



**CONTACT:**  
**Erin Sammis**  
**Director of Marketing**  
**Pensacola Opera**  
**Voice: (850) 433-6737**  
**Fax: (850) 433-1082**  
[erin@pensacolaopera.com](mailto:erin@pensacolaopera.com)

## **PENSACOLA OPERA PRESENTS** **PUCCINI'S *TURANDOT***

Pensacola opera is proud to present Giacomo Puccini's *Turandot*, as the final production of their 28<sup>th</sup> Season.

Performances are Friday, March 11 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 13 at 2:00 p.m. at the historic Pensacola Saenger Theatre. Tickets range from \$25 - \$100, and can be purchased from the Opera Center, the Saenger Theatre box office, or through TicketMaster.com. For more information, call (850) 433-6737 or visit [www.pensacolaopera.com](http://www.pensacolaopera.com).

Based on a Persian fairy tale, Puccini's grandest opera explores the heart of a woman imprisoned by the past. In this fairy tale set in ancient China, young men are literally dying to marry a princess. Time and again, Turandot poses three riddles to her suitors, sentencing them to death if they fail. When the Prince of Tartary sees the icy beauty, he, too, falls under her spell – a spell that only love can break. Will love and death continue to walk hand in hand? Or will passion free her frozen heart? This glorious opera features the signature tenor aria, "Nessun dorma."

Principal cast members include:

<b>Cast</b>	<b>Character</b>
Othalie Graham	Turandot
Scott Piper	Calaf
Jane Redding	Liu
Matthew Trevino	Timur
Dennis Jesse	Ping
Thomas Rowell	Pang
Eric Bowden	Pong
Gabriel Pressier	Mandarin

*Turandot* will also feature members of the **Pensacola Opera Chorus**, **Pensacola Children's Chorus** and **Ballet Pensacola** as populace, soldiers, slaves, executioners and dancers.

**Jerome Shannon** will conduct singers and members of the **Pensacola Symphony Orchestra**. **Kyle Marrero** will stage direct.

**Glenn Avery Breed** is the Costume Coordinator. Lighting design will be featured by **Charles Houghton**. **Don and Linda Guillot** will design wigs and makeup.

**Peter Crompton** is the set designer for this production. The sets have been provided by **Festival Opera**. Costumes have been designed by **Charles Caine** and are courtesy of **Malabar**.

*Turandot* is an opera in three acts. The performance will run approximately 3 hours with two intermissions. The performance will be in Italian with projected English supertitles. For more information on parking downtown, visit [www.downtownpensacola.com/parking](http://www.downtownpensacola.com/parking).

A number of free educational programs and ticketed events are scheduled in conjunction with this production. See a detailed listing below. All media inquiries and press visits should be cleared with Erin Kelley Sammis, Director of Marketing at 433-6737 or [erin@pensacolaopera.com](mailto:erin@pensacolaopera.com).

### **TURANDOT SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR**

#### **Thursday, March 3, 2011**

- 11:30 a.m., **Meet the Artist Luncheon** at the Pensacola Yacht Club (1897 Cypress Street). \$25 to attend. RSVP to Pensacola Opera by Monday, Feb. 28. Meet the principal cast of *Turandot* and hear an excerpt from the show performed over a delicious lunch.

#### **Saturday, March 5, 2011**

- 5:00 p.m., **Opera Hors D'oeuvres** – Barnes & Noble (2114 Airport Road, Pensacola); Pensacola Opera's Artists in Residence perform musical excerpts from the opera at Barnes & Noble, will include a brief talk by the Opera's Education Director – FREE and family friendly.

#### **Sunday, March 6, 2011**

- 3:00 p.m., **Gallery Talks** - Pensacola Museum of Art (407 South Jefferson Street); Jointly presented by Pensacola Opera and the Pensacola Museum of Art, this presentation makes the connection between the music and the visual arts during the time period of Puccini's *Turandot*. Pensacola Opera's Artists in Residence will perform excerpts from the opera. Light refreshments are provided. **FREE to attend.**

#### **Friday, March 11, 2011**

- **7:30 p.m. – Opening Night of *Turandot***
- 10:30 p.m. - **Meet the Artists Party** at the Saenger Theatre, \$35 per person - Meet the stars of the show over a buffet dinner and champagne.

#### **Sunday, March 13, 2011**

- 11:45 a.m. – **Artistic Director's Brunch** at Jackson's - \$40 per person – Meet the director of the show and learn more about the behind the scenes aspects over a gourmet brunch and mimosas. Reservations required through Pensacola Opera.
- **2:00 p.m. – Matinee performance of *Turandot***

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## **TURANDOT PRESS OPPORTUNITIES**

To attend, contact Erin Kelley Sammis at (850) 433-6737 or erin@pensacolaopera.com

Sunday, February 27, 2011

Principal cast arrives, interviews available by request.

Thursday, March 3, 2011

10:00 - 11:00 a.m. - **Photo shoot with principal cast** - Pensacola Opera Center, 75. S. Tarragona Street.

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

7:00 - 10:30 p.m. – **1<sup>st</sup> Orchestra Dress** at Saenger Theatre – Press video and photography allowed

Wednesday, March 9, 2011

7:00 -10:30 p.m. – **Final Dress Rehearsal** at the Saenger Theatre –Press video and photography allowed, to attend contact Erin Kelley Sammis.

## **TURANDOT SPONSORS**

***Turandot is sponsored in part by:*** Wendy's, Critical Difference, Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, and Galloway, Johnson, Tompkins, Burr and Smith

***Media Partners:*** WEAR ABC 3, Cat Country 98.7, News Radio 1620, Pensacola News Journal, Bella, Ballinger Publishing, Gulf Breeze News and Splash!, Independent News, Blab TV, WUWF Public Media, WPNN Radio, Navarre Press, Cox Communications

***Event Partners:*** Angela Loiselle, Michael Greutman, Culinary Productions, Jackson's Steakhouse, M&J Wines, Pensacola Museum of Art, University of West Florida

***Artist Accommodations provided by:*** Sole Inn and Suites and KIA Autosport

Pensacola Opera is also supported in part by the State of Florida Division of Cultural Affairs, Escambia County and the City of Pensacola.

***The mission of Pensacola Opera is to enrich the culture of Northwest Florida by producing professional opera performances, educational programs and other opera-related community events for people of all ages, interests and backgrounds.***