

The Metropolitan Opera



2021-2022 SEASON

COMMENCES MAY 2022

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Welcome to the Metropolitan Opera's new *Live in HD* season – featuring ten spectacular productions, including exciting company premieres, new productions, and classic repertory favourites.

The 15th season of *Live in HD* kicks off May 5th with the epic *Boris Godunov*, starring the great German bass René Pape as the tragic tsar at the center of Mussorgsky's masterpiece. Followed by historic Met premiere of Terence Blanchard's *Fire Shut Up in My Bones*, the first opera presented at the Met by a Black composer, based on the New York Times bestselling memoir by Charles M. Blow. Later Tony Award-winning director Bartlett Sher creates a bold new take on Verdi's timeless tragedy *Rigoletto*. In exciting news for the first time in company history, the Met presents the original five-act French version of Verdi's epic opera *Don Carlos*, in which Met Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin leads a starry cast.

The Met: Live in HD is the largest provider of alternative cinema content in the world, with more than 30 million tickets sold since the

inception of the series in 2006, now playing in more than 70 countries around the world.

For your most up-to-date source of information on upcoming operas, including final run times, cast sheets and new locations showing the Met, please check New Zealand's Met Opera website at www.metopera.co.nz

Tickets for all ten operas in the 2021-2022 series are on sale now at all locations. We are pleased to confirm that tickets will once again remain \$28 for seniors and children, and \$33 for adults. Book now to avoid disappointment.

You're welcomed to the very best opera in the world.

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MUSSORGSKY

BORIS GODUNOV



Bass René Pape, the world's reigning Boris, reprises his tremendous portrayal of the tortured tsar caught between grasping ambition and crippling paranoia, kicking off the highly anticipated 2021–22 *Live in HD* season.

Conductor Sebastian Weigle leads Mussorgsky's masterwork, a pillar of the Russian repertoire, in its original 1869 version. Stephen Wadsworth's affecting production poignantly captures the hope and suffering of the Russian people, as well as the title ruler himself.

MAY 5

CONDUCTOR: Sebastian Weigle
PRODUCTION: Stephen Wadsworth
SET DESIGNER: Ferdinand Wögerbauer
COSTUME DESIGNER: Moidele Bickel

CAST: René Pape (Boris)
David Butt Philip (Grigory)
Aleksy Bogdanov (Shchelkalov)
Ain Anger (Pimen)

RUN TIME: 162 mins approx.

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TERENCE BLANCHARD / LIBRETTO BY KASI LEMMONS

FIRE SHUT UP IN MY BONES



Met Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin conducts Grammy Award-winning jazz musician and composer Terence Blanchard's adaptation of Charles M. Blow's moving memoir. The first opera by a Black composer presented on the Met stage and featuring a libretto by filmmaker Kasi Lemmons, the opera tells a poignant and profound story about a young man's journey to overcome a life of trauma and hardship.

James Robinson and Camille A. Brown—two of the creators of the recent production of the Gershwins' *Porgy and Bess*—co-direct this new staging. Baritone Will Liverman, one of opera's most exciting young artists, stars as Charles, alongside sopranos Angel Blue as Destiny/Loneliness/Greta and Latonia Moore as Billie.

MAY 19

CONDUCTOR: Yannick Nézet-Séguin
CO-DIRECTORS: James Robinson and Camille A. Brown
SET DESIGNER: Allen Moyer
COSTUME DESIGNER: Paul Tazewell

CAST: Will Liverman (Charles)
Latonia Moore (Billie)
Angel Blue (Destiny/Loneliness/Greta)
Walter Russel III (Charles-Baby)

RUN TIME: 216 mins approx.

