

**Media Release**

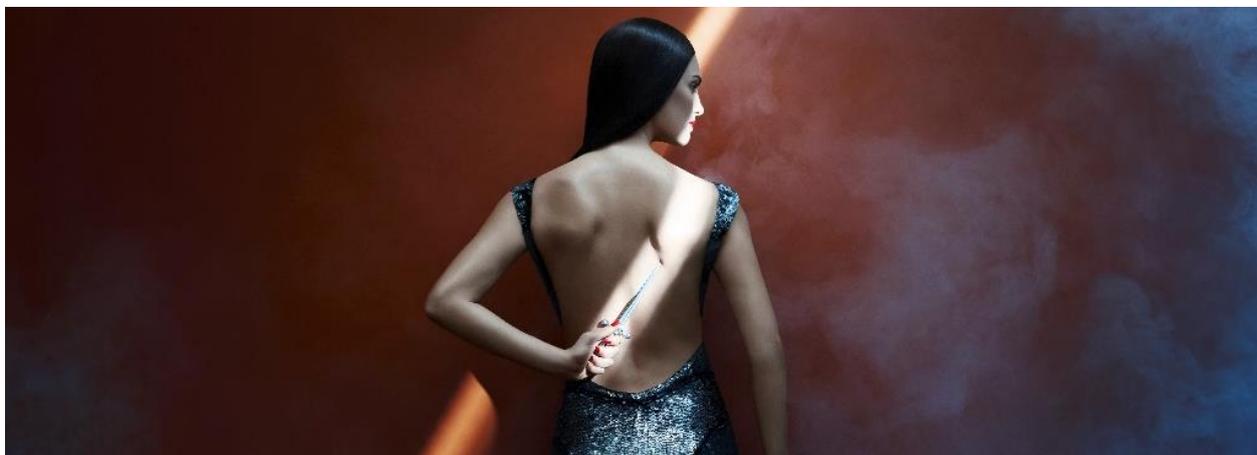
4 February 2021

**Puccini** | Directed by John Bell | Conducted by Andrea Battistoni

# John Bell's celebrated production of *Tosca* returns with acclaimed soprano leading an exceptional cast

**February 22 – March 13, 2021** | Joan Sutherland Theatre, Sydney Opera House

**Starring** | Carmen Giannattasio | Diego Torre | Marco Vratogna



“Epic, absorbing and shattering” – *Sydney Morning Herald*

“Bell’s direction is superb - a deftly managed crescendo of tension that builds from first act to last.” – *Limelight*

John Bell’s celebrated production of *Tosca*, the opera that is said to have it all; passionate love, an extraordinary heroine and one of the greatest operatic villains, returns to the Sydney Opera House this February with an exceptional cast.

Debuting with Opera Australia in the titular role, Italian soprano Carmen Giannattasio will have audiences spell-bound after being praised by Bachtrack for her portrayal of Tosca at Naples’ Teatro Di San Carlo in January 2020, saying she “exploited all the music’s pathos, jealousy, terror and desperation with an amazing richness of colour, a warm timbre and fine sensitivity for the drama.”

Dubbed the “Lady Gaga of Opera”, Giannattasio cuts an edgy figure in the opera world as an ambassador for *Bulgari* and couture label *Antonio Riva* and has built a reputation for her commanding stage presence and lustrous vocals.

Cast alongside her is Australia’s favourite tenor Diego Torre, who will perform his second leading role for the Sydney summer season as Tosca’s lover Cavaradossi; a role for which he received widespread praise in 2017.

Baritone Marco Vratogna, renowned for his villainous portrayal of despised Scarpia makes a welcome return along with sensational young conductor Andrea Battistoni who has achieved great acclaim around the world since his debut with OA in 2017.

Director John Bell is the visionary behind this critically acclaimed 20<sup>th</sup> century production. Set in Nazi-occupied Rome in 1943, Bell explains “the era I have chosen is a time close enough for its history and images to stir our memory and our emotions. *Tosca* is a dark story, but one alleviated by Puccini’s glorious music, which celebrates the heroism of those who choose death over loss of liberty.”

The curtain will rise on a breathtaking recreation of the Sant’Andrea della Valle by award-winning set designer Michael Scott-Mitchell, whose designs propel the story, from the sheer magnificence of the church, to the austerity of Scarpia’s quarters, and finally to the stark oppression of the prison. Bell’s vision and Scott-Mitchell’s designs are complemented by the work of costume designer Teresa Negroponete.

PATRON-IN-CHIEF  
DR HARUHISA HANDA



HERO PARTNERS



GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



**Creatives**

Conductor **Andrea Battistoni**  
 Director **John Bell**  
 Revival Director **Matthew Barclay**  
 Set Designer **Michael Scott-Mitchell**  
 Costume Designer **Teresa Negroponte**

**Cast**

Tosca **Carmen Giannattasio**  
 Cavaradossi **Diego Torre**  
 Scarpia **Marco Vratogna**  
 Angelotti **David Parkin**  
 Sacristan **Luke Gabbedy**  
 Spoletta **Graeme Macfarlane**  
 Sciarrone **Alexander Hargreaves**  
 Gaoler **Anthony Mackey**

**Opera Australia Chorus**  
**Opera Australia Orchestra**

Opera Australia is committed to COVID Safe practices.  
 Please refer to the website for the Company's COVID Safe procedures:  
<https://opera.org.au/covid-safety>

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**Performance information****Evenings at 7.30pm**

February 22, 24

March 2, 4, 6, 9, 11

**Matinees at 12:30pm**

February 27

March 13

**Running time**

Approximately 2 hours and 50 minutes including two intervals

Performed in Italian with English surtitles

**Production Partner APT**

LUXURY TRAVEL

**Bookings**

Adult tickets from \$79 (fees may apply)

Opera Australia Box Office  
 (02) 9318 8200  
[www.opera.org.au](http://www.opera.org.au)

**Joan Sutherland Theatre,  
 Sydney Opera House**