

# The Metropolitan Opera



***The Met: Live in HD's 2018–19 Season  
Kicks Off on October 6 with Anna Netrebko  
in the Title Role of Verdi's Aida***

**Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Becoming Met Music Director in September 2018,  
Conducts *La Traviata* and *Dialogues des Carmélites***

**HD Founding Sponsor Neubauer Family Foundation  
Names Met Music Director Position with \$15 Million Gift**

**The season will feature ten transmissions, live from the  
Metropolitan Opera stage, including four new productions  
and starry revivals featuring the world's leading artists**

**The series will reach more than 70 countries on six continents in 2018–19,  
including nearly 800 theaters in the United States**

*New York, NY (February 15, 2018)* —*The Met: Live in HD*, the Metropolitan Opera's award-winning series of live high-definition cinema simulcasts, will begin its 13th season on October 6, with the Met's grand production of Verdi's *Aida*, starring one of the world's most acclaimed sopranos, **Anna Netrebko**.

The company also announced that **Yannick Nézet-Séguin** will become the Met's Music Director for the start of the 2018–19 season, accelerating his arrival in the post by two seasons.

"It is wonderful for the entire company that Yannick Nézet-Séguin will assume the position of Music Director two seasons ahead of schedule," said General Manager **Peter Gelb**. "The orchestra loves him, the chorus loves him, everyone in the building loves him. He is a truly great artist under whom the Met will only thrive." It was also announced that the Neubauer Family Foundation, founding sponsors of the Met's *Live in HD* transmissions to movie theaters, has made a \$15 million gift to name the Music Director position in honor of

Nézet-Séguin's appointment. In recognition of this gift, the position will be called the **Jeanette Lerman-Neubauer Music Director**. Gelb said, "The Met is so fortunate to be the recipient of such enlightened and generous philanthropy from two of our most loyal supporters, who believe in the power of transformative gifts."

The 2018–19 *Live in HD* season features ten transmissions, including four new productions: Saint-Saëns's *Samson et Dalila*, directed by **Darko Tresnjak** and conducted by **Sir Mark Elder** with **Elīna Garanča** and **Roberto Alagna** in the title roles; the U.S. premiere production of **Nico Muhly**'s *Marnie*, based on Winston Graham's suspenseful thriller, directed by **Michael Mayer** with **Isabel Leonard** as the title character; **Mayer**'s new staging of Verdi's *La Traviata*, conducted by incoming Met Music Director **Yannick Nézet-Séguin** and starring **Diana Damrau**, **Juan Diego Flórez**, and **Quinn Kelsey**; and Cilea's *Adriana Lecouvreur*, starring **Anna Netrebko** in the title role, conducted by **Gianandrea Noseda** in **Sir David McVicar**'s new staging. In addition to *Aida* and the four new productions, *Live in HD* audiences will have the chance to see Poulenc's 20th-century masterpiece *Dialogues des Carmélites* for the first time in cinemas, conducted by **Yannick Nézet-Séguin**, along with classic revivals of Puccini's *La Fanciulla del West*, with **Eva-Maria Westbroek** as Minnie and **Jonas Kaufmann** as Dick Johnson; **Richard Eyre**'s acclaimed production of Bizet's *Carmen*, starring **Clémentine Margaine** as the alluring gypsy, opposite **Roberto Alagna** as Don José; **Laurent Pelly**'s whimsical reimagining of Donizetti's *La Fille du Régiment*, with **Javier Camarena** and **Pretty Yende** as Tonio and Marie; and the most popular of Wagner's four epic *Ring* operas, *Die Walküre*, with **Christine Goerke** as Brünnhilde.

*The Met: Live in HD* is the largest provider of alternative cinema content in the world, with more than 24 million tickets sold since the inception of the series in 2006. The series brings live Met performances to more than 2,200 movie theaters and performing arts centers in more than 70 countries.

Complete details, including casting, are available below.

### **Season at a Glance: *The Met: Live in HD* 2018–19**

The *Live in HD* season will begin on Saturday, October 6 at 12:55PM with *Aida*. Future transmissions are as follows: *Samson et Dalila* (October 20 at 12:55PM); *La Fanciulla del West* (October 27 at 12:55PM); *Marnie* (November 10 at 12:55PM); *La Traviata* (December 15 at 12:55PM); *Adriana Lecouvreur* (January 12 at 12:55PM); *Carmen* (February 2 at 12:55PM); *La Fille du Régiment* (March 2 at 12:55PM); *Die Walküre* (March

30 at 12PM); and *Dialogues des Carmélites* (May 11 at 12PM). All ten operas will be Saturday matinee performances, transmitted live from the Met stage. All start times are Eastern Time. Please check local listings for rebroadcast dates and times.

