

## FACT SHEET

**TITLE:** **THE TEN TENORS: LARGER THAN LIFE**  
[TV-G] [CC] [STEREO] [LETTERBOX]

**LENGTH:** 1/60

**NOLA CODE:** TTTN

**CATEGORY:** Music & Entertainment

**OFFERED:** Premium Service 15 offer, June 2004

**RELEASE DATE:** November 27, 2004

**CONTRACT TERMS:** Ten releases through December 31, 2007.  
A release is defined as unlimited use within seven days.

**PROGRAM SUPPLIER:** Frog in a Sock Pty Ltd.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:** **THE TEN TENORS: LARGER THAN LIFE** features a cast of 10 young, energetic and talented singers who blend music and comedy to produce a unique concert experience. Taped before a live audience at The Lyric Theatre in Brisbane, Australia, in April 2004, the concert is a musical tour de force. The performers heroically stride through the classical tenor repertoire, sway through the ballads of the Neapolitan crooners and sing classic hits with imaginative flare. The Ten Tenors and their Australian charm have captured the hearts of countless fans worldwide.

**PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS:** Use the above program description for guide listing. A press kit, including fact sheet, press release, song list, biography and interview will be posted to First Class and [APTonline.org](http://APTonline.org). Color photos will be available via email and on [APTonline.org](http://APTonline.org).

**THE TEN TENORS: LARGER THAN LIFE/2**

**FACT SHEET**

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**PRODUCTION CREDITS:** Executive produced by Matthew Hickey, produced by Darren Clark and D-J Wendt, and directed by Mark FitzGerald.

**BROADCAST HISTORY:** U.S. Television Premiere

**RELATED MERCHANDISE:** Individual viewer purchase: The DVD and CD will be available in retail outlets nationwide.

Pledge:  
Program DVD and related CD: "Larger Than Life."

Call or fax purchase orders to Forest Incentives.

**VIEWER INQUIRIES:** American Public Television  
Viewer Services  
55 Summer Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Boston, MA 02110  
617-338-4455 ext. 202

**WEB SITE:** [www.thetentenors.com](http://www.thetentenors.com)

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## PRESS RELEASE

### **Talented Australian Opera Singers Mix Artistry, Musicianship and Comedy in THE TEN TENORS: LARGER THAN LIFE**

“Rawhide” at an opera? Grown men dancing like “The Rockettes”? Classically trained tenors encouraging the audience to act like football fans? That’s right! American Public Television (APT) proudly presents the television broadcast premiere of **THE TEN TENORS: LARGER THAN LIFE** – “opera without the boring bits.” This program features a cast of 10 energetic and talented Australian tenors who blend music and comedy to produce a unique concert experience. Taped before a live audience at The Lyric Theatre in Brisbane, Australia, in April 2004, the concert is a musical tour de force that will air on public television stations nationwide starting November 27, 2004 (check local listings).

This one-of-a-kind performance showcases The Ten Tenors’ range and abilities. It delights true opera fans as well as those who appreciate other genres of music. “Pigeonholing The Ten Tenors is not easy; they are opera stars, pop singers, rockers, punks and cabaret balladeers all at once. ‘Musical chameleons’ is as close to a pigeonhole as anyone’s been able to get,” says David Kidd, one of the group members.

The September 21 launch of The Ten Tenors’ first U.S. major label release, *Larger Than Life*, and the commencement of their American tour in the fall will enhance the debut of this public television show. In **THE TEN TENORS: LARGER THAN LIFE**, the young tenors powerfully sing classic opera favorites and then unexpectedly break into humorous renditions of songs. The performers jokingly dance and interact with the audience bringing a lighthearted mood to the traditional formality of an opera performance. With just the right mix of class and

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## **THE TEN TENORS: LARGER THAN LIFE / 2**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

fun, the performers glide through their complete song repertoire with talent and panache and deliver an hour of joyous entertainment. Their combined voices create an intense sound that fills the hall and enchants the audience. Highlights include an emotionally touching rendition of “Nessun Dorma,” an amusing medley of famous opera hits, a raucous version of the cowboy classic, “Rawhide,” and a Tenors’ original composition, “Water/Va Pensiero.”

“We believe that **THE TEN TENORS: LARGER THAN LIFE** will be a valuable pledge program for public television stations. The show is brand new, the content is terrific and the performers bring a fun twist to traditional opera,” says Eric Luskin, vice president of APT’s Premium Service.

The Ten Tenors surprise guest appearance at the 2002 Eurovision Grand Prix captured the world’s attention. Their success in Europe led to featured spots in several advertising campaigns including BMW and Bertolli Olive Oil. The Ten Tenors are also on the rise in the United States. In 2003, the group sold more than 26,000 tickets to their shows, had 13 sold-out performances and recorded the title track for Disney’s German release of *Jungle Book 2*, “Jungle Rhythm.”

