



Press Contacts:

Elizabeth Boone, The WNET Group, 212.560.8831, booneb@wnet.org

Press Materials: pbs.org/pressroom or thirteen.org/pressroom

Great Performances at the Met Returns for 20th Season Featuring Lisette Oropesa, Nadine Sierra, Piotr Beczala, Sonya Yoncheva, Lise DavidSEN and more on PBS

Great Performances at the Met raises the curtain on its 20th season with productions both returning and new. The season features company members in various roles, including a new production of ***La Sonnambula*** directed by tenor **Rolando Villazón** who uses the opera's original setting in the Swiss Alps to explore the emotional and psychological valleys of the mind; as well as ***I Puritani***, featuring staging by **Charles Edwards** who makes his directorial debut after success as a set designer. Met Opera debuts include composer **Gabriela Lena Frank's** production of ***El Último Sueño de Frida y Diego***, which offers a magical-realist portrait of painters Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera featuring a libretto by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright **Nilo Cruz**.

Primetime productions include Puccini's classic ***La Bohème*** premiering Friday, March 20 on PBS, and Tchaikovsky's adaptation of Pushkin's novel, ***Eugene Onegin***, premiering Friday, August 21 on PBS. Following each broadcast, the operas will be available to stream at pbs.org/gperf and the PBS app.

Great Performances at the Met Season 20 Operas:

La Bohème

Premieres Friday, March 20 at 9/8c on PBS, pbs.org/gperf and the PBS app

Franco Zeffirelli's production brings 19th-century Paris to the Met stage as Puccini's young friends and lovers navigate the joy and struggle of bohemian life. Soprano Juliana Grigoryan

stars as the seamstress Mimi opposite tenor Freddie De Tommaso as the ardent poet Rodolfo. Keri-Lynn Wilson conducts.

The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay

Available beginning Wednesday, April 1 on pbs.org/gperf and the PBS app

In this new adaptation of Michael Chabon's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel set shortly before the outbreak of World War II, two Jewish cousins invent an anti-fascist superhero and launch their own comic-book series, hoping to recruit America into the fight against Nazism. Incorporating electronic design elements and a variety of musical styles, composer Mason Bates' score moves among the three worlds of Gene Scheer's libretto: Nazi-occupied Prague, the bustling streets of New York City, and the realm of comic-book fantasy. Bartlett Sher's production features towering sets and proscenium-filling projections designed by Jenny Melville and Mark Grimmer of 59 Studio. Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin conducts, and baritone Andrzej Filończyk makes his Met debut as the artist Joe Kavalier, who flees Czechoslovakia and arrives at the Brooklyn doorstep of writer Sam Clay, sung by tenor Miles Mykkanen.

La Sonnambula

Premieres beginning Sunday, April 12 ([check local listings](#)) on PBS, pbs.org/gperf and the PBS app

Nadine Sierra stars as Amina in Bellini's tale of love lost and found. This new production by Rolando Villazón—the tenor who has embarked on a second career as a director—retains the opera's original setting in the Swiss Alps but uses its plot to explore the emotional and psychological valleys of the mind. Tenor Xabier Anduaga co-stars as Amina's fiancé Elvino, alongside soprano Sydney Mancasola as her rival, Lisa, and bass Alexander Vinogradov as Count Rodolfo. Riccardo Frizza conducts.

Arabella

Premieres beginning Sunday, May 17 ([check local listings](#)) on PBS, pbs.org/gperf and the PBS app

Strauss' romance brings the glamour of 19th-century Vienna to the Met stage in a production by legendary Otto Schenk. Soprano Rachel Willis-Sørensen makes her role debut as Arabella, a young noblewoman in search of love on her own terms. Soprano Louise Alder makes her Met debut as her sister, Zdenka, and bass-baritone Tomasz Konieczny is the count who sweeps Arabella off her feet.

Andrea Chénier

Premieres Sunday, June 14 at 9/8c on PBS, pbs.org/gperf and the PBS app

Giordano's tragedy stars tenor Piotr Beczała as the virtuous poet who falls victim to the intrigue and violence of the French Revolution. Soprano Sonya Yoncheva stars as Chénier's aristocratic

lover, Maddalena di Coigny, with baritone Igor Golovatenko as Carlo Gérard. Daniele Rustioni takes the podium to lead Nicolas Joël's staging.

I Puritani

Premieres beginning Sunday, July 12 ([check local listings](#)) on PBS, [pbs.org/gperf](https://www.pbs.org/gperf) and the PBS app

Charles Edwards makes his company directorial debut after many successes as a set designer, while soprano Lisette Oropesa and tenor Lawrence Brownlee star as Elvira and Arturo, brought together by love and torn apart by the political rifts of the English Civil War. Marco Armiliato conducts with baritone Artur Ruciński as Riccardo and bass-baritone Christian Van Horn portraying Elvira's sympathetic uncle, Giorgio.

Eugene Onegin

Premieres Friday, August 21 at 9/8c on PBS, [pbs.org/gperf](https://www.pbs.org/gperf) and the PBS app

Soprano Asmik Grigorian returns to the Met as Tatiana, the lovestruck young heroine in Tchaikovsky's opera adaptation of Pushkin's novel. Baritone Igor Golovatenko reprises his portrayal of Onegin, who realizes his affection for her all too late. Tony Award winner Deborah Warner directs.

