

Premiere

TURANDOT

Dramma lirico in three acts by Giacomo Puccini

Text by Giuseppe Adami und Renato Simoni after Carlo Gozzi

World Premiere of prologue *Io tacerò* by Lucia Ronchetti, commissioned by Oper Frankfurt

Sung in Italian with German and English surtitles

Conductor: Thomas Guggeis / Simone Di Felice (May 23rd, 29th, June 4th 2026)

Director: Andrea Breth

Set Designer: Johannes Leiacker

Costume Designer: Ursula Renzenbrink

Lighting Designer: Alexander Koppelman

Chorus and Extra Chorus Master: Manuel Pujol

Children's Chorus Master: Álvaro Corral Matute

Dramaturge: Maximilian Enderle

Turandot: Elza van den Heever / Olesya Golovneva (May 1st, 23rd, 29th, June 4th 2026)

Calaf: Alfred Kim

Liù: Guanqun Yu

Ping: Liviu Holender

Pang: Magnus Dietrich

Pong: Michael Porter

Timur: Inho Jeong / Thomas Faulkner (May 1st, 23rd, 29th, June 4th 2026)

Altoum: Michael McCown

A Mandarin: Erik van Heyningen and others ...

Oper Frankfurt's Chorus, Extra Chorus, Children's Chorus & Extras; Frankfurter Opern and Museumsorchester

With generous support from the Frankfurt Patronatsverein – Sektion Oper

Turandot by **Giacomo Puccini** (1858–1924) is a work packed with dramatic intensity and contemporary sounds. Puccini's music, rich in orchestral colour and contrasts, projects an overwhelming emotional dynamism, which has lost none of its fascination. The score combines lyric bel canto and the buffonesque with biting dissonance, rhythmic layers and chorus scenes which hark back to the brutality of political mass movements in the 1920s. Left incomplete, when Puccini died in 1924, this new production sticks to the original work, without a posthumous conclusion, but preceded by a prologue by **Lucia Ronchetti** (*1963) for chorus and children's chorus, an intimation of impending disaster, which runs seamlessly into Puccini's opening bars, and was commissioned by Oper Frankfurt.

The plot: Princess Turandot goes against her father's wishes by refusing to marry. Anybody wanting her as his wife must solve three riddles. Anyone who fails, is publicly executed. Turandot's shaken to the core when Prince Calaf passes the test. A power struggle ensues, which claims innocent victims too ...

The first New Production of *Turandot* for 54 years is directed by **Andrea Breth**, making her debut at Oper Frankfurt. Breth is regarded as one of the foremost directors in German speaking countries. Last year she staged Fauré's *Pénélope* at the Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich, preceded by works including *Madama Butterfly* (2024) and *Salome* (2022) at the Festival Aix-en-Provence. The conductor is General Music Director **Thomas Guggeis**, who led New Productions of *Così fan tutte* and *Boris Godunov* and revivals of *Peter Grimes* and *Tristan und Isolde* here earlier this season. **Elza van den Heever** returns to Frankfurt for the title role. This South African soprano, a Member of the Ensemble in Frankfurt from 2008 to 2013, is a regular Guest at companies including La Scala Milan, Bayreuth, San Francisco and the Vienna State Opera. **Oleysa Golovneva**, singing Turandot in four of these performances, won awards for her portrayals of Anna Bolena and Luisa Miller and was nominated for a FAUST German Theatre Prize for her *Rusalka* in Cologne. **Alfred Kim** is Calaf and **Guanqun Yu** sings Liù. Turandot's riddle trials are commentated on by Ministers Ping (**Liviu Holender**), Pang (**Magnus Dietrich**) and Pong (**Michael Porter**), all Members of the Ensemble, who garner great acclaim when performing around the world. Timur is sung by **Inho Jeong** and **Thomas Faulkner**, Altoum by **Michael McCown** and **Erik van Heyningen** is a Mandarin.

Premiere: Sunday April 12th 2026, at 18hrs in the Opera House

Further performances: April 16th (19.30hrs), 19th, 25th (19.30hrs), May 1st, 3rd, 9th (19.30hrs), 14th, 17th, 23rd (19.30hrs), 29th (19.30hrs), June 4th 2026
Unless otherwise stated, all performances begin at 18hrs.

Tickets cost: € 16 to € 190 (with a 12.5% pre-booking fee when not purchased direct from the theatre)

Tickets can be obtained from the usual outlets, by telephone +49 (0)69 – 212 49 49 4 or online www.oper-frankfurt.de.

We do hope you might be able to publish this event. For further information, ordering photographs and reserving press tickets please contact Holger Engelhardt (Leitung Pressereferat) on +49 (0)69 – 212 46 727. His fax number is +49 (0)69 – 212 37 164 or you can email him on holger.engelhardt@buehnen-frankfurt.de.