**THE TEN TENORS: LARGER THAN LIFE** is produced by Frog in a Sock Pty Ltd. in association with American Public Television. The program is produced by Darren Clark and D-J Wendt, executive produced by Matthew Hickey and directed by Mark FitzGerald. APT’s Premium Service distributes the program to public television stations nationwide.

For over 42 years, American Public Television (APT) has been a major source of programming for the nation’s public television stations. APT has more than 10,000 hours of available programming including *Globe Trekker*, *Muhammad Ali: Through the Eyes of the World*, *Nightly Business Report*, *Rick Steves’ Europe*, *Julia and Jacques Cooking at Home*, *Ballykissangel*, and *Brian Jacques’ Redwall*. APT is known for identifying innovative programs and developing creative distribution techniques for producers. In four decades, it has established a tradition of providing public television stations nationwide with program choices that enable them to strengthen and customize their schedules. Press should contact Donna Hardwick at 617-338-4455 ext. 129 or via email to [donna\\_hardwick@APTonline.org](mailto:donna_hardwick@APTonline.org). For more information about APT’s programs and services, log on to [APTonline.org](http://APTonline.org).

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## SONG LIST

### THE TEN TENORS: LARGER THAN LIFE

“Funiculi Funicula”

*Italian medley:*

“Torna Surriento”

“La Danza”

“Core’ ngrato”

“Volare”

“Thunder Point”

“Nessun Dorma”

“Por una Cabeza”

*Opera medley:*

“La Donna é Mobile” (Rigoletto)

“Che Gelida Manina” (La Boheme)

“Va Pensiero” (Nabucco)

“Largo al Factotum” (The Barber of Seville)

“Conquest of Paradise”

“Stonde”

“Water/Va Pensiero”

*Australian medley:*

“Botany Bay”

“Moreton Bay”

“Waltzing Matilda”

“Rawhide”

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## BIOGRAPHY

### THE TEN TENORS

The Ten Tenors met while pursuing opera studies at university in Australia. Performing together in operas, recitals and concerts, they shared camaraderie like college friends from any discipline. Despite their enjoyment of the serious pursuits they were engaged in on-stage, they realized they derived their greatest pleasures backstage in creating their own comedic musical fun while waiting around in the dressing rooms.

“We’d be always joking and playing crazy tricks on each other. Making up ridiculous parodies of whatever it was we were performing for real at the time. We’d always groan when we got called to go out on stage,” says Stewart Morris, who joined the group in 2000. “We used to laugh and say ‘they should bring the audience in here’ (into the dressing room); that was where the best show was always happening!”

After performing at corporate galas through their university days, in their final year at the conservatorium, The Ten Tenors finally did what they’d always joked about – they created a show full of laughs, fun, cheeky camaraderie and most incredibly, truly beautiful music – and they hit the road. It was a risk, since they were self-funded and were absent without leave from the Opera School, but clearly it was a risk that paid off.

“It was a bit of a scandal,” remembers Liam McLachlan, a recent addition to the group. “I was a few years behind them at the conservatorium when The Ten Tenors did their first tour – many of our peers thought they were mad, but the guys didn’t care – they were convinced they were onto something.”

The thing they were ‘onto’ kept growing and growing, with relentless touring through the Australian outback honing the group’s skills in music and comedy.

“In the early days we had a pretty conservative repertoire, so the comedy evolved so that we could perform some of the classics, without sending our audience to sleep,” explains Dom Smith. “I guess we realized that was our point of difference – any group of classically trained singers can perform arias, but we wanted to do more than that...”

“It’s an unusual combination of voices, traditionally speaking, which is what makes the group so unique,” adds Matthew Hickey, the group’s managing director. Conventional musical groupings don’t deal exclusively with tenors – so the things we’re doing with our arrangements and with our original compositions are focused on exploring the capacity of the tenor voice, in the areas of genre, ensemble, and musical expression. We find the challenge of balancing opposing musical and performance elements very exciting!”

Clearly their audiences do too! After launching themselves onto the international platform as surprise guest artists at the Eurovision Grand Prix Germany 2002, The Ten Tenors have enjoyed a relentless touring schedule, including sold-out performances in Europe, the United States, Asia and Australia. They rarely take vacations.

“We’re realistic about the music industry,” says David Kidd, a member of the group since 1998, and one of the original dressing room bad boys. “We love doing this, we don’t want it to be a flash in the pan. To build longevity in your career you need to get out and perform – a lot! Fans can be very loyal, but only if you’re loyal to them – they know we’re working hard. They can see that we’re committed to them and to each other and I think people really respect that.”

A ringing endorsement of that respect came from Disney, no less, who invited the guys to contribute the theme song for the soundtrack to the German release of the animated film *Jungle Book 2*.

“That was incredibly surreal,” admits Drew Graham, a member of The Ten Tenors since 1998, “to be working on a recording project for Disney, contributing to the sequel of one of the most landmark children’s films of all-time, and one that was so musically progressive, was just incredible. I don’t think any of us really appreciated the impact of that until we were sitting in the cinema, the end credits rolled and we heard our own voices booming back at us. Yeah, *that was cool!*”

They also provided the soundtrack for BMW, who recently unveiled a new 5 series model – “We’re still waiting for our cars, though,” jokes Jason Turnbull.

