

La Stupenda is 80



Illustration: Bob Hoare

JOAN SUTHERLAND

- ▶ **Born:** November 7, 1926, in **Sydney, Australia**
- ▶ **1949:** Studies opera at Royal College of Music in London
- ▶ **1953:** First leading role at **Royal Opera House, Covent Garden**, as **Amelia** in **Un Ballo in Maschera**
- ▶ **1959:** Achieves stardom in **Zeffirelli's** production of **Lucia di Lammermoor** at Covent Garden
- ▶ **1960-61:** Acclaimed as **Lucia** in Paris, Milan and New York. Role of **Alcina** at **La Fenice** in Venice earns her nickname of **La Stupenda**
- ▶ **1960s-70s:** Greatest heroines of bel canto added to her repertoire, including **Violetta (La Traviata)**, **Norma**, and **Marie (La Fille du Regiment)**
- ▶ **1980s:** Continues singing taxing roles even into her 60s
- ▶ **1990:** Last performance, as **Marguerite de Valois** in **Les Huguenots**, at age 64
- ▶ **Awards include:** **Companion of the Order of Australia (1975)**, **Dame of the British Empire (1978)**, **Order of Merit (1991)**, **Kennedy Center Honours (2004)**