

In celebration of the
2006 AUSTRALIA-JAPAN YEAR OF EXCHANGE

the **Executive Committee for Opera**
“Princess from the Moon”

and the **Embassy of Japan** presents:



OPERA “Princess from the Moon”

Based on the Japanese fairy tale “Kaguyahime”

*Composed and Directed by Japan’s
Acclaimed Maestro, Mr Hideaki Hirai*

The Opera will feature prominent soloists from Japan and Australia in collaboration and cooperation with:

- * Canberra Symphony Orchestra
- * Woden Valley Youth Choir
- * Canberra Choral Society
- * ANU School of Music



Supported by: THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN
(THE AGENCY FOR CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS)
THE JAPAN FOUNDATION, THE NOMURA CULTURAL FOUNDATION
Produced by: TOKYO OPERA PRODUCTION

7:30pm, 16 June 2006
Llewellyn Hall,
ANU School of Music

TICKET PRICES

Adult: A Reserve \$60 / B Reserve \$40
Concession: \$40
Children (under 12): \$25
Phone and Internet booking charges apply

CANBERRA TICKETING

02 6275 2700 www.canberraticketing.com.au



**CANBERRA
THEATRE
CENTRE**

ABOUT THE OPERA

The opera "Princess from the Moon", composed and directed by Japan's critically acclaimed maestro, Mr Hideaki Hirai, is based on the classic Japanese folktale "Kaguyahime". The story is one of Japan's oldest and most well known fairy tales. It is the tale of a young princess who descends to Earth. An old man and his wife find the princess in a piece of golden bamboo and raise her as their daughter. She grows up to be the most beautiful woman in the country, attracting many marriage proposals from dignitaries, including the Emperor of Japan. The princess rejects these proposals, knowing in her heart that she must one day return to the moon.



"Princess from the Moon"



2006 AUSTRALIA-JAPAN YEAR OF EXCHANGE

The Year of Exchange acknowledges the friendship between Japan and Australia that has grown through many exchanges over a long period. The year also aims to deepen our friendship and understanding by promoting further exchanges.

The opera *Princess from the Moon* will be held on the 30th anniversary of the signing of the *Basic Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation* between Australia and Japan (16 June 1976).

HIDEAKI (AKI) HIRAI, *conductor* ♪

Born into a musical family, Hideaki Hirai (b.1970, Tokyo) has "a talent deeply ingrained in his genes" (*The Den*), is one of the most sought-after young conductors of his generation. Following his 1st prize at the 6th Hradec Kralove International Conducting Competition (Czech Republic), he has been a frequent guest conductor of many leading orchestras including *Janacek Philharmonic, Karlsbad Symphony Orchestra* and most of the major Japanese orchestras such as *Tokyo Philharmonic* and *New Japan Philharmonic*.

Acknowledged as an opera conductor, he has recently conducted *La Traviata, Carmen, Madame Butterfly, La Boheme* and his own opera, "Princess from the Moon" in Tokyo (Feb., 2003) to critical and commercial acclaim. Upon his successful debut in 2003 at the New National Theatre Tokyo with "Mitridate" and "Lucio Silla", Maestro Hirai was again invited to conduct "Marriage of Figaro" in 2005 and "Serse" in 2006. In Jan., 2006, he was appointed music director and conductor of the Tokyo Opera Experimental Theatre. While completing his bachelor's degree in political science at the University of Rochester, he also studied conducting under David Effron, Frederik Prausnitz, Otakar Trhlik and his mentor Sir Colin Davis. <http://www.hideaki-hirai.com>

THE STAFF/ CAST

Producer: Fumiko Takenaka **Stage Director: Kenji Naoi**

Princess Kaguya	(Soprano)	Mami Koshigoe
Mikado	(Baritone)	Katsuji Miura
Okina	(Baritone)	Akihito Shikano
Ohna	(Mezzo Soprano)	Kazuko Nagai
Sato no Musume	(Soprano)	Kanae Kushima
Prince Kuramochi	(Tenor)	Damien Hall
Dainagon	(Baritone)	Thomas Millhouse
Chuhnagon & Ten'no Oh	(Baritone)	Gavan Fairclough
Kuge	(Tenor)	Richard Phillips
Prince Ishizukuri	(Baritone)	Matthew Thomas

Produced by Tokyo Opera Production **Director: Hiroshi Matsuo**