Tristan Und Isolde

Premieres beginning Sunday, September 13 ([check local listings](#)) on PBS, [pbs.org/gperf](https://www.pbs.org/gperf) and the PBS app

Soprano Lise Davidsen stars as the Irish princess Isolde in Wagner's meditation on love and death with tenor Michael Spyres as the love-drunk Tristan. The production features new staging by director Yuval Sharon and is Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin's first time leading this opera at the Met. Mezzo-soprano Ekaterina Gubanova reprises her signature portrayal of Brangäne, alongside bass-baritone Tomasz Konieczny who sings Kurwenal and bass-baritone Ryan Speedo Green as King Marke.

El Último Sueño de Frida y Diego

Premieres beginning Sunday, October 18 ([check local listings](#)) on PBS, [pbs.org/gperf](https://www.pbs.org/gperf) and the PBS app

American composer Gabriela Lena Frank makes her Met debut with her first opera, a magical-realist portrait of painters Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera. With a libretto by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Nilo Cruz, the opera is fashioned as a reversal of the Orpheus and Euridice myth. The story depicts Frida, sung by mezzo-soprano Isabel Leonard, leaving the underworld on the Day of the Dead and reuniting with Diego, portrayed by baritone Carlos Álvarez. The famously feuding pair briefly relive their tumultuous love before bidding the land of the living a final farewell. Yannick Nézet-Séguin conducts the new production inspired by Frida and Diego's paintings, directed and choreographed by Deborah Colker.

Great Performances at the Met is produced by the Metropolitan Opera in association with PBS and The WNET Group, bringing the best of the Metropolitan Opera into the homes of opera fans across the country. For the Met: Mia Bongiovanni is Supervising Producer and Louisa Briccetti and Victoria Warivonchik are Producers. Peter Gelb is Executive Producer. For ***Great Performances***: Bill O'Donnell is Series Producer; David Horn is Executive Producer.

Series funding for ***Great Performances*** is provided by The Joseph and Robert Cornell Memorial Foundation, the Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Foundation, the S. Irving and Anne Nevard Sherr Foundation, The Philip and Janice Levin Foundation, Jody and John Arnhold, Ellen and James S. Marcus and the Anne Ray Foundation. Major funding for *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay* was provided by Jeanette Lerman-Neubauer and Joseph Neubauer and the Weiss Family Foundation.

For more than 50 years on PBS, ***Great Performances*** has provided an unparalleled showcase of the best in all genres of the performing arts, serving as America's most prestigious and enduring broadcaster of cultural programming. Showcasing a diverse range of artists from around the world, the series has earned 67 Emmy Awards and six Peabody Awards. The [Great Performances website](#) hosts exclusive videos, interviews, photos, full episodes and more. The series is produced by The WNET Group. ***Great Performances*** is available for streaming concurrent with broadcast on [PBS.org](#) and the [PBS App](#).

Websites: <http://pbs.org/gperf>, <http://facebook.com/GreatPerformances>, @PBSGreatPerformances, <http://youtube.com/greatperformancespbs>, giphy.com/great-performances #GreatPerformancesPBS

About the Met

Under the leadership of Peter Gelb, the Met's Maria Manetti Shrem General Manager, and Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Jeanette Lerman-Neubauer Music Director, the Metropolitan Opera is one of America's leading performing arts organizations and a vibrant home for the world's most creative and talented artists, including singers, conductors, composers, orchestra musicians, stage directors, designers, visual artists, choreographers, and dancers. The company presents approximately 200 performances each season of a wide variety of operas, ranging from early masterpieces to contemporary works. In recent years, the Met has launched many initiatives designed to make opera more accessible, most prominently the Live in HD series of cinema transmissions, which dramatically expands the Met audience by allowing select performances to be seen in more than 50 countries around the world.

About The WNET Group

[The WNET Group](#) creates inspiring media content and meaningful experiences for diverse audiences nationwide. It is the community-supported home of New York's [THIRTEEN](#) – America's flagship PBS station – [WLIW](#), THIRTEEN PBS KIDS, WLIW World and Create; [NJ PBS](#), New Jersey's statewide public television network; Long Island's only NPR station WLIW-FM; [ALL ARTS](#), the arts and culture media provider; newsroom [NJ Spotlight News](#); and FAST channel PBS Nature. Through these channels and streaming platforms, The WNET Group brings arts, culture, education,

news, documentary, entertainment, and DIY programming to more than five million viewers each month. The WNET Group's award-winning productions include signature PBS series ***Nature***, ***Great Performances***, ***American Masters***, and ***Amanpour and Company*** and trusted local news programs like ***NJ Spotlight News with Briana Vannozzi***. Inspiring curiosity and nurturing dreams, The WNET Group's award-winning Kids' Media and Education team produces the PBS KIDS series ***Cyberchase***, interactive ***Mission US*** history games, and resources for families, teachers and caregivers. A leading nonprofit public media producer for more than 60 years, The WNET Group presents and distributes content that fosters lifelong learning, including initiatives addressing poverty, jobs, economic opportunity, social justice, understanding, and the environment. Through Passport, station members can stream new and archival programming anytime, anywhere. The WNET Group represents the best in public media. Join us.

###