

Record-breaking *The Phantom of the Opera* proves to be a sold-out smash hit for Opera Australia



Opera Australia (OA) today announced *The Phantom of the Opera* as the most successful Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour season in the annual event’s 15-year history, soaring far beyond all previous box-office records, with sold-out houses every night of the extended five-week 2026 season.

More than 92,000 people attended the event, an impressive 30% increase on the last time *Phantom* played on Sydney Harbour in 2022.

Critically acclaimed as “A dazzling open-air triumph that redefines what musical theatre can be” by Australian Arts Review, and “a truly unforgettable, once-in-a-lifetime experience” by Arts Hub. This *Phantom of the Opera* was the most attended and highest grossing of any Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour season since the event’s debut in 2012.

The combination of Andrew Lloyd Webber’s perennial hit musical, currently celebrating its 40th Anniversary, and the epic-scale production elements that Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour is famous for, including the stunning harbour backdrop, live orchestra and nightly fireworks, has proven a winning combination.

OA CEO Alex Budd said, “We have been blown away by the extraordinary success of this production. With record-breaking attendance, night after night has seen Sydneysiders alongside audiences from across Australia and across the globe, gathered on the harbour to experience this spectacular production of *The Phantom of the Opera*.”

“The show’s success is a testament to the vision of director Simon Phillips and his creative team, the brilliance of the cast and orchestra, and the work of the many people behind the scenes who bring this production to life each night. It is a mammoth undertaking, and its success depends on consistent excellence across every part of the company.”

The production’s appeal has spread far beyond Sydney, more than half of all ticket buyers were from outside of metropolitan Sydney, including 19% from interstate and 25% from overseas.

Minister for Jobs and Tourism Steve Kamper said: “I’m delighted Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour has broken its box-office record this year, which underscores its growing reputation as a signature event and major visitor drawcard on our city’s cultural events calendar.

“Nothing showcases Sydney’s unique combination of cultural vibrancy and natural wonder to the world quite like Handa Opera. I congratulate the team at Opera Australia and the entire cast and crew on this year’s special record-breaking 40th anniversary production of *The Phantom of the Opera*.”

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.

“★★★★★ ...this spectacular outdoor staging of Lloyd Webber’s megamusical is unmissable.” – Limelight

“★★★★½ ...a night of theatrical magic – an inspired production to equal the splendour of the harbour backdrop.” – Sydney Morning Herald

“★★★★ ...a truly unforgettable, once-in-a-lifetime experience.” – Arts Hub

Website: opera.org.au/harbour

Images + Video Available: [Opera Australia Media Centre](#)

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