[Click here](#) and enter the password **metphotos** for promotional photos of the 2018–19 season.

### *The Met: Live in HD 2018–19 Schedule*

#### *Aida* (Giuseppe Verdi) REVIVAL

**October 6, 2018 at 12:55PM ET**

**Conductor:** Nicola Luisotti

**Production:** Sonja Frisell

**Set Designer:** Gianni Quaranta

**Costume Designer:** Dada Saligeri

**Lighting Designer:** Gil Wechsler

**Cast:** Aida (Anna Netrebko), Amneris (Anita Rachvelishvili), Radamès (Aleksandrs Antonenko), Amonasro (Quinn Kelsey), The King (Ryan Speedo Green)

Soprano **Anna Netrebko** sings her first Met Aida, with mezzo-soprano **Anita Rachvelishvili** as her formidable rival Amneris. **Aleksandrs Antonenko** is the warrior Radamès, and **Nicola Luisotti** takes the podium for the Met’s monumental production.

#### *Samson et Dalila* (Camille Saint-Saëns) NEW PRODUCTION / FIRST TIME IN HD

**October 20, 2018 at 12:55PM ET**

**Conductor:** Sir Mark Elder

**Production:** Darko Tresnjak

**Set Designer:** Alexander Dodge

**Costume Designer:** Linda J. Cho

**Lighting Designer:** Donald Holder

**Cast:** Samson (Roberto Alagna), Dalila (Elīna Garanča), High Priest (Laurent Naouri), Abimélech (Elchin Azizov), The Old Hebrew (Dmitry Belosselskiy)

Saint-Saëns’s biblical epic *Samson et Dalila* stars **Elīna Garanča** and **Roberto Alagna** in the title roles; the pair was last seen together by HD audiences in the acclaimed 2010 transmission of Bizet’s *Carmen*. **Laurent Naouri** co-stars as the High Priest, with **Elchin Azizov** as the Philistine King Abimélech and **Dmitry Belosselskiy** as the Old Hebrew. **Darko Tresnjak**, the Tony Award–winning director of *A Gentleman’s Guide to Love & Murder*, makes his Met debut directing the first new Met production of the opera in 20 years. **Sir Mark Elder** conducts.

**La Fanciulla del West (Giacomo Puccini)**

**REVIVAL**

**October 27, 2018 at 12:55PM ET**

**Conductor:** Marco Armiliato

**Production:** Giancarlo Del Monaco

**Set and Costume Designer:** Michael Scott

**Lighting Designer:** Gil Wechsler

**Cast:** Minnie (Eva-Maria Westbroek), Dick Johnson (Jonas Kaufmann), Nick (Carlo Bosi), Jack Rance (Željko Lučić), Sonora (Michael Todd Simpson), Ashby (Matthew Rose), Jake Wallas (Oren Gradus)

Soprano **Eva-Maria Westbroek** sings Puccini's gun-slinging heroine in this romantic epic of the Wild West, alongside star tenor **Jonas Kaufmann** in the role of the outlaw Dick Johnson. Baritone **Željko Lučić** is the vigilante sheriff Jack Rance, and **Marco Armiliato** conducts.

**Marnie (Nico Muhly/Libretto Nicholas Wright)**

**MET PREMIERE PRODUCTION /**

**November 10, 2018 at 12:55PM ET**

**FIRST TIME IN HD**

**Conductor:** Robert Spano

**Production:** Michael Mayer

**Set and Projection Designers:** Julian Crouch and 59 Productions

**Costume Designer:** Arianne Phillips

**Lighting Designer:** Kevin Adams

**Cast:** Marnie (Isabel Leonard), Mrs. Rutland (Janis Kelly), Marnie's Mother (Denyce Graves), Terry Rutland (Iestyn Davies), Mark Rutland (Christopher Maltman)

**Nico Muhly's** *Marnie*, based on Winston Graham's novel, which in turn inspired Alfred Hitchcock's suspenseful thriller, has its U.S. premiere at the Met this season. **Isabel Leonard** stars in the title role opposite **Christopher Maltman** as her blackmailing husband Mark Rutland, **Iestyn Davies** as his brother Terry, **Janis Kelly** as Mrs. Rutland, and acclaimed mezzo-soprano **Denyce Graves** as Marnie's mother. **Robert Spano** makes his company debut conducting.

