



George Souris MP
Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing
Minister for the Arts
Minister for the Hunter

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 14 April, 2014

THREE MORE YEARS OF OPERA ON SYDNEY HARBOUR

The NSW Government has secured another three years of Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour, Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Arts, George Souris, announced last night following the final performance of this year's series.

Mr Souris announced the NSW Government's reinvestment to delighted enthusiasts and first time opera goers after the final curtain call of Handa Opera's latest offering, Puccini's magnificent Madama Butterfly.

He also thanked Japanese philanthropist Dr Haruhisa Handa for his commitment to invest in the second series.

"Since 2012, Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour has attracted more than 11,300 overseas and interstate visitors, who came to Sydney specifically for Handa, delivering \$20 million to the NSW economy, so I am delighted that we have secured this for another three years," Mr Souris said.

"This season, about 40,000 people enjoyed the majestic Madama Butterfly set against the striking backdrop of the Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge. For those who didn't make it this year, the great news is that you have another chance."

"Opera Australia began this program with the objective of delivering three seasons of the greatest operas ever written, performed on the Sydney Harbour and Artistic Director Lyndon Terracini and his team have more than delivered on this promise.

"All three seasons have been spectacular, with elaborate stages, inspired musical scores and stunning performances, reminding audiences that Sydney, Australia's global events city, is also the heart of Australian performing arts.

"Each year international and interstate tourists join Sydneysiders from all walks of life to experience the Opera on Sydney Harbour. Its increasing popularity means that people will have to be in quick to secure tickets to future seasons.

"Opera Australia and Destination NSW expect Madama Butterfly alone will drive around \$20 million in new money into the NSW economy throughout its season," Mr Souris said.

Dr Haruhisa Handa through the International Foundation for Arts and Culture, has also renewed his financial support for Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour, for the next three years.

“Opera Australia has brought a magical new opera event to Sydney – one that the city should be very proud of” said Dr Handa. “I am very happy to have played a role in bringing Lyndon Terracini’s vision to fruition with wonderful singers and very talented people behind the scenes. I look forward to our continued partnership.”

Opera Australia Chief Executive, Craig Hassall, was delighted with this evening’s announcement, praising Dr Handa and the NSW Government for reinvesting in Handa Opera.

“Sydney is the perfect venue for an opera event of this magnitude and we are looking forward to the challenge of delivering another three opera spectaculars in partnership with the NSW Government,” Mr Hassall said.

“Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour is about making opera accessible and entertaining. This winning event formula entices new audiences each year and we hope that even more people will have their first opera experience at Handa over the coming years,” he said.