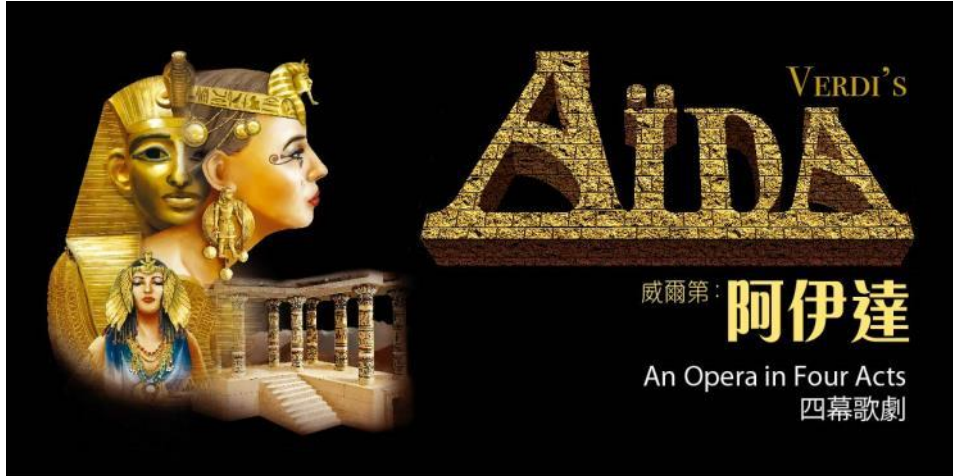


## PRESS RELEASE

**Opera Hong Kong proudly presents**  
**Egyptian epic - Verdi's *Aïda***  
**A classic tale of love, conflict and betrayal**



(12 Sep 2017, Hong Kong) In celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and co-produced with the Shanghai Opera House, Opera Hong Kong proudly presents **Giuseppe Verdi's** 4-act opera ***Aïda*** on Oct 10-15, 2017, at the Grand Theatre of Hong Kong Cultural Centre at 7:30pm.

These performances feature a stellar cast including [He Hui](#), the most famous Chinese soprano of our times, has made *Aïda* a trademark role. Debuted her *Aïda* in Vienna to enormous acclaim, she has sung the role at all major opera houses of the world including the Metropolitan Opera in New York, La Scala of Milan and the Arena of Verona Opera.

African-American soprano [Kristin Lewis](#) has successfully portrayed *Aïdas* in Vienna, Berlin and Naples. She was hand-picked by Zubin Mehta in 2015 for the first new production of *Aïda* at La Scala of Milan, probably the most demanding Italian opera house.

The phenomenal Beijing-born bass [Hao Jiang Tian](#) has performed over 1300 performances around the world, and has been associated with the New York Met for over 20 years. He is also the author of the autobiography "Along the Roaring River: My wild ride from Mao to the Met".

Opera Hong Kong presents the production at its best by bringing a combined orchestra of Shanghai Opera House Orchestra and Suzhou Symphony Orchestra, two reputable mainland China orchestras under the baton of [Xu Zhong](#), Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of Teatro Massimo Bellini. Opera Hong Kong Chorus will join forces with Shanghai Opera House Dance Ensemble to relive the spectacular scenes including the monumental *Triumphant March* which require huge choir, dancers and supernumeraries.

With support from the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, *Aïda* will be held on Oct 10 (Tue) to Oct 15 (Sun) at 7:30 pm starring world-class international vocalists at the Grand Theatre, Hong Kong Cultural Centre. Tickets are available now at URBTIX ([www.urbtix.hk](http://www.urbtix.hk)). Tickets are priced at HK\$1,080, HK\$880, HK\$680, HK\$420, HK\$300 and HK\$150 for the performances. There is a limited number of half-price tickets for senior citizens aged 60 or above, persons with disabilities and their carers, full-time students and Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients on a first-come, first-served basis.

## About *Aïda*

***Verdi's Aïda* is the greatest story of love of an Ethiopian princess, Aïda and an Egyptian military hero, Radamès.**

During the Pharaoh era, the two nations Ethiopian and Egypt were at war in ancient Egypt. Princess Aïda was captured and enslaved. Radamès, the man she was secretly in love with, was betrothed to the powerful Princess of Egypt, Amneris.

Celebrating the victory with dances and music; and facing the dilemma of love and patriotism, Radamès decided to set Aïda and the King of Ethiopia free. Unexpectedly, Amneris who was spying on Radamès, discovered the escape of the love birds.

Radamès was sentenced to be buried alive. Aïda went to the vault and decided to die in Radamès arms. The classic love tragedy along with the spectacularly soaring music continues to thrill audience worldwide.

## Creative Team

Producer	<a href="#">Warren Mok</a>
Conductor	<a href="#">Xu Zhong</a>
Stage Director and Set Designer	<a href="#">Jean-Louis Grinda</a>
Costume Designer	Francoise Raybaud
Lighting Designer	Francoise Thouret
Choreographer	Eugenie Andrin
Assistant Conductor	Roberto Moretti
Chorus Director	Alex Tam

## Performers

### Cast List

Aïda	<b><u>10, 12, 14 Oct</u></b> <a href="#">He Hui</a> (10 Oct) / <a href="#">Marjorie Owens</a> (12, 14 Oct)	<b><u>11, 13, 15 Oct</u></b> <a href="#">Kristin Lewis</a> (11, 13, 15 Oct)
Radamès	<a href="#">Riccardo Massi</a>	<a href="#">Najmiddin Mavlyanov</a>
Amneris	<a href="#">Violeta Urmana</a>	<a href="#">Nino Surguladze</a>
Amonasro	<a href="#">Reginald Smith Jr</a> (10, 12, 13 Oct)	<a href="#">Sun Li</a> (11, 14, 15 Oct)
Ramfis	<a href="#">Hao Jiang Tian</a>	<a href="#">Paul Gay</a>
King of Egypt	<a href="#">Igor Durlovski</a>	<a href="#">Freddie Tong</a>

Shanghai Opera House Orchestra  
 Suzhou Symphony Orchestra  
 Opera Hong Kong Chorus  
 Shanghai Opera House Dance Ensemble

**Programme Details**

10-15 Oct 2017 (Tue-Sun) | 7:30pm

Grand Theatre, Hong Kong Cultural Centre

\$1,080, \$880, \$680, \$420, \$300 and \$150 - Tickets available at URBIX outlets.

