

what's on

STAGE

Mulan

This original Chinese opera tells the story of legendary heroine Mulan, who disguises herself as a man to take the place of her ailing father in the army. The opera, scored by Chinese composer Guan Xia, debuted in 2004 and has toured China. Famous soprano Peng Liyuan, president of the Performing Arts Troupe of the People's Liberation Army's Political Department, is the artistic director of the opera.

7:15 pm, July 12, 13
Shanghai Grand Theatre, 300 Renmin Avenue
021-6386-8686
180-1,080 yuan

Children's Chorus

The Paris Opera Children's Chorus will perform at the Shanghai Oriental Art Center. The chorus was founded 25 years ago and has participated in more than 40 operas and musicals, working with internationally famed conductors and singers. Besides its repertoire of religious songs, the chorus will also perform lyrical pieces by Bizet, Mozart and Debussy, along with French folk songs.

7:30 pm, July 17
Shanghai Oriental Art Center, 425 Dingxiang Road
021-6217-2426
80-300 yuan

Pacific Boychoir

The Pacific Boychoir, from Oakland, California, is known for winning a Grammy for Best Classical Album in 2004. Now, they've come to China. Founded in 1998 with six performers, the choir now has more than 100 singers aged from seven to 17 years old. Its founding music director, Kevin Fox, will lead the tour to China.

7:30 pm, July 20
Shanghai Oriental Art Center, 425 Dingxiang Road
021-6217-2426
80-500 yuan

EXHIBITIONS

Expanding Horizons

The exhibition highlights key artistic practices that have communicated and shaped various artists' approaches that speak to the diversity and historical traditions of landscape art. Featuring a range of media including painting, photography, video and sound art, Expanding Horizons represents the varied and rich visions of diverse artists living and working in China.

Until September 25
Art + Shanghai Gallery, No 2, Lane 22 Fuming Road
021-6248-4388
Tuesday to Sunday, 11 am-7 pm (Closed Monday)

World Expo

The West Lake International Artists Association invited 22 artists from Shanghai and Zhejiang to create artwork pertaining to the Expo 2010 Shanghai. Most of the exhibits are Chinese paintings and calligraphy. At the same time in the Lu Yanshao Art Museum in Jiading district, oil paintings and other Western style artwork on World Expos is on exhibition.

Until July 13, 9 am-5 pm daily
Zhu Qizhan Art Museum, 580 Ouyang Road
021-5671-0742

EVENT

Summer lessons

The Shanghai Museum will give summer lessons about the discovery of cultural relics to students. In two days, participants will learn basic archeological skills and experience the hardship and joy of archeology. They will spend the first day in the Shanghai Museum and the second day doing field studies to Hemudu and Tianluo Mountain. Each session will be made up of no more than 40 people.

July 14-15, 28-29, August 11-12
Shanghai Museum, 201 Renmin Avenue
021-9696-8686
230 yuan per person

Top opera troupe Shanghai bound

Performers from Turin's Teatro Regio will visit the city to perform the classic *La Boheme*, Zhang Kun reports.

The Teatro Regio from Turin, Italy will stage two performances of *La Boheme* at Shanghai Grand Theater on Aug 4 and 6.

The Teatro Regio was the theater where this classic opera premiered in 1894. In August, a large cast of more than 200 will arrive in Shanghai and produce an authentic production of *La Boheme*, one of the world's most popular operas, by Giacomo Puccini.

This is yet another heavyweight opera project this year for Shanghai Grand Theatre. In September, the Cologne Opera House will present *The Ring of the Nibelung* by Richard Wagner.

"We would not have been able to invite these prestigious opera houses if not for the World Expo being held in Shanghai," said Qian Shijin, artistic director of Shanghai Grand Theatre.

La Boheme is the second most-frequently staged opera in the world, after *Madame Butterfly*, also by Puccini. Telling a tragic love story between a poor poet Rodolfo and Mimi, a seamstress who is mortally ill, *La Boheme* features beautifully designed musical personalities.

"You will find the poet's music personality completely different from that of the painter," said Zhang Feng, a baritone with Shanghai Opera House, who has played *La Boheme* in Italy. Shanghai Grand Theater specially invited Zhang and Paolo Sabbatini, the cultural consul with the Italy Consulate in Shanghai, to have a public discussion about the Turin production of *La Boheme*.

La Boheme was first presented in China in 1986, featuring internationally acclaimed tenor Luciano Pavarotti. Sabbatini helped to organize and coordinate the show in Beijing. According to Zhang, who has listened to the top tenors such as Pavarotti, Placido Domingo and José Carreras playing Rodolfo, Pavarotti gave the best presentation of the role, as his voice best pictured the melancholy and fragile personality of Rodolfo.

"While French opera often tell tales of the court, Italian opera is for the people — it is in our tradition and you hear people singing opera as popular songs anywhere, such as the boatmen steering gondolas in Venice," said Sabbatini.

The Teatro Regio production of *La Boheme* was adapted from director Eugenio Guglielminetti's 1984 production. The theater's music director, Gianandrea Noseda, will conduct the shows in Shanghai.

The Ring of the Nibelung will be staged at Shanghai Grand Theatre in September. Known as the most important opera work by Wagner, the ambitious project is made up of four parts and a complete performance will take four nights.



PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

A stage scene of the opera *La Boheme* by the Teatro Regio from Turin.

IF YOU GO

Upcoming performances

La Boheme

7:15 pm, Aug 4, 6
150-800 yuan

The Ring of the Nibelung, two cycles of four nights:

The Rhinegold: 7:30 pm, Sept 16, 21

The Valkyrie: 6:30 pm, Sept 17, 22

Siegfried: 6:30 pm, Sept 18, 23

The Twilight of the Gods: 5:30 pm, Sept 19, 24

300-1,600 yuan

Shanghai Grand Theatre, 300 Renmin Avenue
021-6386-8686