



## **Film Streams and Opera Omaha Announce 2008-09 “Met Opera Live in HD” Season**

*New season features 11 live, HD transmissions from New York’s Metropolitan Opera*

**Omaha, Nebraska (June 19, 2008)**—The Met is back. Beginning this September, Film Streams and Opera Omaha will team up once again to present the latest season of the popular *Metropolitan Opera Live in HD* series. This year, The Metropolitan Opera will expand to 11 broadcasts of its performances, all of which will be screened live and in high-definition from Film Streams’ cinema at the corner of 14th & Webster.

The 2008-09 season will begin with the Met’s “Opening Night Gala” celebration, starring soprano Renée Fleming, on Monday, September 22. The event will be broadcast live at Film Streams’ Ruth Sokolof Theater starting at 5:30 p.m. (CST).

All other live broadcasts during the *Live in HD* season will occur on Saturdays, with encore presentations screening at Film Streams later that same week. The encores are identical to the live broadcasts and offer an additional opportunity to experience the Met’s remarkable productions, hailed as “a new art form” by the *Los Angeles Times*.

In addition to beloved operas such as Puccini’s *Madama Butterfly*, the 2008-09 *Live in HD* season will feature five new productions for the Met, including one premiere (DOCTOR ATOMIC, November 8, 2008).

In partnership with Film Streams, Opera Omaha will once again present preview talks before all 11 performances throughout the new season. Preview talk speakers from this past season included former Opera Omaha Artistic Director Hal France, Opera Omaha Resident Music Director J. Gawf and Opera Omaha General Director John Wehrle.

### **Tickets**

Single tickets (\$22) for all broadcasts within the 2008-09 season will go on sale to the general public starting Friday, August 22. As a benefit of their memberships, Film Streams Members and Opera Omaha Members will be able to purchase discounted tickets (\$18) starting Friday, August 8. (Members of each organization will receive order forms by mail in early August, and will also be able to purchase tickets online and in-person at the Film Streams box office at 14th and Webster).

### **About the Met Live in HD**

In 2006, New York’s Metropolitan Opera introduced its revolutionary new series of live, high-definition broadcasts of performances delivered via satellite to movie theaters equipped with digital satellite and HD projection capabilities. Throughout the season, more than 325,000 people nationwide “attended” these live Met performances from cinemas located in their own communities.

Film Streams first opened its two-screen cinema, the Ruth Sokolof Theater, in July 2007—just in time to take part in the Met's second *Live in HD* season. Due to the visionary philanthropy of Fred Simon and Dick Holland, Film Streams was able to equip the cinema with the necessary satellite and HD projection technology to bring the *Live in HD* broadcasts to Omaha. The 2007-08 broadcasts proved tremendously popular, with four of eight performances completely sold out and another two attracting near-capacity audiences.

In all, more than 900,000 people worldwide experienced the 2007-08 season, which concluded in April. The Metropolitan Opera will expand the 2008-09 *Live in HD* season to feature 11 live transmissions (up from 8 broadcasts in 2007-08). The series will also add approximately 200 new venues worldwide. New countries to join the international distribution network include Mexico, Argentina, Costa Rica, Hungary, Serbia, Croatia and Ireland.

More information on the 2008-09 *Live in HD* season is included on the following pages. For more information, please visit [filmstreams.org](http://filmstreams.org), or contact Casey Logan at (402) 933-0259 (ext. 11) or [casey@filmstreams.org](mailto:casey@filmstreams.org).

---

## The Metropolitan Opera 2008-09 Live in HD Schedule

Monday, September 22, 2008, 5:30pm (cst)

### Opening Night Gala

The Met's 125th anniversary season opens September 22 with a celebratory gala starring the extraordinary Renée Fleming in three of her most acclaimed roles. Music Director James Levine and Marco Armiliato conduct fully staged performances of the second act of Verdi's *La Traviata*, the third act of Massenet's *Manon*, and the final scene from Richard Strauss's *Capriccio*. Tenor Ramón Vargas and baritones Thomas Hampson and Dwayne Croft join the soprano for this season-opener. Running time 3 hours 37 minutes / 2 intermissions.

Saturday, October 11, 2008, 12pm (cst)

### Richard Strauss – SALOME

Karita Mattila caused a sensation when she sang Salome at the Met for the first time in 2004. She reprises her stunning interpretation of the part, including her unforgettable Dance of the Seven Veils. With baritone Juha Uusitalo as Jochanaan. Mikko Franck conducts. Conductor Mikko Franck; Production Jürgen Flimm; Karita Mattila, Ildikó Komlósi, Kim Begley, Joseph Kaiser, Juha Uusitalo. Running time 1 hour 37 minutes / no intermission. *Encore Presentation: date TBD.*

Saturday, November 8, 2008, 12pm (cst)

### Adams – DOCTOR ATOMIC (MET PREMIERE)

John Adams's contemporary masterpiece explores a momentous episode of modern history: the creation of the atomic bomb. Director Penny Woolcock makes her Met debut with this gripping story that changed the course of history. Baritone Gerald Finley plays Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, the title character and Sasha Cooke as his wife, Kitty, with Eric Owen and Richard Paul Fink. Conductor Alan Gilbert; Production Penny Woolcock; Sasha Cooke, Meredith Arwady, Gerald Finley, Richard Paul Fink, Eric Owens. Running time 3 hours 21 minutes /one intermission. *Encore Presentation: date TBD.*

Saturday, November 22, 2008, 12pm (cst)

