



**Project Tosca** is a large, ambitious project in which Opera Queensland will work with seven Queensland communities to find and train local performers for a 2020 tour of *Tosca*.

*Tosca* is an opera by Giacomo Puccini, which premiered 120 years ago in Rome. The story follows the powerful Tosca, a famous opera singer who is devoted to the painter Cavaradossi, but Scarpia, the tyrannical Chief of Police, has his own plans for her. What ensues is a gripping tale of lust, betrayal and cold-blooded murder that careens at breakneck pace. The production is set in 1970 Italy and takes a step back into a world of iconic style and lush glamour at a time of dramatic political and social change. Opera Queensland stars Antoinette Halloran, Rosario La Spina and José Carbó shine alongside the Company's principal artists, Community Chorus and Queensland Symphony Orchestra Ensemble, conducted by Dane Lam.

Aspiring performers from seven communities – Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Gladstone, Toowoomba and Gold Coast – will have the opportunity to audition for a coveted spot.

During *Project Tosca*, around 400 successful applicants will participate in a program of free professional training in singing, stagecraft and Italian language skills before taking to the stage in their local theatres alongside Queensland's best singers and with the support of an ensemble of musicians from the Queensland Symphony Orchestra.

Auditions to find 40 adult and 16 children's chorus members in each community will occur throughout March, April and May 2020, with *Tosca* regional tour commencing on Saturday 8 August in Cairns and closing at the Gold Coast on Saturday 29 August.

## CAST

**Tosca** Antoinette Halloran

**Cavaradossi** Rosario La Spina

**Scarpia** José Carbó

**Spoletta** Gregory Massingham

**Sciarrone** David Hibbard

**Angelotti** Sam Hartley

**Sacristan/Gaoler** Shaun Brown

**Shepherd** Jessica Low

## CREATIVES

**Conductor** Dane Lam

**Director** Patrick Nolan

**Assistant Director** Laura Hansford

**Set & Costume Designer** Dale Ferguson

**Lighting Designer** Mark Howett

Queensland Symphony Orchestra Ensemble

Opera Queensland Community and Children's Choruses

## PERFORMANCE DATES

**Saturday 8 August** Cairns Performing Arts Centre

**Wednesday 12 August** Townsville Civic Centre

**Saturday 15 August** Mackay Entertainment & Convention Centre

**Wednesday 19 August** Pilbeam Theatre, Rockhampton

**Saturday 22 August** Gladstone Entertainment Convention Centre

**Wednesday 26 August** Empire Theatre, Toowoomba

**Friday 28 and Saturday 29 August** HOTA, Gold Coast



## PROJECT TOSCA FAQs

### **Can anyone get involved, even if you've never sung before?**

Prior solo or choral experience or training is an advantage but not obligatory. So, if you're a great bathroom baritone or shower soprano and want to try singing in a chorus, you're very welcome to come along and give it a go in front of our friendly audition panel.

### **How many people will make it through auditions to be part of the final chorus?**

40 adult and 16 children per regional city. Adult chorus auditionees must be 16 years of age at the time of their audition. Children's chorus auditionees must be between 10 to 15 years of age with an unbroken, treble voice.

### **What do I have to prepare for the audition?**

Bring one song of your own choice (Italian optional), of which we expect to hear a maximum of three minutes duration. Shorter songs are preferred if possible. Complex or lengthy arias are not necessary for this audition.

### **Will a pianist be available at my audition?**

Yes. Please bring a copy of your chosen audition piece which should be marked up with any cuts, repeats, pauses or breaths and in the key you will be singing. For this audition, transposing on the day is not possible. If your music has more than two or three pages, please glue into a scrapbook or place in a folder – loose sheets are not acceptable. You will have the opportunity to show the pianist your music and briefly discuss tempo, repeats etc during your audition.

### **Can I use a backing track?**

Certainly, whatever you're most comfortable with. Please bring your backing track on a USB or smart phone with an appropriate lead (to connect with a laptop).

### **Can I sing unaccompanied at the audition?**

Yes.

### **Can I accompany myself on guitar (etc)?**

Yes, you certainly can.

### **I only have a simple folk song – is that suitable for an opera audition?**

Yes, sing whatever makes you most comfortable, including folk songs, ballads, oratorio and art songs. Very contemporary styles such as "belting" or musicals, rock or songs that sound best with a microphone, may not be as useful as a more classical style of song. If you can't think of anything you know, try a song such as "Amazing Grace", "Danny Boy" or even "Advance Australia Fair" – they are all perfectly fine choices.

### **Can I hold the words or sheet music while I audition?**

Yes, certainly.

### **I'd prefer to audition with a friend as I normally don't sing solo. Is this allowed?**

Yes, if you feel more comfortable we can hear two people at one time singing the same piece.

### **What else might happen at the audition?**

There may be a brief chat about your interest in the project and previous singing or musical experience (if any), and a photograph and measurements may be taken. If the panel needs to know more about your upper or lower range they may ask you to sing along a scale with the piano. The auditions will be recorded on video – this is only for private reference by the panel to assist final selection in the weeks after the auditions.



## PROJECT TOSCA FAQs cont.

### **How long will the audition take?**

You'll be allocated a 15-20 minute slot, of which the actual audition will be around five to eight minutes. You'll also be required at the venue around 15-20 minutes before your allocated slot. After the audition we'll check we don't need anything else and you will be free to leave. With a large number of auditionees, however, bear in mind that it's possible the audition slots may run late, so please allow extra time and let us know if you have a special time constraint when you arrive.

**How many people will be on the panel?** In most venues the panel will consist of two representatives from Opera Queensland and the Local Chorus Master.

**I live halfway between (e.g.) Rockhampton and Gladstone. Can I audition in one place and be considered for either show?** Yes. If possible try to do your audition in the centre in which you would prefer to rehearse/perform.

**What happens if I'm away or can't audition on the dates shown?** Let us know and we'll ask you to send us a recording instead.

**I'm away for the audition dates in (e.g.) Rockhampton, but I'll be in Townsville at the time of auditions. Can I do my audition there instead of sending a recording?** Absolutely, this is fine.

**Can I find out on the day whether I have been successful?** No, you will be notified by email in the weeks following the audition.

**I will be away for some weeks in the lead up to the performance. Will this be a problem?** Please let us know when you receive the application form. If the absence is manageable we will let you know. If things change between the application and your audition date, we would appreciate you staying in touch.

## AUDITION DATES

**Monday 30 & Tuesday 31 March** Cairns Performing Arts Centre

**Wednesday 1 & Thursday 2 April** Pilbeam Theatre, Rockhampton

**Monday 20 & Tuesday 21 April** Townsville Civic Centre

**Wednesday 22 & Thursday 23 April** Mackay Entertainment & Convention Centre

**Monday 27 & Tuesday 28 April** Empire Theatre, Toowoomba

**Wednesday 29 & Thursday 30 April** HOTA, Gold Coast

**Wednesday 6 & Thursday 7 May** Gladstone Entertainment Convention Centre