

GIUSEPPE VERDI

IL TROVATORE

CONDUCTOR
Marco Armiliato

PRODUCTION
Sir David McVicar

SET DESIGNER
Charles Edwards

COSTUME DESIGNER
Brigitte Reiffenstuel

LIGHTING DESIGNED BY
Jennifer Tipton

CHOREOGRAPHER
Leah Hausman

STAGE DIRECTOR
Paula Williams

GENERAL MANAGER
Peter Gelb

MUSIC DIRECTOR
James Levine

PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR
Fabio Luisi

Opera in four parts

Libretto by Salvatore Cammarano and
Leone Emanuele Bardare, based on the play
El Trovador by Antonio García Gutierrez

Saturday, February 6, 2016
8:00–10:45PM

The production of *Il Trovatore* was made
possible by a generous gift from
The Annenberg Foundation

The revival of this production is made possible
by a gift of the Estate of Francine Berry

A co-production of the Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera
of Chicago, and the San Francisco Opera Association

Tonight's performance is dedicated to the memory of
Joe Green, a beloved and longtime Met electrician.

The Metropolitan Opera

2015–16 SEASON

The 645th Metropolitan Opera performance of
GIUSEPPE VERDI'S

IL TROVATORE

CONDUCTOR
Marco Armiliato

IN ORDER OF VOCAL APPEARANCE

FERRANDO
Kwangchul Youn

INES
Carolyn Sproule

LEONORA
Angela Meade

COUNT DI LUNA
Juan Jesús Rodríguez

MANRICO
Marcello Giordani

AZUCENA
Dolora Zajick

A GYPSY
Edward Albert

A MESSENGER
David Lowe

RUIZ
Raúl Melo

Saturday, February 6, 2016, 8:00–10:45PM



A scene from
Verdi's *Il Trovatore*

Chorus Master **Donald Palumbo**
Musical Preparation **Joshua Green, Carol Isaac,**
Steven Osgood, and Jonathan C. Kelly
Assistant Stage Director **Daniel Rigazzi**
Italian Coach **Hemdi Kfir**
Prompter **Carol Isaac**
Assistant to the Costume Designer **Anna Watkins**
Fight Director **Thomas Schall**
Scenery, properties, and electrical props constructed
and painted by **Cardiff Theatrical Services** and
Metropolitan Opera Shops
Costumes executed by **Lyric Opera of Chicago Costume**
Shop and **Metropolitan Opera Costume Department**
Wigs and Makeup executed by **Metropolitan Opera Wig and**
Makeup Department

The Lyric Opera production of *Il Trovatore* was generously made possible by the NIB Foundation and the Julius Frankel Foundation

This performance is made possible in part by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts.

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The Met
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Opera

2015-16 SEASON

Aleksandrs Antonenko as Otello

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Synopsis

Part 1: The Duel

Spain is torn apart by civil war. The commander of the Royalist Aragon troops, Count di Luna, is obsessed with Leonora, a young noblewoman in the queen's service, who does not return his love. Outside the royal residence his soldiers keep watch at night. An unknown troubadour has been heard serenading Leonora and the jealous count is determined to capture and punish him. To keep his troops awake, the captain, Ferrando, recounts the terrible story of a Gypsy woman who was burned at the stake years ago for bewitching the count's infant brother. The Gypsy's daughter then took revenge by kidnapping the boy and—so the story goes—throwing him into the flames where her mother had died. The charred skeleton of a baby was discovered there and di Luna's father died of grief soon after. No trace was ever found of the Gypsy's daughter, but di Luna, always hoping that the remains might not have been his brother's, has sworn to find her.

In the palace gardens Leonora confesses to her companion that she is in love with a mysterious man she met before the outbreak of the war. It is he who now returns as the troubadour to serenade her each night. After they have left, Count di Luna appears, looking for Leonora. The troubadour's song is heard in the darkness and Leonora rushes out to greet him but is seized instead by di Luna. The troubadour reveals his true identity: he is Manrico, leader of the partisan rebel forces. Furious, the count challenges him to fight to the death.

Part 2: The Gypsy

The duel has been fought. Manrico overpowered the count but some instinct stopped him from killing his rival. The war has raged on with the Royalist forces victorious in the last battle. Manrico has been badly wounded and nursed back to health by his mother, the Gypsy Azucena, in a camp in the mountains.

Azucena is the woman di Luna has been looking for. Her life is scarred by the memory of her mother's death and the terrible revenge she exacted. Manrico, who has never heard the full story, is determined to finally know the truth. Azucena tells him how she stole the count's infant son but that the child she murdered in her manic rage was in fact her own. When Manrico demands to know who he truly is, Azucena is evasive: all that matters is the love of a mother she has shown him all his life and that he does not fail to take revenge on the house of di Luna. A messenger arrives with news of Leonora. Believing Manrico has died in battle, and to escape the grasp of di Luna, she is entering a convent. Azucena pleads with Manrico to stay, but he resolves to go to her immediately.

