

ACCESS OPERA

2025–26 SEASON

The Met
ropolitan
Opera

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JONATHAN TICHLER / MET OPERA



MASON BATES / LIBRETTO BY GENE SCHEER

THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF KAVALIER & CLAY

STORY

Based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Michael Chabon, *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay* takes place in New York City shortly before the outbreak of the Second World War. Two Jewish cousins invent an anti-fascist superhero named *The Escapist* and launch their own comic-book series, hoping to recruit America into the fight against Nazism.

PRODUCTION

Bartlett Sher's production provides spectacular visuals to match the story, with towering sets and proscenium-filling projections designed by Jenny Melville and Mark Grimmer of 59 Studio.

MUSIC

Mason Bates's score contains electronic elements and a variety of musical styles, seamlessly showcasing the three worlds of Gene Scheer's libretto: Nazi-occupied Prague, the bustling streets of New York City, and the technicolor realm of comic-book fantasy.

RECOMMENDED FOR
MS+

LANGUAGE
English

PERIOD
21st Century



GIACOMO PUCCINI

TURANDOT

STORY

Puccini's final opera is an epic fairy tale set in a China of legend, centering on a vengeful princess whose frozen heart is thawed by the courageous prince Calàf.

PRODUCTION

The Met's production by Franco Zeffirelli, still in the repertory after 38 years, has remained one of the company's most popular, as well as one of its most lavish and intricate.

MUSIC

Featuring a most unusual score with an astounding and innovative use of chorus and orchestra, *Turandot* is still recognizably Puccini, bursting with instantly appealing melody. There are several genuine Chinese themes integrated into the score, alongside moments of sheer melodic beauty in the composer's most lyrical vein.

RECOMMENDED FOR
MS+

LANGUAGE
Italian

PERIOD
20th Century

CONTENT ADVISORY
Severed heads, suicide



VINCENZO BELLINI

LA SONNAMBULA

STORY

An engaging depiction of a young girl's emerging personality, *La Sonnambula* follows Amina, the titular sleepwalker who wakes up in the wrong man's bed. The scandal sends her small community into a frenzy—until her innocence is proven and her engagement is saved.

PRODUCTION

Rolando Villazón's production retains the opera's original setting in a small village in the Swiss Alps, a deliberately fabled yet plausible setting that reflects the story's balance between realism and dream time.

MUSIC

This operatic gem from one of the great masters of melody is a benchmark of extraordinary vocalism. The soloists and chorus interact often in this opera, an unusual feature of Bellini's bel canto works, and one that successfully reflects the idea of a tight village community.

RECOMMENDED FOR
All Ages

LANGUAGE
Italian

PERIOD
19th Century



GAETANO DONIZETTI

LA FILLE DU RÉGIMENT

STORY

Donizetti's frothy comedy concerns a young orphan girl raised by an army regiment as their mascot and begins at the moment of her first stirrings of love. Complications (and comedy) ensue when her true identity is discovered.

PRODUCTION

The opera is set in the Tyrolean Alps, a picturesque mountain landscape. The Met's production places the action during the First World War.

MUSIC

Donizetti's score is a deft combination of jaunty military tunes, brisk comic numbers, enormously graceful ensembles, and sparkling arias.

RECOMMENDED FOR
All Ages

LANGUAGE
French

PERIOD
19th Century



GIACOMO PUCCINI

LA BOHÈME

STORY

Loosely based on Henry Murger's *Scènes de la Vie de Bohème* and inspired by events in Puccini's own life, the story follows a group of artistic-minded youths at odds with mainstream society after the upheavals of revolution and war.

PRODUCTION

Since 1981, Franco Zeffirelli's picturesque production has reigned at the Met, with more than 500 performances to date. In the iconic Act II scene, attendees will experience an astonishing 250 performers on stage at once.

MUSIC

Many of the score's memorable melodies are built incrementally, carrying the listener with them on their lyrical path. The two great love arias in Act I draw the audience in with their mostly conversational style, while Musetta's famous Act II waltz grows from an intimate reflection by one character into a full-blown ensemble sung by crowds of Parisian revelers.

RECOMMENDED FOR
All Ages

LANGUAGE
Italian

PERIOD
Late 19th Century



GEORGES BIZET

CARMEN

STORY

Bizet's fiery masterpiece of seduction, obsession, and tragedy chronicles a strong-willed seductress, Carmen, caught between two men—Don José, the feeble officer who bucks duty for love, and Escamillo, the boastful rodeo star who wins Carmen's heart.

PRODUCTION

This production of *Carmen* reinvigorates the classic story with a staging that moves the action to the modern day, setting the opera in a border town in the American Southwest replete with shipping containers, tractor trailers, and human trafficking.

MUSIC

The score of *Carmen* contains so many instantly recognizable tunes that it can be easy to overlook how well constructed it is. The major solos are excellent combinations of arresting melody and dramatic purpose, and the duets and ensembles are equally beguiling.

RECOMMENDED FOR
MS+

LANGUAGE
French

PERIOD
19th Century

CONTENT ADVISORY
Gunshot effects, murder



RICHARD STRAUSS

ARABELLA

STORY

Strauss's elegant romance evokes the glamour and enchantment of 19th-century Vienna in this comedic tale of a young noblewoman—in search of love on her own terms—who gets swept off her feet by a dashing count.

PRODUCTION

A sumptuous production by legendary director Otto Schenk honors the opera's original setting: Vienna, around 1860, when a fading landed gentry attempts to keep up appearances while somewhat adrift in the modern urban melting pot.

