



Project Puccini: Facts and figures

Project Puccini is a world-first initiative by OperaQ, in collaboration with eight regional Queensland cities, which will give hundreds of everyday people the opportunity to perform in the chorus of a new, professionally staged production of *La bohème*. Nothing to this scale has ever been attempted before.

Scale:

- Project Puccini represents an investment of nearly \$2 million into regional arts and development, with significant support coming from the Playing Queensland Fund and The Graeme Wood Foundation
- The Project Puccini team will travel more than 21,000 kilometres over a six-month period from Brisbane to the Gold Coast, Toowoomba, Ipswich, Fraser Coast, Rockhampton, Mackay, Townsville and Mount Isa
- 486 Queenslanders will directly participate in the project
- OperaQ's production of *La bohème* will be seen by up to 19,000 people in theatres from Brisbane to Mount Isa
- When the final curtain goes down in Mount Isa, more than two years will have passed since planning started for Project Puccini
- The challenges involved in Project Puccini are immense. For example, each costume for the chorus has to fit nine different people (including Brisbane). The OperaQ wardrobe team has devised wraparound skirts, shoe coverings to fit over any sized foot, adaptable coats and many other ingenious solutions
- The touring crew will constitute a Queensland Symphony Orchestra chamber ensemble of 13 musicians, 12 cast and creatives and 13 production and technical staff.

Cast and crew:

Director: Craig Illot	Mimi: Hyeseoung Kwon/Emily Burke
Designer: Penny Challen	Musetta: Emily Burke/Annie Lower
Lighting Designer: David Walters	Rodolfo: Bradley Daley/Virgilio Marino
Chorus Master: Narelle French	Marcello: Shaun Brown/Guy Booth
Assistant Director: Jason Barry-Smith	Schaunard: Guy Booth/Sam Hartley
	Colline: Andrew Collis
	Alcindoro: Sam Hartley
	Benoît: Bernard Wheaton
Musicians from Queensland Symphony Orchestra	

Audition dates:

- Thursday 13 to Saturday 15 March – Mackay
- Monday 17 to Wednesday 19 March – Toowoomba
- Tuesday 25 to Thursday 27 March – Mount Isa
- Friday 28 to Sunday 30 March – Fraser Coast
- Friday 4 to Sunday 6 April – Ipswich
- Monday 7 to Wednesday 9 April – Gold Coast
- Friday 11 to Sunday 13 April – Rockhampton
- Tuesday 15 to Wednesday 16 April – Townsville

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Rehearsal Commencement Dates:

- Monday 2 June – Gold Coast
- Monday 9 June – Toowoomba
- Monday 16 June – Fraser Coast
- Monday 16 June – Rockhampton
- Monday 23 June – Ipswich
- Monday 23 June – Townsville
- Monday 30 June – Mount Isa

Touring Dates:

- Tuesday 15 July – Saturday 2 August 2014, Conservatorium Theatre, Griffith University, Brisbane (Opera Queensland Chorus)
- Saturday 9 August 2014, The Arts Centre, Gold Coast (Gold Coast Regional Chorus)
- Tuesday 12 August 2014, Ipswich Civic Centre, Ipswich (Ipswich Regional Chorus)
- Friday 15 August 2014, Empire Theatre, Toowoomba (Toowoomba Regional Chorus)
- Wednesday 20 August 2014, Brolga Theatre, Fraser Coast (Fraser Coast Regional Chorus)
- Saturday 23 August 2014, Pilbeam Theatre, Rockhampton (Rockhampton Regional Chorus)
- Wednesday 27 August 2014, Mackay Entertainment & Convention Centre (Mackay Regional Chorus)
- Saturday 30 August 2014, Townsville Civic Theatre (Townsville Regional Chorus)
- Thursday 4 September 2014, Mount Isa Civic Theatre (Mount Isa Regional Chorus)

N.B. The Ipswich Civic Centre performance will be in concert mode.