

## Rehearsals underway for spectacular Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour - *The Phantom of the Opera*



Jake Lyle as The Phantom and Amy Manford as Christine Daaè photo credit Carlita Sari Photo

Rehearsals have begun for the spectacular Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour production of *The Phantom of the Opera*, which makes its highly anticipated return to Mrs Macquaries Point from 27 March to 3 May.

Cast are perfecting some of the most famous moments in musical theatre, including the hauntingly beautiful tunes “The Music of the Night” and ‘All I ask of You’ as well as the spectacular ensemble piece ‘Masquerade’, which all plays out across a 6 metre high staircase set against the glittering city lights.

With a stage that’s two and half times bigger than a regular theatre, an Olympic-sized rehearsal venue is required to prepare performers for the sheer scale of the work, so they will spend 4 weeks in a huge gymnasium space at Homebush before relocating to Mrs Macquaries Point to rehearse on the purpose-built outdoor stage.

Director **Simon Phillips** is back to lead the new cast through his epic production of the mega musical.

“It is an absolute thrill to again be immersed in the world of *The Phantom of the Opera*. It is a magnificent work and the grand scale to which we can stage it at Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour transforms it from a classic piece of theatre into something new again.” Phillips said.

Queensland newcomer **Jake Lyle** is preparing for his “dream-come-true” musical theatre debut as The Phantom, the 22-year-old Lyle from Gladstone, Queensland was discovered during ensemble auditions.

Although this is the fourth time playing the role of Christine for celebrated Australian soprano **Amy Manford**, this will be her first time performing on the Sydney Harbour stage, requiring additional preparation for performing out in the elements. Her onstage character’s counterpart, Raoul will be played by proud Wiradjuri man **Jarrold Draper**, who has stepped straight off the stage in another Lloyd Webber hit, *Cats*, to join Lyle and Manford, along with an ensemble of some of Australia’s best singers and dancers.

Combined with the jaw-dropping setting, the entire team, including Musical Supervisor **Guy Simpson**, Set & Costume Designer **Gabriela Tylesova**, Choreographer & Associate Director **Simone Sault**, Lighting Designer **Nick Schlieper**, and Sound Designer **Shelly Lee**, is working hard to bring a whole new level of spectacle to this musical masterpiece.

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.

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PRINCIPAL PARTNER



DR HARUHISA HANDA



### Creatives

Musical Supervisor **Guy Simpson**  
 Director **Simon Phillips**  
 Set & Costume Designer **Gabriela Tylesova**  
 Choreographer & Associate Director **Simone Sault**  
 Lighting designer **Nick Schlieper**  
 Sound Designers **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 **Guisseppina 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 Sarah 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 40 minutes with one interval.

#### Bookings

Adult tickets from \$79 (fees may apply)

Opera Australia Box Office

(02) 9318 8200

[opera.org.au/harbour](http://opera.org.au/harbour)

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

**Rehearsal Images + Video available:** [Opera Australia Media Centre](#)

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