



# TURANDOT

GIACOMO PUCCINI

**Lyric drama in three acts and five scenes**

**Libretto by Giuseppe Adami and Renato Simoni after the play by Carlo Gozzi**

**Sung in Italian with German surtitles**

»Nessun dorma«, one of the most famous arias for tenor, was written by Giacomo Puccini for his last opera *Turandot*. The Chinese princess Turandot has commanded that no one is to sleep – »Nessun dorma« – for the night because by daybreak she has to find out the name of a mysterious prince – or else return his love. So far she has kept men away by means of a brutal oath: any man that wants to conquer Turandot must first solve three riddles; and if he fails he is beheaded. The unknown prince is undeterred by the many candidates who have already been put to death, and by the warnings of her father and her ministers. Like so many men before him he is spellbound by her appearance. He's the first to solve all three riddles. But he desires more than just to win Turandot: he wants her heart. So he sets her the riddle of his own identity. If she discovers his name by morning, he's ready to go to his death. Another woman, Liù, knows his name but movingly prefers to take her own life than reveal her secret – she loved the prince too much.

The ecstatic love that then inflames Turandot and Calaf was a problem the composer continued to wrestle with for years. He was unhappy with the text supplied by his librettists, and sketched out a number of possibilities. The opera was left incomplete on Puccini's death in 1924, and his colleague Franco Alfano composed an ending on the basis of the sketches. Puccini had wanted to create something exceptional, going beyond his famous operas *La bohème*, *Tosca* and *Madame Butterfly*. The Chinese setting, stirring choral scenes, and characters overpowered by their emotions are the distinguishing features of this work. The riddle scene develops into a musical contest between soprano and tenor. With a sure hand for dramatic effect Puccini makes his rapt lovers reach for the stars. On the lake stage there is nothing to block the way... Conductor Paolo Carignani, a passionate aficionado of Italian opera, will be making his debut at the Bregenz Festival. So, too, will director and stage designer Marco Arturo Marelli, who is in great demand internationally. Marelli has an intimate knowledge of *Turandot* following his productions in Stockholm and Graz, and now takes up the challenge of directing it on the lake stage at Bregenz.

Opera on the lake



BREGENZER  
FEST  
SPIELE

**PREMIERE**

22 July 2015 – 9.15 p.m.

**FURTHER PERFORMANCES**

24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 31 July – 9.15 p.m.

1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 August – 9 p.m.

Seebühne / Festspielhaus

Music Director **Paolo Carignani /Giuseppe Finzi**

Stage Director & Stage Designer **Marco Arturo Marelli**

Costume Designer **Constance Hoffman**

Lighting Designer **Davy Cunningham**

Choir Director **Lukáš Vasilek**

**Vienna Symphony Orchestra**

**Prague Philharmonic Choir**

**Bregenz Festival Choir**

Bregenz Festival 22 July – 23. August 2015