7

MATTHEW AUCOIN / LIBRETTO BY SARAH RUHL

EURYDICE



The ancient Greek myth of Orpheus, who attempts to harness the power of music to rescue his beloved Eurydice from the underworld, has inspired composers since opera's earliest days. Rising American composer Matthew Aucoin now carries that tradition into the 21st century with a captivating new take on the story. With a libretto by MacArthur "Genius Grant" recipient Sarah Ruhl, adapted from her acclaimed 2003 play, the opera reimagines the familiar tale from Eurydice's point of view. Met Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin takes the podium, leading Aucoin's evocative music and an immersive new staging by Mary Zimmerman. Soprano Erin Morley sings the title role, opposite baritone Joshua Hopkins as Orpheus and countertenor Jakub Józef Orliński as his otherworldly alter ego.

JUNE 9

CONDUCTOR: Yannick Nézet-Séguin
PRODUCTION: Mary Zimmerman
SET DESIGNER: Daniel Ostling
COSTUME DESIGNER: Ana Kuzmanic

CAST: Erin Morley (Eurydice)
Joshua Hopkins (Orpheus)
Jakub Józef Orliński (Orpheus' double)
Barry Banks (Hades)

RUN TIME: 195 mins approx.

8

MASSENET

CINDERELLA



Laurent Pelly's storybook staging of Massenet's *Cendrillon* is presented with an all-new English translation in an abridged 90-minute adaptation, with mezzo-soprano Isabel Leonard as its rags-to-riches princess. Maestro Emmanuel Villaume leads a delightful cast, which includes mezzo-soprano Emily D'Angelo as Cinderella's Prince Charming, soprano Jessica Pratt as her Fairy Godmother, and mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe and bass-baritone Laurent Naouri as her feuding guardians.

JUNE 30

CONDUCTOR: Emmanuel Villaume
PRODUCTION: Laurent Pelly
SET DESIGNER: Barbara De Limburg
COSTUME DESIGNER: Laurent Pelly

CAST: Isabel Leonard (Cinderella)
Jessica Pratt (Fairy Godmother)
Emily D'Angelo (Prince Charming)
Stephanie Blythe (Madame de la Haltière)

RUN TIME: 127 mins approx.

9

VERDI

RIGOLETTO



Tony Award-winning director Bartlett Sher creates a bold new take on Verdi's timeless tragedy, resetting the opera's action in 1920s Europe, with Art Deco sets by Michael Yeargan and elegant costumes by Catherine Zuber. Baritone Quinn Kelsey, a commanding artist at the height of his powers, brings his searing portrayal of the title role to the Met for the first time, starring alongside soprano Rosa Feola as Gilda and tenor Piotr Beczala as the Duke of Mantua, with leading maestro Daniele Rustioni on the podium.

JULY 28

CONDUCTOR: Daniele Rustioni
PRODUCTION: Bartlett Sher
SET DESIGNER: Michael Yeargan
COSTUME DESIGNER: Catherine Zuber

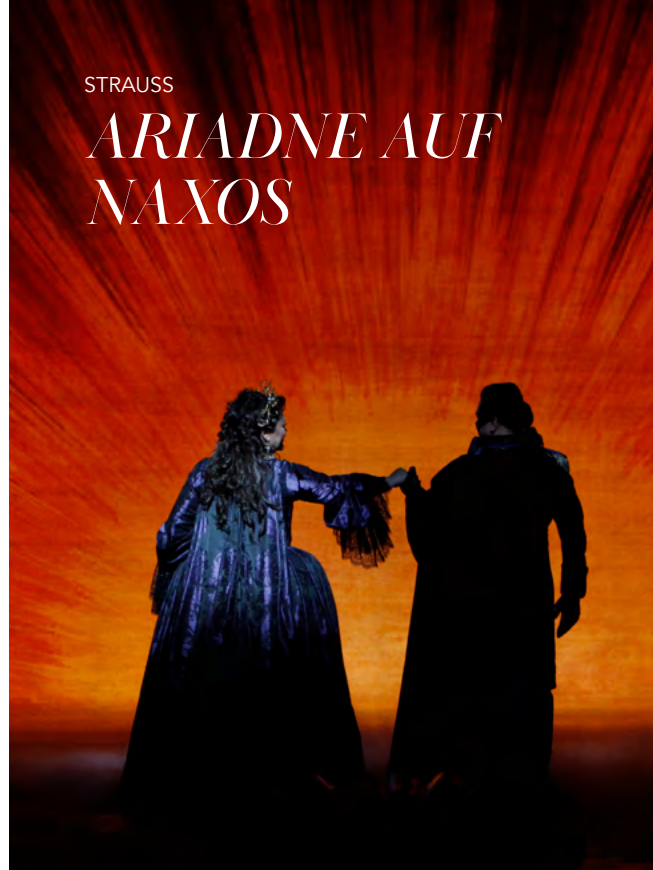
CAST: Quinn Kelsey (Rigoletto)
Rosa Feola (Gilda)
Varduhi Abrahamyan (Maddalena)
Piotr Beczala (Duke of Mantua)

