew
  - 9 Principals
  - 38 Ensemble
  - 27 Orchestra members
  - 55 Crew members
    - **Total Performing Company size is 129**
  - 9 Creative Team members

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## ABOUT Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour

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- This is the 15<sup>th</sup> Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour season and the 2<sup>nd</sup> time *The Phantom of the Opera* has been performed there, it's first season was in 2022
- The over water stage is almost two and a half times larger than any Australian indoor stage
- It takes a team of approximately 150 people to build the stage and venue
- 5 pop up restaurants and bars onsite
  - HSBC Platinum Club
  - Feel New Sydney Terrace
  - Northern Cantina
  - Southern Terrace
  - Garden Bar
- Approximately 330 people work on site at each performance
- Approximately 150 volunteers help make this event possible

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## 40 Years of *The Phantom of the Opera*

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### 1986

- The world premiere and original London production of *The Phantom of the Opera* opened at Her Majesty's Theatre on 9 October 1986.
- It is now one of the longest running shows in London with over 15,000 performances to date.
- On 7 December 1986, the original London production of *The Phantom of the Opera* was nominated for three Laurence Olivier Awards and won two, including Best New Musical and Michael Crawford for Best Actor in a Musical.

### 1988

- *The Phantom of the Opera* premiered on Broadway at the Majestic Theatre on 26 January 1988.
- On 5 June 1988, the Broadway production of *The Phantom of the Opera* was nominated for ten Tony Awards at the 42nd annual event.
- The show won seven awards including Best Musical, Best Performance by a Leading Actor in a Musical, Best Performance by a Featured Actress in a Musical, Best Direction of a Musical, Best Scenic Design, Best Costume Design and Best Lighting Design.

### 1990

- *The Phantom of the Opera* opened in Australia for the first time, starring Anthony Warlow and Marina Prior at the Princess Theatre in Melbourne on 8 December 1990 and was the first production of *Phantom* in the Southern Hemisphere.

### 2004

- On 10 December 2004, *The Phantom of the Opera* film was released to the UK. It was directed by Joel Schumacher and starred Gerard Butler as The Phantom, Emmy Rossum as Christine and Patrick Wilson as Raoul.

### 2022

- On 25 March 2022, *The Phantom of the Opera* premiered at Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour. This outdoor production features iconic and elaborate sets, special effects and costumes with Sydney's skyline and Opera House as a stunning backdrop. It was directed by Simon Phillips and starred Joshua Robson as the Phantom and Georgina Hopson as Christine.

### 2026

- *The Phantom of the Opera* returns to Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour kicking off a global program of events celebrating the iconic musical's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.