

TERENCE BLANCHARD / LIBRETTO BY KASI LEMMONS

# FIRE SHUT UP IN MY BONES

TRANSMITTED LIVE ON SAT, OCT 23, 2021

The Metropolitan  
Opera **HD**  
LIVE

CONDUCTOR

Yannick Nézet-Séguin

CO-DIRECTORS

James Robinson and  
Camille A. Brown

SET DESIGNER

Allen Moyer

COSTUME DESIGNER

Paul Tazewell

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Christopher Akerlind

PROJECTION DESIGNER

Greg Emetaz

CHOREOGRAPHER

Camille A. Brown

LIVE IN HD DIRECTOR

Gary Halvorson

LIVE IN HD HOST

Audra McDonald

DESTINY / LONELINESS / GRETA

Angel Blue

BILLIE

Latonia Moore

CHARLES

Will Liverman

**ACT I** Charles drives down a Louisiana backroad as Destiny sings to him. He begins reliving memories from his childhood. Charles' seven-year-old self talks to his mother, Billie. They are dirt poor. Billie works in a chicken factory, and her husband, Spinner, is a womanizing spendthrift. She confronts him and tosses him out. Billie and her sons move in with Uncle Paul. Charles's cousin Chester comes to visit and sexually abuses the boy. Adult Charles begins to weep as he recoils from these memories, while Destiny reminds him that there is no escape.

INTERMISSION

**ACT II** Now a teenager, Charles attends a church service. Charles decides to get baptized, but phantom terrors still haunt him. He tries to talk to his brothers, but they refuse to engage in any "soft talk." Loneliness appears, promising to be his lifelong companion. Evelyn interrupts Charles's reverie. Charles is ready to strike out on his own; Grambling State University has offered him a full scholarship. Billie reflects on all that she has sacrificed.

**ACT III** Charles is hazed while pledging a fraternity and stoically takes each indignity in stride. He meets Greta at a party, and they begin a love affair. Charles eventually shares his secret with her, only to find out that she's still seeing someone else. Charles calls home and is shocked that Chester has come to visit. Charles instantly decides to return home to confront his cousin. Destiny sings to him, but Charles-Baby urges him to leave his bitterness behind. Charles must decide between revenge and beginning life anew.

*Reprinted courtesy of Opera Theatre of Saint Louis*

*Commissioned by the Metropolitan Opera*

*Originally commissioned by Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, co-commissioned by Jazz St. Louis*

*A co-production of the Metropolitan Opera, LA Opera, and Lyric Opera of Chicago*

*Production a gift of The Ford Foundation and the Francis Goelet Trusts*

*Additional funding from The Joan Ganz Cooney and Holly Peterson Fund*

## COMING SOON

MATTHEW AUCOIN

*EURYDICE*

LIVE ON DEC 4, 2021

## SUPPORT EXTRAORDINARY OPERA

In celebration of the Met's return to the stage and to movie theaters worldwide, please consider making a contribution to the Metropolitan Opera Fund at [metopera.org/donate](https://metopera.org/donate). Your philanthropic commitment will help to ensure a successful new season and a bright future for the Met and this incomparable art form.

The Met: Live in HD series is made possible by a generous grant from its founding sponsor

**NEUBAUER FAMILY  
FOUNDATION**

Digital support of The Met: Live in HD is provided by

**Bloomberg  
Philanthropies**

Driving Digital Innovation in Arts & Culture

The Met: Live in HD series is supported by

**ROLEX**

The HD broadcasts are supported by

**Toll Brothers**  
AMERICA'S LUXURY HOME BUILDER