There is a limited number of half-price tickets for senior citizens aged 60 or above, persons with disabilities and their carers, full-time students and Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Ticketing:** [http://www.urbtix.hk/internet/en\\_US/eventDetail/33370](http://www.urbtix.hk/internet/en_US/eventDetail/33370)  
**Credit Card Telephone Booking:** 2111 5999  
**Ticketing Enquiries:** 3761 6661  
**Programme Enquiries:** 2234 0303

- END -

**Press information**

High-res photos can be downloaded from the following link

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ru73cqyai0pi7br/AAAY\\_G5qU5XX695VMLknZKaa?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ru73cqyai0pi7br/AAAY_G5qU5XX695VMLknZKaa?dl=0)

**Interview opportunities, please contact DNA for further arrangement (Email / Personal Interview)**

Mr. Warren Mok

Ms. He Hui

Ms. Kristin Lewis

Mr. Hao Jiang Tian

**Media Enquiries:**

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[www.operahongkong.org](http://www.operahongkong.org)

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[www.instagram.com/operahongkong](https://www.instagram.com/operahongkong)

### About Opera Hong Kong

Opera Hong Kong is the first opera company to have been established in Hong Kong. The company was formed in July 2003 as a non-profit organisation. Since its inception, Opera Hong Kong has become a firmly established part of Hong Kong's cultural scene. Since our establishment, Opera Hong Kong has gone from strength to strength under the artistic direction of Warren Mok, the internationally acclaimed Hong Kong tenor, with many grand-scale productions of operas including *The Barber of Seville*, *Otello*, *Tosca*, *La Traviata*, *Turandot*, *Carmen*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Roméo et Juliette*, *Aïda*, *Werther*, *Don Carlo*, *The Magic Flute*, *Poet Li Bai*, *Manon*, *La Bohème* and many others. Apart from operas, Opera Hong Kong has also presented a significant number of musicals and concerts.

Opera Hong Kong (OHK) is committed to the mission of enhancing the appreciation of the art of opera in Hong Kong and promoting local musical talents. In 2015, OHK has launched The Jockey Club Opera Hong Kong Young Artist Development Programme (the Programme), a 3-year opera training programme funded by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, to nurture ten professional young local artists. The Programme is the first-ever intensive professional opera training project in Hong Kong accompanied by a series of outreach activities. Mr. Gong Dongjian, a famous bass and an experienced vocal coach, is the Programme Director of the Programme.

In addition to staging operas and concerts, opera school tours, summer camps and master classes are held regularly to reach the young population. Opera Hong Kong Chorus and Opera Hong Kong Children Chorus were established in 2004 and 2008 respectively and are becoming recognised forces in the local choral scene.

### About Shanghai Opera House

Shanghai Opera House (SOH) was established in 1956. It was formerly named Xin'an Touring Troupe, which was inaugurated in 1935. In its more than half a century's development, Shanghai Opera House has left brilliant footprints in opera, dance drama, musical, chorus and orchestral music, taking legendary artists including Ren Guizhen, Shi Hong'e, Li Zhonglin and Shu Qiao to the centre stage. Today, under the leadership of Xu Zhong and Wei Song, Shanghai Opera House is home to numerous famous artists, who include Zhang Guoyong, Lin Yousheng, Yang Xiaoyong, Chi Liming, Zhang Feng, Han Peng and Xu Xiaoying.

Over the more than six decades since establishment, Shanghai Opera House has won 67 awards, and its artists were winners in 25 international contests. Dedicated to both original and classic productions, SOH has staged over 100 original grand productions, presenting the original operas *Tianmen Island*, *Flower of the Strait*, *Thunderstorm* and *Overlord of Chu*; original musical *National Anthem*; dance dramas *Dagger Group*, *Singing Phoenix of Qishan*, *Zhou Xuan* and *Chang'e Rising to the Moon*; together with symphony choruses and modern dances. Shanghai Opera House also breathes fresh and delightful verve into audiences' artistic appreciation with masterpieces from the East and West, such as Western classical operas *La traviata*, *Turandot*, *Otello*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Aïda* and *Tosca*; Chinese national classic opera *Sister Jiang*; and Chinese and Western large-scale symphonic choruses *Yellow River Cantata*, *Carmina Burana* and Beethoven's No. 9 Symphony.

Furthermore, SOH actively promotes artistic exchanges and collaboration between China and other countries. *La Bohème*, *Attila*, *Carmen* and *Manon Lescaut* are among its co-performances with internationally renowned opera houses. It has worked with many prominent artists worldwide, for example, conductors Lorin Maazel, Erik Nielsen and Daniel Oren, and singers Luciano Pavarotti, Plácido Domingo and José Carreras. SOH was invited to visit more than 30 countries and regions in five continents including Italy, the Vatican, Austria, Finland, Sweden, Germany, Japan, Korea, Hong Kong and Macau.