Turandot

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA
2011–12 SEASON

Timings:	**Act I:**	32 minutes
	Intermission:	25 minutes
	Act II:	44 minutes
	Intermission:	25 minutes
	Act III:	40 minutes

Total running time: Approximately 2 hours and 50 minutes.

First performance: Milan, La Scala, April 25, 1926, with Rosa Raisa in the title role, Maria Zamboni as Liù, and Miguel Fleta as Calaf. Arturo Toscanini conducted.

First performance in the U.S.: New York, Metropolitan Opera, November 16, 1926, with Maria Jeritza, Martha Attwood, and Giacomo Lauri-Volpi. Tullio Serafin conducted.

First San Francisco Opera performance: 19 September 1927, with Roselle, Donnelly and Tokatyan. Gaetano Merola conducted.

Orchestra: 3 flutes (2 doubling piccolo), 2 oboes, 1 English horn, 2 clarinets, 1 bass clarinet, 2 bassoons, 1 contrabassoon, 4 horns, 3 trumpets, 3 trombones, 1 cimbasso, 2 harps, celeste, 40 strings (12 first violins, 9 second violins, 7 violas, 7 cellos, 5 basses).

Percussion: 1 timpanist (4 drums) and 6 percussionists that play triangle, snare drum, funeral drum, cymbals, tam-tam, 11 tuned gongs, glockenspiel, xylophone, marimba, and chimes.

Backstage: 2 saxophones, 4 trumpets, 4 trombones, woodblocks, gong, organ

Personnel: 9 principals; 80 choristers; 20 children onstage, 40 children offstage; 50 supernumeraries; 9 dancers. **Total: 199.**

Ending: Standard Alfano

Production: Co-produced and co-owned with the Lyric Opera of Chicago. The physical production was constructed in our workshops, however, and all costumes were built in the San Francisco Opera Costume Shop. The production received its premiere in Chicago in January, 1992. It has been staged at SFO in 1993, 1998, and 2002.

About the sets: Because the design abounds in unusual geometric shapes, many of them flying at compound angles, translating all of these into exact measurements for construction took six weeks of computer work alone. This is one of the most vibrantly colored sets SF Opera has built. The all-important color scheme demanded a lot of attention during the building process, not only because of the colors themselves, but because of how it will reflect the varied lighting palette.

David Hockney, when creating the production, wanted to move away from the traditional ñchinoiserieò that pervaded, with very few exceptions, all previous productions of this opera around the world. He also determined that his scenery and light changes be as closely tied to the music as possible.

Lighting: Thomas Munn began working on the colors and lights with David Hockney from the beginning, at the time the production was being designed, and before its first staging in Chicago. The use of primary colors in the set significantly affected the lighting scheme, dictating that the performers and costumes on stage should be lit in secondary colors. The lighting design does not include any extraordinary methods or instruments; rather, the brightness is unusual.

Previous San Francisco Opera Casts:

	Turandot	Liù	Calaf	Timur	Director	Conductor
1927	Roselle	Donnelly	Tokatyan	Pinza	Agnini	Merola
1928	Jeritza	Vettori	Tokatyan	D'Angelo	Agnini	Merola
1953	Borkh	Albanese Warenskjold	Turrini	Tajo Ligeti	Piccinato	Cleva
1954	Martinis Borkh	Albanese Warenskjold	Turrini	Moscona Ligeti	Piccinato	Cleva
1957	Rysanek GencerÀ	Albanese	Tobin	Moscona	Piccinato	Molinari-Pradelli
1961	Udovick	L.Price Likova	Konya	Clabassi	P. Hager	Molinari-Pradelli
1964	Nilsson	Lorengar	Tagliavini	Tozzi	Mansouri	Molinari-Pradelli
1968	Shuard	Marsh	Spiess	Berberian	P. Hager	Patanè
1969À	Shuard	Marsh	Spiess	Berberian	P.Hager	Patanè
1977	Caballé*	Mitchell	Pavarotti*	Tozzi	Ponnelle	Chailly
1982	Kelm	Daniels	Martinucci	Langan	Hebert	Chung
1985	Marton Kelm	Anelli	Bonisolli	Macurdy	Hebert	Chung
1993	Marton Voss	Mazzaria	Sylvester Popov	Langan	McClintock	Runnicles Robertson
1998	Schnaut Stottler	Vassileva Dankova Amsellem	Margison Martinucci Margison	DôArtegna Palatchi	Bruce	Armiliato
2002	Eaglen Stottler	Racette Amsellem	Villars Nagore	Rieter Jun	Alexander	Runnicles Robertson Polianichko

*role debut À performed on tour in Los Angeles only

Role Debuts: Leah Crocetto as Liù