

ROSSINI

SEMIRAMIDE

SAT, MAR 10

CONDUCTOR

MAURIZIO BENINI

PRODUCTION

JOHN COPLEY

SET DESIGNER

JOHN CONKLIN

COSTUME DESIGNER

MICHAEL STENNETT

LIGHTING DESIGNER

GIL WECHSLER

LIVE IN HD DIRECTOR

BARBARA WILLIS

SWEETE

LIVE IN HD HOST

CHRISTOPHER

MALTMAN

SEMIRAMIDE

ANGELA MEADE

ARSACE

ELIZABETH DESHONG

IDRENO

JAVIER CAMARENA

ASSUR

ILDAR ABDRAZAKOV

OROE

RYAN SPEEDO GREEN

ACT I *Ancient Babylon.* Assur comes to the temple of Baal in hopes that the queen will choose him as successor to her late husband. When the sacred altar flame goes out, Oroe warns that the ceremony should not proceed. Arsace arrives in answer to a summons from the queen, who herself hopes to marry the young war hero. Semiramide announces that Arsace will become both king and her husband. The ghost of the fallen King Nino appears. He announces that Arsace will reign but only after a victim is sacrificed in atonement for his murder. Arsace vows vengeance, but the apparition vanishes.

INTERMISSION

ACT II The queen repudiates Assur's claim that she promised her hand in return for him arranging Nino's murder. Arsace learns that he is actually the crown prince and that Assur and Semiramide assassinated his father, Nino. Arsace cannot bring himself to take his own mother's life and tells Semiramide that he is her son. She bids him to kill her, but he still cannot. Assur plans to hide in Nino's tomb and ambush Arsace. Arsace enters the vault to await his rival. Assur appears, and Semiramide descends in hopes of saving Arsace. In the dark, Arsace accidentally fells Semiramide. Oroe orders Assur to be arrested. The people rejoice in the gods' victory and implore Arsace to assume the throne.

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