RUN TIME: 196 mins approx.

10

STRAUSS

ARIADNE AUF NAXOS



The exhilarating soprano Lise Davidsen makes her *Live in HD* debut in one of her signature roles, the mythological Greek heroine of Strauss's enchanting masterpiece. The outstanding cast also features mezzo-soprano Isabel Leonard as the Composer of the opera-within-an-opera around which the plot revolves, with soprano Brenda Rae as the spirited Zerbinetta and tenor Brandon Jovanovich as Ariadne's lover, the god Bacchus. Marek Janowski conducts.

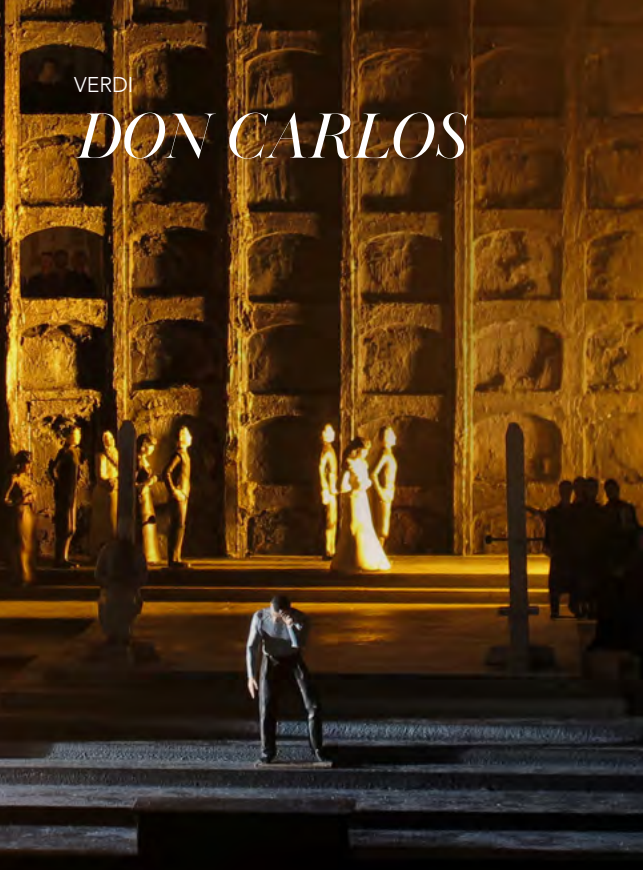
AUGUST 11

CONDUCTOR: Marek Janowski
PRODUCTION: Elijah Moshinsky
SET DESIGNER: Michael Yeargan
COSTUME DESIGNER: Michael Yeargan

CAST: Lise Davidsen (Ariadne)
Brenda Rae (Zerbinetta)
Isabel Leonard (Composer)
Brandon Jovanovich (Bacchus)

RUN TIME: 184 mins approx.

