



The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP

Premier of NSW

Minister for Western Sydney

MEDIA RELEASE

Saturday 17 March 2012

SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE THEATRE RENAMED IN HONOUR OF DAME JOAN SUTHERLAND

NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell today announced the Sydney Opera House Opera Theatre would be renamed in honour of Dame Joan Sutherland.

The opera theatre will be known as the Dame Joan Sutherland Opera Theatre from later in the year.

"After Dame Joan's passing in 2010, I made the suggestion the opera theatre be renamed in her honour. Today, I'm delighted to announce it's now a reality," Mr O'Farrell said.

"The Sydney Opera House played such an important role in the career of this opera legend, it seemed only natural to honour Dame Joan in this way," he said.

One of Dame Joan's final performances was on the stage of the Sydney Opera House in Meyerbeer's *Les Huguenots* in 1990.

"Honouring one Australian icon in another is a fitting tribute to ensure the memory of Dame Joan lives on forever.

"Hailed as the 'voice of the century' by Luciano Pavarotti, Dame Joan was loved by everyone in the arts community, who I'm sure will welcome this ongoing tribute.

"I know Richard Bonyng and Dame Joan's family are thrilled with this honour and I thank them for their consent.

"Born in Sydney, Dame Joan was taught to sing and play the piano by her mother before beginning her professional career.

"Dame Joan's contribution to the world of opera was acknowledged with a number of honours, including Australian of the Year in 1961, a companion of the Order of Australia in 1975 and a Dame of the British Empire in 1979.

"I also acknowledge the Sydney Opera House Trust for their co-operation," Mr O'Farrell said.