When asked what their Australian fans make of their international success, Craig Hendry replied, “It’s been a while since we’ve done major touring in Australia, so our friends and families haven’t seen much of us. This year, though, we’ve set aside a couple of months to do some real Aussie touring again. We’re really looking forward to that – we’re a bit nervous too – Aussie audiences have high expectations, so we want to make sure we’re *really* good!”

“What are our plans for the future? We just want to keep growing and developing musically. There’s so much excellent music we haven’t got to yet, and writing music for ourselves is something we’ve found especially satisfying,” says Craig Atkinson. “It’s always been about fun for us – as long as we’re having fun, and as long as our audiences are still having fun, and as long as we can always be better than our last performance, we’ll be out there doing our thing!”

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THE TEN TENORS

**Right now, the group is touring throughout Germany for the summer. Coincidentally, Germany is where The Ten Tenors (TTT) became an overnight sensation, despite having been touring in Australia since 1998. APT had a chance to catch up with them during their tour where the tenors spent some time answering questions as a collective group.**

**What is it like to tour throughout Germany and why do you think there is such a positive reaction to you in Europe?**

Germany's a fantastic place to tour, especially if you're interested in beer, sausages, great looking girls and outstanding automotive engineering. (Which happen to be some of our favorite things, although not necessarily in that order!)

The European audiences have always been incredibly enthusiastic about us. In a way, taking a group with an "operatic" foundation to Europe was a bit like bringing potatoes to Idaho, but that was part of the challenge for us. I guess we love the adrenaline rush that comes from taking music that nobody would expect us to perform, twisting it around and putting our own spin on it. We love the challenge of making the opera fan love us in spite of themselves.

**In September, TTT will leave Europe and begin a fall tour throughout the United States. While you have toured the US before, what are your expectations for this upcoming tour? How do you think the US audiences will receive the group?**

The USA is like the Holy Grail for entertainers the world over. For us, the fun is in the thrill of the chase as far as the audience is concerned. To get the chance to win over Americans is pretty exciting. We've been plotting the show we're bringing to the States for quite some time, so we're quietly confident we're going to knock their socks off. Let's put it this way, we haven't reserved any space on our Web site for negative feedback. Ha.

**Your new album "Larger Than Life" comes out in September, your major label American debut. Is your public television special *The Ten Tenors: Larger Than Life* and current tour based on this album?**

The live show we'll be touring through America and the television special grew out of "Larger Than Life." Not only are many of the songs from the album featured, but the things we learnt about ourselves and our work while creating the album have really influenced the work we've done since. We're a group that musically likes to really keep things fresh. We're constantly (and I mean daily) tinkering under the hood of our show to make sure it's as finely tuned as possible.

**Over the last two or three years, since your popularity has grown internationally, how have you seen the group evolve through song and performance?**

The album, the live show, and the TV special are intrinsically connected but each is really unique and exciting and that's what our fans have come to expect from us. Each TTT experience is different. We have fans who've followed us around Europe for weeks watching shows night after night, just to observe the changes and evolution of the show as it progresses. That's a real compliment to us — that says the music is alive and growing, and that's as it should be!

**What is your favorite moment when you perform in front of a live audience? Is there one song or performance that you look forward to each evening?**

For me, the last few minutes before we run on stage are when I'm really pumped. You can hear the buzz of the audience and feel their anticipation. We feed off our audiences so much — it's such a synergistic process. It's like a drug. Each day you're just waiting for that next hit. Favorite moment? Hard to say, really hard ... one is "Thunder Point" a song on the CD "Larger Than Life," which we're performing in a really simple arrangement. We've stripped down all the bells and whistles and it's just us, the piano and the audience. I love that moment — it proves to the audience that we're up there singing our hearts out live (which people, sadly, sometimes find surprising these days).

**TTT has been described as "hip," "wild," "thrilling" and "humorous." These are not words typically used to describe musicians trained to sing opera and classical. How would you describe your musical style as a group?**

Our musical style is focused on three things: great songs, kicking arrangements and the element of surprise — in short, quality. We don't mean that in an arrogant way, but we've learnt over the years that with our style of performance you tread a very fine line of between being sensational or being terrible. The thing that separates the two is a commitment to quality in everything you do. We're in the business of the art of highly organized chaos. If our audiences aren't aware of how hard we're working behind the scenes to make it look so effortless, then we've done our job right.

**Why do you think this sound will appeal to US public television audiences?**

Growing up in Australia, we were exposed to so many fantastic cultural influences, and clearly great American artists and icons of popular culture were part of that. Subtly, we've integrated classical "European" elements (the opera) with American influenced elements of comedy and showmanship, and naturally combined that with our own Australian traits to create our unique look and sound. We're hoping the US public television audiences will really enjoy what we've put together. We can't wait to get there!

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