11



VERDI
DON CARLOS

For the first time in company history, the Met presents the original five-act French version of Verdi's epic opera of doomed love among royalty, set against the backdrop of the Spanish Inquisition. Met Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin leads a starry cast, including tenor Matthew Polenzani in the title role, soprano Sonya Yoncheva as Élisabeth de Valois, and mezzo-soprano Jamie Barton as Eboli. Bass Günther Groissböck and bass-baritone John Relyea are Philippe II and the Grand Inquisitor, and baritone Étienne Dupuis rounds out the principal cast as Rodrigue. Verdi's masterpiece receives a monumental new staging by David McVicar that marks his 11th Met production, placing him among the most prolific and popular directors in recent Met memory.

AUGUST 25

CONDUCTOR: Patrick Furrer
PRODUCTION: David McVicar
SET DESIGNER: Charles Edwards
COSTUME DESIGNER: Brigitte Reiffenstuel

CAST: Matthew Polenzani (Don Carlos)
Jamie Barton (Princess Eboli)
Sonya Yoncheva (Élisabeth de Valois)
Étienne Dupuis (Rodrigue)

RUN TIME: 314 mins approx.



PUCCINI
TURANDOT

Ukrainian soprano Liudmyla Monastyrska stars in the title role of the legendary cold-hearted princess. Tenor Yonghoon Lee is the bold prince determined to win Turandot's love, alongside soprano Ermonela Jaho as the devoted servant Liù legendary bass Ferruccio Furlanetto as the blind king Timur. Marco Armiliato conducts Puccini's stirring score. This live cinema transmission is part of the Met's award-winning *Live in HD* series, bringing opera to movie theaters across the globe

SEPTEMBER 8

CONDUCTOR: Marco Armiliato
PRODUCTION: Franco Zeffirelli
SET DESIGNER: Franco Zeffirelli
COSTUME DESIGNERS: Anna Anni and Dada Saligeri

CAST: Liudmyla Monastyrska (Turandot)
Yonghoon Lee (Calaf)
Ermonela Jaho (Liù)
Ferruccio Furlanetto (Timur)

RUN TIME: 206 mins approx.

DONIZETTI

LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR



Soprano Nadine Sierra takes on one of the repertory's most formidable and storied roles, the haunted heroine of Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*, in an electrifying new staging by Australian theater and film director Simon Stone, conducted by Riccardo Frizza. Tenor Javier Camarena adds to the bel canto fireworks as Lucia's beloved, Edgardo, with baritone Artur Ruciński as her overbearing brother, Enrico, and bass Matthew Rose as her tutor, Raimondo.

SEPTEMBER 22

CONDUCTOR: Ricardo Frizza
PRODUCTION: Simon Stone
SET DESIGNER: Lizzie Clachan
COSTUME DESIGNERS: Alice Babidge and Blanca Añón

CAST: Nadine Sierra (Lucia)
Javier Camarena (Edgardo)
Artur Ruciński (Enrico)
Matthew Rose (Raimondo)

RUN TIME: 224 mins approx.

14

BRETT DEAN / LIBRETTO BY MATTHEW JOCELYN

HAMLET



When Australian composer Brett Dean's *Hamlet* had its world premiere at the Glyndebourne Festival in 2017, *The Guardian* declared, "New opera doesn't often get to sound this good ... Shakespeare offers a gauntlet to composers that shouldn't always be picked up, but Dean's *Hamlet* rises to the challenge." This riveting contemporary masterpiece appears live in cinemas, with Neil Armfield, who directed the work's premiere, bringing his acclaimed staging to the Met. Many of the original cast members have followed, including tenor Allan Clayton in the title role. Nicholas Carter makes his Met debut conducting a remarkable ensemble, which also features soprano Brenda Rae as Ophelia, mezzo-soprano Sarah Connolly as Gertrude, baritone Rod Gilfry as Claudius, and John Relyea as the ghost of Hamlet's father.

OCTOBER 27

CONDUCTOR: Nicholas Carter
PRODUCTION: Neil Armfield
SET DESIGNER: Ralph Myers
COSTUME DESIGNER: Alice Babidge

CAST: Allan Clayton (Hamlet)
Brenda Rae (Ophelia)
Sarah Connolly (Gertrude)
John Relyea (Ghost)

RUN TIME: 214 mins approx.

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