*Marnie* is a co-commission and co-production with English National Opera, where the production premiered in 2017.

**La Traviata (Giuseppe Verdi)**

**NEW PRODUCTION**

**December 15, 2018 at 12:55PM ET**

**Conductor:** Yannick Nézet-Séguin

**Production:** Michael Mayer

**Set Designer:** Christine Jones

**Costume Designer:** Susan Hilferty

**Lighting Designer:** Kevin Adams

**Cast:** Violetta Valéry (Diana Damrau), Alfredo Germont (Juan Diego Flórez), Giorgio Germont (Quinn Kelsey)

Met Music Director **Yannick Nézet-Séguin** conducts Verdi's timeless tragedy *La Traviata*. Directed by **Michael Mayer**, this new production features a dazzling 18th-century setting that changes with the seasons. **Diana Damrau** is the doomed heroine Violetta, opposite **Juan Diego Flórez** as her lover, Alfredo, and **Quinn Kelsey** as Alfredo's protective father, Giorgio Germont.

**Adriana Lecouvreur (Francesco Cilea)**

**NEW PRODUCTION /  
FIRST TIME IN HD**

**January 12, 2019 at 12:55PM ET**

**Conductor:** Gianandrea Noseda

**Production:** Sir David McVicar

**Set Designer:** Charles Edwards

**Costume Designer:** Brigitte Reiffenstuel

**Lighting Designer:** Adam Silverman

**Cast:** Adriana Lecouvreur (Anna Netrebko), The Princess of Bouillon (Anita Rachvelishvili), Maurizio (Piotr Beczala), The Abbé (Carlo Bosi), Michonnet (Ambrogio Maestri), The Prince of Bouillon (Maurizio Muraro)

For the first time at the Met, **Anna Netrebko** sings the title role of *Adriana Lecouvreur*, the great 18th-century actress in love with the military hero Maurizio, sung by **Piotr Beczala**. **Gianandrea Noseda** conducts Cilea's tragedy, directed by **Sir David McVicar**, with the action partially set in a working replica of a Baroque theater. The cast also features **Anita Rachvelishvili** as the Princess of Bouillon, Adriana's rival for Maurizio's affections; **Ambrogio Maestri** as Michonnet, Adriana's faithful friend; and **Carlo Bosi** as the duplicitous Abbé.

*Adriana Lecouvreur* is a co-production of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London; Gran Teatre del Liceu, Barcelona; Wiener Staatsoper; San Francisco Opera; and L'Opéra National de Paris.

**Carmen (Georges Bizet)**

**REVIVAL**

**February 2, 2019 at 12:55PM ET**

**Conductor:** Louis Langrée

**Production:** Sir Richard Eyre

**Set and Costume Designer:** Rob Howell

**Lighting Designer:** Peter Mumford

**Cast:** Carmen (Clémentine Margaine), Micaëla (Aleksandra Kurzak), Don José (Roberto Alagna), Escamillo (Alexander Vinogradov)

**Clémentine Margaine** is opera's ultimate seductress, opposite **Roberto Alagna**, who captivated *Live in HD* audiences as Don José in 2010. **Louis Langrée** conducts **Sir Richard Eyre**'s lively production, a favorite in the Met's repertoire.

**La Fille du Régiment (Gaetano Donizetti)**

**REVIVAL**

**March 2, 2019 at 12:55PM ET**

**Conductor:** Enrique Mazzola  
**Production:** Laurent Pelly  
**Set Designer:** Chantal Thomas  
**Costume Designer:** Laurent Pelly  
**Lighting Designer:** Joël Adam  
**Cast:** Marie (Pretty Yende), Tonio (Javier Camarena), Marquise of Berkenfield (Stephanie Blythe), Sulpice (Maurizio Muraro)

Bel canto stars **Pretty Yende** and **Javier Camarena** team up for a feast of vocal fireworks on the Met stage. **Maurizio Muraro** is Sergeant Sulpice, with **Stephanie Blythe** as the outlandish Marquise of Berkenfield. **Enrique Mazzola** conducts.

*La Fille du Régiment* is a co-production of the Metropolitan Opera; the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London; and the Wiener Staatsoper, Vienna.

