

TURANDOT – Fact Sheet (updated 4/29/08)

COMPOSER: Giacomo Puccini, last duet & final scene completed by Franco Alfano

LIBRETTISTS: Giuseppe Adami and Renato Simoni

FORT WORTH OPERA DATES / TIMES / LOCATION:

Saturday, May 24, 2008 at 8pm

Sunday, June 1, 2008 at 2pm

Friday, June 6, 2008 at 8pm

All Performances will be held at Bass Performance Hall, downtown Fort Worth, Texas

CHARACTERS & PRIMARY CAST:

Turandot	Elizabeth Bennett
Calaf	Dongwon Shin
Liù	Sandra Lopez
Timur	Christian Van Horn
Ping	Ryan Taylor
Pang	Jamin Flabiano
Pong	Keith Jameson
Mandarin	Thomas Forde
Emperor Altoum	Adam Sattley
Conductor	Joseph Illick
Director	Daniel Pelzig

PRODUCTION: Performed in Italian with projected English supertitles. Scenery supplied by Opera Cleveland; costumes provided by The Dallas Opera. Estimated running time: 2:15 with two intermissions.

Turandot will feature the stranded Chinese acrobat troupe, the Guanhua Acrobats from Shanghai, who came to Dallas expecting a national tour and instead found themselves with no tour, money, food or shelter. Fort Worth Opera has contracted the troupe to perform in *Turandot* as palace performers and is co-sponsoring a benefit production of their act on May 27, 2008 at 7:00 pm at the Scott Theatre in Fort Worth. Tickets are \$25 each and available by calling 817.731.0726 or online at www.fwopera.org.

Also, TCU student and Lady Frogs basketball player Micaela Younger will perform a non-speaking, non-singing role of an executioner.

TICKETS:

Season Tickets: Include *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *Turandot* and *Of Mice and Men*. Complimentary vouchers to *Angels in America* will be included in all Friday, Saturday and Sunday Series packages.

Weekend Packages include guaranteed seating to *Angels in America*. \$50-\$412 each. Call 817.731.0726, toll-free 1.877.FWOPERA (396-7372) or go online at www.fwopera.org

Single tickets: \$19 - \$145. Students & military half-price with ID. Student rush pricing is \$5 for any available seat starting 30 minutes prior to curtain with ID. Call 817.731.0726 or toll-free 1.877.FWOPERA (396-7372) or go online at www.fwopera.org.

BACKGROUND:

Turandot was Puccini's final opera and perhaps contains his most extraordinary score. He did extensive research into Chinese music, weaving five authentic themes into the music. It took close to four years to compose, but the score was left unfinished at his death. A younger composer, Alfano, completed the score from his notes.

STORY: Peking, legendary times. In a quarter near the Forbidden City, a Mandarin reads an edict: any prince seeking to marry Princess Turandot must answer three riddles - and if he fails, he will die. Her latest suitor is executed at Turandot's command. In the crowd, Calaf is smitten with the princess' beauty and goes before the princess to answer the riddles, which he does to her great distress. Calaf generously offers Turandot a riddle of his own: if she can learn his name by dawn, he will forfeit his life. After a bloody night with Turandot desperately trying to discover his identity, he kisses her and tells her his name. As the crowd looks on, Turandot approaches the throne, announcing that the stranger's name is - Love.