### Berlioz – LA DAMNATION DE FAUST (NEW PRODUCTION)

Robert Lepage, one of theater's most imaginative directors, applies his artistry to Berlioz's contemplation of good and evil. Using ethereal projections, Lepage has created a vision for *La Damnation de Faust* that seamlessly marries art and technology. "The production focuses on the singers," he says. "But there's a trail of visual consequences and stagecraft that accompanies the events happening on the stage." Marcello Giordani stars in the title role opposite Susan Graham as Marguerite and John Relyea as Méphistophéles. James Levine conducts this rarely staged masterwork. Conductor James Levine; Production Robert Lepage; Susan Graham, Marcello Giordani, John Relyea. Running time 2 hours 45 minutes /one intermission. *Encore Presentation: date TBD.*

Saturday, December 20, 2008, 11am (cst)

**Massenet – THAÏS** (NEW PRODUCTION)

The radiant Renée Fleming plays the Egyptian courtesan in search of spiritual sustenance. Thomas Hampson is the monk Athanaël who falls from grace. Massenet's sensual score is presented in a new production by John Cox. Conductor Jesús López-Cobos; Production John Cox; Renée Fleming, Michale Schade, Thomas Hampson. Running time 3 hours 21 minutes/ two intermissions. *Encore Presentation: date TBD.*

Saturday, January 10, 2009, 12pm

**Puccini – LA RONDINE** (NEW PRODUCTION)

Opera's charismatic real-life duo, Angela Gheorghiu and Roberto Alagna provide the star power to deliver this ravishing romance from the world's most popular opera composer. Gheorghiu plays the kept woman who gambles on true love, and Alagna is the man who makes her question the cost of her glittering existence. Nicolas Joël directs the new production of this gorgeously melodic look at love. Conductor Marco Armiliato; Production Nicolas Joël; Angela Gheorghiu, Lisette Oropesa, Roberto Alagna, Marius Brenciu, Samuel Ramey. Running time 2 hours 15 minutes/ one intermission. *Encore Presentation: date TBD.*

Saturday, January 24, 2009, 12pm (cst)

**Gluck – ORFEO ED EURIDICE**

Mark Morris's acclaimed production returns! This complete vision for Gluck, with choreography by Morris and costumes by Isaac Mizrahi, features the artistry of Stephanie Blythe in the title role. The alluring Danielle de Niese is Orfeo's adored wife, Euridice, who inspires the hero to face the underworld for her sake. Music Director James Levine conducts. Conductor James Levine; Production Mark Morris; Danielle de Niese, Heidi Grant Murphy/Ying Huang, Stephanie Blythe. Running time 1 hour 31 minutes/no intermission. *Encore Presentation: date TBD.*

Saturday, February 7, 2009, 12pm (cst)

**Donizetti – LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR**

Anna Netrebko stars in the title role of Donizetti's fragile heroine. Tenor Rolando Villazón stars as Lucia's lover, Edgardo. Baritone Mariusz Kwiecien is her tyrannical brother. Mary Zimmerman's hit production is staged as a Victorian ghost story. Conductor Marco Armillato; Production Mary Zimmerman; Diana Damarau/Anna Netrebko, Piotr Beczala/Rolando Villazón, Vladimir Stoyanov/Mariusz Kwiecien, Ildar Abdrazakov. Running time 3 hours 20 minutes/two intermissions. *Encore Presentation: date TBD.*

Saturday, March 7, 2009, 12pm (cst)

**Puccini – MADAMA BUTTERFLY**

Cristina Gallardo-Domâs, the original Butterfly of the production when it opened the 2006-07 season, returns to the title role of the late Anthony Minghella's stunning production, a new classic of the Met repertory. Marcello Giordani stars as Pinkerton. Conductor Patrick Summers; Production Anthony Minghella; Patricia Racette/ Cristina Gallardo-Domâs, Maria Zifchak, Roberto Aronica/Marcello Giordani, Dwayne Croft. Running time 3 hours 21 minutes /two intermissions. *Encore Presentation: date TBD.*

Saturday, March 21, 2009, 12pm (cst)

**Bellini – LA SONNAMBULA** (NEW PRODUCTION)

Mary Zimmerman, who directed Natalie Dessay in last season's hit new production of *Lucia di Lammermoor*, underlines *La Sonnambula's* dual elements of sleep and wakefulness in an intriguing staging set in the present. Bellini's hauntingly lyrical score soars as performed by Dessay and Juan Diego Flórez, back from their sensational run together in *La Fille du Régiment* in leading opera houses around the world. Conductor Evelino Pidò; Production Mary Zimmerman; Natalie Dessay, Juan Diego Flórez, Michele Pertusi. Running time 2 hours 40 minutes /one intermission. *Encore Presentation: date TBD.*

Saturday, May 9, 2009, 11:30am (cst)

**Rossini – LA CENERENTOLA**

Hot on the heels of her triumphant Met debut as Rosina in last season's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, El\_na Garan\_a portrays another Rossini charmer in this bel canto Cinderella story. Lawrence Brownlee is her Prince Charming, Don Ramiro. Veteran baritone Alessangro Corbelli demonstrates his impeccable comic timing to match the gravitas of Met favorite John Relyea. Conductor Maurizio Benini; Production Cesare Lievi; El\_na Garan\_a, Lawrence Brownlee, Simone Alberghini, Alessandro Corbelli, John Relyea. Running time 3 hours/ one intermission. *Encore Presentation: date TBD.*

More information available at [www.filmstreams.org](http://www.filmstreams.org).