**Die Walküre (Richard Wagner) REVIVAL**

**March 30, 2019 at 12 PM ET**

**Conductor:** Philippe Jordan  
**Production:** Robert Lepage  
**Set Designer:** Carl Fillion  
**Costume Designer:** François St-Aubin  
**Lighting Designer:** Etienne Boucher  
**Cast:** Brünnhilde (Christine Goerke), Sieglinde (Eva-Maria Westbroek), Siegmund (Stuart Skelton), Fricka (Jamie Barton), Wotan (Greer Grimsley), Hunding (Günther Groissböck)

The second installment of Wagner's *Ring* cycle, *Die Walküre*, stars heroic soprano **Christine Goerke** as the warrior goddess Brünnhilde, whose encounter with the mortal twins Siegmund and Sieglinde, sung by **Stuart Skelton** and **Eva-Maria Westbroek**, leads her on a journey from Valhalla to earthbound humanity. **Philippe Jordan** conducts.

**Dialogues des Carmélites (Francis Poulenc) REVIVAL / FIRST TIME IN HD**

**May 11, 2019 at 12PM ET**

**Conductor:** Yannick Nézet-Séguin  
**Production:** John Dexter  
**Set Designer:** David Reppa  
**Costume Designer:** Jane Greenwood  
**Lighting Designer:** Gil Wechsler  
**Cast:** Blanche de la Force (Isabel Leonard), Mme. Lidoine (Adrienne Pieczonka), Constance (Erin Morley), Mère Marie (Karen Cargill), First Prioress (Karita Mattila), Chevalier de la Force (David Portillo), Marquis de la Force (Dwayne Croft)

Met Music Director **Yannick Nézet-Séguin** leads an accomplished ensemble in Poulenc's devastating modern masterpiece of faith and martyrdom. **Isabel Leonard** is the young Blanche de La Force, opposite Met legend **Karita Mattila** as the First Prioress.

**HD Live in Schools**

The Met's *HD Live in Schools* program will continue for its 12<sup>th</sup> season, as the company partners with 48 school districts across the country to bring *Live in HD* broadcasts to students and teachers. The Met's HD education program also includes backstage visits for students, who learn how costumes and scenery are constructed; Q&As with artists; access to final dress rehearsals; in-school workshops; and teacher training workshops. Program and curriculum guides are created for in-school use in conjunction with HD screenings. Program support for *HD Live in Schools* is provided through a partnership with the New York City Department of Education.

In the coming season, students will study *Samson et Dalila*, *La Fanciulla del West*, *Marnie*, *La Traviata*, *Carmen*, and *La Fille du Régiment*.

### **About The Met: Live in HD**

*The Met: Live in HD* series, which now reaches more than 2,200 theaters in more than 70 countries, makes the Met the world's leading provider of alternative cinema content and the only arts institution with an ongoing global series of this scale. When the series launched in 2006, the Met was the first arts company to experiment with alternative cinema content. Since then, the program has grown every season, with more than 24 million tickets sold to date.

*The Met: Live in HD* series has increased accessibility to Met performances for audiences around the world. With a global average ticket price of \$23, the series has made world-class performances accessible to millions of opera lovers each season.

Met stars serve as hosts for the HD series, conducting live interviews with cast, crew, and production teams and introducing popular behind-the-scenes features.

Tickets for the ten transmissions in the 2018–19 *Live in HD* season will go on sale on July 18, 2018 in the U.S. and Canada, with Met Members offered priority access to tickets before the general public. International ticket sales dates and details on ordering tickets for the 2018–19 *Live in HD* series vary from country to country and will be announced separately by individual distributors.

*The Met: Live in HD* series is made possible by a generous grant from its founding sponsor, **The Neubauer Family Foundation**. Digital support of *The Met: Live in HD* is provided by **Bloomberg Philanthropies**. Transmission of *The Met: Live in HD* in Canada is made possible thanks to the generosity of **Jacqueline Desmarais, in memory of Paul G. Desmarais Sr.**

Within months of their initial live transmissions, the *Live in HD* programs are shown on PBS. The PBS series *Great Performances at the Met* is produced in association with PBS and WNET, with support from **Toll Brothers, America's luxury home builder®**. Additional funding is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts.

For more information about *Live in HD*, visit <http://www.metopera.org/Season/In-Cinemas/>.

###

Contacts: **Alyssa DeAlesandro/ Lee Abrahamian**  
[adealesandro@metopera.org](mailto:adealesandro@metopera.org)/ [labrahamian@metopera.org](mailto:labrahamian@metopera.org)  
The Metropolitan Opera  
(212) 870-7457