



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FOR MORE INFORMATION/INTERVIEWS
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A Kiss to Die For
MANITOBA OPERA PRESENTS
TURANDOT
APRIL 18, 21, 24

Manitoba Opera (MO) will close the 2014/15 season with Puccini's final opera, *Turandot* (pronounced *Ter as in term, ann, dot*) at the Centennial Concert Hall, **Saturday, April 18** (8 pm), **Tuesday, April 21** (7 pm), and **Friday, April 24** (8 pm). Set in ancient Peking, *Turandot* is renowned for its breathtaking pageantry and spectacle and will feature a cast of 12, 54 chorus members, a 14-voice children's chorus, and over a dozen extras, as well as the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra in the pit.

Turandot is music drama at its finest and features the tenor aria "Nessun dorma," which is now a worldwide favourite. Puccini did not live to finish the score, but it is considered to be one of the most profoundly beautiful in all of opera.

Last presented by the company in 1996, the story centres on the beautiful, but icy Princess Turandot who announces that she will marry the man who can solve her three riddles, but gravely punish those who cannot. Heads roll until one clever prince appears and is determined to win over the princess or die trying. He solves her trio of challenges and then offers Turandot his life if she can solve the riddle he presents to her. Will true love be enough to soften the vengeful princess's heart?

Russian soprano **Mlada Khudoley**, who sang Salome for the company in 2011, will return to sing the role of the cold-hearted princess. Cuban-born tenor, **Raúl Melo** makes his Manitoba Opera debut as The Unknown Prince, and Winnipeg soprano **Lara Ciekiewicz** (Musetta in last season's *La Bohème*) will make her role debut as Liù, the faithful slave girl. Other artists include **Valerian Ruminski** (Timur), **Ben Covey** (Ping), **Keith Klassen** (Pang), **Christopher Mayell** (Pong), **Gene Wu** (Mandarin), and **Terence Mierau** (Emperor Altoum). **Tyrone Paterson**, MO's Music Advisor and Principal Conductor will conduct, with former Winnipegger, **Tom Diamond**, directing.

2. *Manitoba Opera presents Turandot, April 18, 21, 24, 2015*

Sets and costumes are from Opera Carolina. Lighting design is by Michael Baumgarten.

Turandot will be sung in Italian, with English translations projected above the stage.

Tickets are on sale now at 204-944-8824, online at manitobaopera.mb.ca, or in person at the MO Box Office, lower level, Centennial Concert Hall (9:30 am – 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday). Seniors, students and children's discounts are available.

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**MANITOBA OPERA GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT OF ITS
TURANDOT FUNDERS AND SPONSORS:**

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