



Shenyang, Leonardo Gramegna, Tan Dun, Lei Xu, Huiling Zhu, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra Photo: Daniel Aulsebrook

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

MSO INTERNATIONAL CO-COMMISSION

with Dresdner Musikfestspiele, New York Philharmonic,
and the Los Angeles Philharmonic

COLLABORATION WITH MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ARTS

 **1,829**

TOTAL ATTENDANCE

6 INDIGENOUS CHINESE ARTISTS

MSO Chorus sings in

MANDARIN & SANSKRIT

MULTI-CHANNEL SALES THROUGH

MSO, Arts Centre Melbourne, Melbourne Festival,
AUSFocus, Nan Tien Institute and Hengyi

TAN DUN ANNOUNCED AS MSO ARTISTIC AMBASSADOR

Buddha Passion is the world's first Passion set to the teachings of Buddha. An 'opera in six acts', *Buddha Passion* tells parables of love, forgiveness, sacrifice and salvation with a large orchestra, chorus, a quartet of opera singers, a pipa soloist and dancer, and a Khoomei overtone singer who also plays the Morin Khuur (horsehead fiddle).

Before the concert the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra proudly announced the appointment of Maestro Tan Dun as **MSO Artistic Ambassador**, acknowledging the Orchestra's deep connection with Maestro Tan and celebrating his extraordinary contribution to classical music.

Special guests in attendance included Mr Cheng Jingye, Ambassador for the People's Republic of China in Australia, Mr Zhao Jian, Consul General for the People's Republic of China in Melbourne, Jenny Bloomfield, State Director of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the Hon Robin Scott, Victorian Minister for Multicultural Affairs.

Melbourne Symphony Orchestra

Tan Dun conductor

Lei Xu soprano

Huiling Zhu mezzo-soprano

Leonardo Gramegna tenor

Shenyang bass-baritone

Tan Weiwei vocalist

Batubagen vocalist

Yining Chen pipa soloist and dancer

Melbourne Symphony Orchestra Chorus

Warren Trevelyan-Jones chorus master

“The high quality of the musicians is why I return and why it is always a pleasure to work with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. As a conductor and a composer I can achieve everything I want with this fine orchestra and I am deeply honoured to accept the title of MSO Artistic Ambassador.”

– Tan Dun

“Tan Dun's music is as wide-ranging as it is all-embracing, and resonates with a global audience.”

– Gramophone



REVIEWS

“...the quality of the performance and the devout artistic commitment invested in the creation of *Buddha Passion* has resulted in a spiritual experience to remember, making it an ideal centre-piece of any Arts Festival.

– Classic Melbourne

“...flawlessly combining the classic with the contemporary in a rousing and memorable performance. As good as opera can get.”

– ArtsHub

“The composer follows a highly individual path but the work’s emotional character serves as a modern-day transformation of one of Western music’s more impressive structures...splendidly rich chorales, the pivotal ones powerful statements that eventually brought this audience to its feet.”

– The Age

WHAT THE AUDIENCE HAD TO SAY

“I was so impressed by *Buddha Passion* – it was wonderful to see the Chinese performers and to have the merging of Chinese Opera with Western musical idiom and culture via the imprimatur of the MSO. It was a great evening and to have experienced and be part of such a wonderful cross cultural event and musical splendour.”

“It was a magnificent performance, I was so happy I had the good fortune to witness it.”

“Amazing show... a great night to be remembered.”

“It was a fantastic concert. Looking forward to seeing Tan Dun back in Melbourne in February for Chinese New Year Concert.”

“This was an extraordinary concert. Congratulations to all involved. The MSO Chorus was fantastic, as were all the soloists. Thank you MSO, Tan Dun & Melbourne Festival.”

SOCIAL MEDIA



FACEBOOK REACH

100,000+



9,000 PAGE VIEWS

Visitors from the US, NZ, Hong Kong, Italy, UK and Singapore