MUSIC

The score of *Arabella* is beautiful and charming, with a wealth of lyrical melody perfectly attuned to the demands of the story and characters. Strauss's prowess in writing for the soprano voice and orchestra are on magnificent display throughout.

RECOMMENDED FOR
HS+

LANGUAGE
German

PERIOD
20th Century

CONTENT ADVISORY
Suggested intimacy



UMBERTO GIORDANO

ANDREA CHÉNIER

STORY

Romantic poet Andrea Chénier is overwhelmed by his impossible love for the beautiful Maddalena, a pampered aristocrat. But even when their entire world is torn apart by the violence of the French Revolution, their love will not be denied—even if it costs both their lives.

PRODUCTION

Nicolas Joël's classic staging begins with the opulence and grandeur of the French aristocracy and concludes in the stark ruins of the Revolution.

MUSIC

Giordano's score is lush and stirring, with emotions expressed powerfully and immediately by both the orchestra and singers and by the singers, blending verismo's focus on the raw emotions of everyday people with the spectacle of historical grand opera.

RECOMMENDED FOR
MS+

LANGUAGE
Italian

PERIOD
Late 19th Century



WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART

THE MAGIC FLUTE

HOLIDAY PRESENTATION

STORY

Mozart's sublime Enlightenment fable moves freely between earthly comedy and noble mysticism, appealing to audiences from all walks of life. Masonic imagery—alluding to the fraternal order of which both composer and librettist were members—provides a throughline to this universal tale of a young hero's quest to rescue his beloved from the forces of evil.

PRODUCTION

Julie Taymor's visually stunning adaptation of this classic opera utilizes vibrant costume design and puppetry to transport the audience to a mythical landscape beyond time and space.

MUSIC

This opera is an example of the German "singspiel" style, in which sung texts are interspersed with spoken dialogue. Mozart's final opera, *The Magic Flute* ranges from solemn to comic to triumphant and contains some of the highest and lowest written notes sung in the operatic repertoire.

RECOMMENDED FOR
Grades 3–6 Only

LANGUAGE
English

PERIOD
18th Century

CONTENT ADVISORY

Suggested hanging, suggested intimacy



GIACOMO PUCCINI

MADAMA BUTTERFLY

STORY

Set during a time of expanding American international presence, *Madama Butterfly* centers on a young Japanese geisha who clings to the belief that her arrangement with a visiting American naval officer is a loving and permanent marriage. The libretto is based on David Belasco's play of the same name, itself based on a short story by John Luther Long.

PRODUCTION

Anthony Minghella's minimalist, architectural production has become an instant classic and one of the most beloved stagings in the Met's repertory. The visually stunning production is further enhanced by its use of Bunraku-style puppetry.

MUSIC

Puccini achieved a new level of sophistication with his use of the orchestra in this opera, with subtle colorings and sonorities throughout the score, but the drama rests squarely on the performer in the title role.

RECOMMENDED FOR
MS+

LANGUAGE
Italian

PERIOD
Early 20th Century

CONTENT ADVISORY

Underage marriage, suicide



GIUSEPPE VERDI

LA TRAVIATA

STORY

A beloved mainstay of the repertory, Verdi's great tragedy chronicles an ill-fated Parisian courtesan fighting for love before her time runs out.

PRODUCTION

Tony Award-winning director Michael Mayer's colorful staging conjures a dreamy setting that matches the poetry and passion of the unforgettable score.

MUSIC

Verdi's musical-dramatic ability to portray the individual in a marginalized relationship with society keeps this work a mainstay on the world's stages. The vocal and emotional scope of the title character is enormous; Violetta is considered a pinnacle of the soprano repertoire.

RECOMMENDED FOR
All Ages

LANGUAGE
Italian

PERIOD
19th Century



PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY

EUGENE ONEGIN

STORY

At the core of the opera is the young country girl Tatiana, whose impulsive declaration of love is coolly rejected by the titular character, an aloof aristocrat who discovers the power of love too late.

PRODUCTION

Tchaikovsky's work neatly divides the action across three acts: from the timeless rituals of country life to the rural gentry with its troubles and pleasures and, finally, the glittering imperial aristocracy of St. Petersburg. The Met's production places the action in the later 19th century, around the time of the opera's premiere.

MUSIC

Tchaikovsky's universally beloved lyric gifts are at their most powerful and multilayered in this opera. Rich ensembles and buoyant dance numbers punctuate the work, and the vocal solos are among the most striking in the repertory.

RECOMMENDED FOR
MS+

LANGUAGE
Russian

PERIOD
19th Century

CONTENT ADVISORY
Gunshot effects



GABRIELA LENA FRANK / LIBRETTO BY NILO CRUZ

EL ÚLTIMO SUEÑO DE FRIDA Y DIEGO

STORY

Fashioned as a reversal of the Orpheus and Euridice myth, the story depicts artist Frida Kahlo leaving the underworld on the Day of the Dead and reuniting with her husband and fellow artist Diego Rivera.

PRODUCTION

The vibrant new production, inspired by Frida and Diego's paintings, is directed and choreographed by Deborah Colker, following her remarkable 2024 debut staging of Osvaldo Golijov's *Ainadamar*.

MUSIC

Frank's score explores the artistic and romantic marriage of two of the 20th century's most important artists by combining dreamlike, abstract dissonance with rhythmic sections inspired by Mexican folk traditions.

RECOMMENDED FOR
All Ages

LANGUAGE
Spanish

PERIOD
21st Century