Synopsis CONTINUED

Di Luna arrives at the convent with his troops to take Leonora by force, but his attempt to seize her is foiled by the attack of Manrico and his men. In the ensuing fight, the lovers escape.

Intermission (AT APPROXIMATELY 9:10 PM)

Part 3: The Gypsy's Son

Di Luna has laid siege to the fortress where Manrico has taken refuge with Leonora. Azucena, who has been captured by Ferrando wandering nearby, is brought into the camp. When she hears di Luna's name, her reaction arouses suspicion and Ferrando recognizes her as the murderer of the count's brother. Azucena cries out to Manrico to rescue her and di Luna realizes he now has his enemy in his hands. He orders a pyre built to burn Azucena before the walls of the fortress.

Inside the castle, Manrico and Leonora are preparing to be married. She is frightened, but he assures her of his love even in the face of death. When news of Azucena's capture arrives, he summons his men and prepares to attack.

Part 4: The Execution

Manrico's army has been defeated and he and Azucena are being held captive in di Luna's castle. Leonora has escaped and now comes to the prison to pray for Manrico's salvation. When di Luna orders the execution of Manrico and Azucena at sunrise, Leonora offers herself to the count in return for her lover's life and secretly takes a slow-acting poison.

Manrico tries to comfort Azucena, who is terrified by visions of the stake and the fire that awaits her. Leonora appears to tell Manrico that he is saved and urges him to escape. He understands what she has done and furiously denounces her, refusing di Luna's mercy. But the poison is already taking effect and Leonora dies in his arms, just as di Luna arrives. He sends Manrico to his execution. Azucena cries out that her mother is avenged: di Luna has killed his own brother.

Giuseppe Verdi

Il Trovatore

Premiere: Teatro Apollo, Rome, 1853

Verdi's turbulent tragedy of four characters caught in a web of family ties, politics, and love is a mainstay of the operatic repertory. The score is as melodic as it is energetic, with infectious tunes that are not easily forgotten. The vigorous music accompanies a dark and disturbing tale that revels in many of the most extreme expressions of Romanticism, including violent shifts in tone, unlikely coincidences, and characters who are impelled by raw emotion rather than cool logic. The much-parodied story of the troubadour of the title, his vengeance-obsessed Gypsy mother, his devoted lover, and her evil aristocratic pursuer is self-consciously outrageous—that is, it is intended to outrage an audience's sense of order and decorum. The librettist Cammarano's frequent attempts to tone down the drama's most extreme aspects only met with Verdi's instructions to heighten them instead. The opera lives in a borderland between madness and reality, not perfectly at home in either realm. For anyone who truly immerses himself in its shadowy world, *Il Trovatore* provides an experience that is uniquely thrilling, even within the world of Romantic Italian opera.

The Creators

In a remarkable career spanning six decades in the theater, Giuseppe Verdi (1813–1901) composed 28 operas, at least half of which are at the core of today's repertoire. His role in Italy's cultural and political development has made him an icon in his native country. Salvatore Cammarano (1801–1852) was a playwright and one of the foremost librettists of his day. He created several libretti for Donizetti, including *Lucia di Lammermoor* (1835), as well as *La Battaglia di Legnano* and *Luisa Miller* (both 1849) for Verdi. He died before the premiere of *Il Trovatore*, leaving the libretto to be completed by Leone Emanuele Bardare (1820–after 1874), a fellow writer. The Spanish dramatist Antonio García Gutiérrez (1813–1884) wrote the play *El Trovador* at the age of 22. He never again equaled that success, although his *Simón Bocanegra* (1843) also attracted attention and was later set by Verdi.

The Setting

The opera is originally set in northern Spain in the early 15th century, during a time of prolonged civil war. Audiences of the Romantic era understood civil war as a sort of societal schizophrenia, in which individuals could be easily torn apart, both physically and psychologically, by shifting fortunes and conflicted loyalties. (Bellini's *I Puritani* and Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor* also use this

background to highlight their tragedies of individual madness.) For the Met's production of *Il Trovatore*, director David McVicar has set the action during the Peninsular War (1808–1814), when Spain and its allies were fighting the forces of Napoleon.

The Music

Verdi's score for *Il Trovatore* perfectly expresses the extreme nature of the drama at hand. Throughout the opera, the use of melody is as uninhibited as the emotions of the protagonists. That melody, however, often appears to be as disturbed as the situations it portrays: much of the score is written in uneven meters (such as 3/4 or 6/8), and even those segments that are set in common 4/4 time have vigorous counter-rhythms fighting against any sense of symmetry. Examples include the underlying three-beat "death rattle" in the "Miserere" scene in Act IV and the triplet accompaniment to the baritone's great romance "Il balen del suo sorriso" in Act II. In addition to this rhythmic stress, the score makes heavy use of off-beat percussion (most famously in the case of the familiar Anvil Chorus in Act II) and trills (including one that crescendos over four bars in the mezzo-soprano's "Stride la vampa" in Act II), all of which contributes to the ambience of an off-kilter world. Beyond the rhythmic irregularities, another feature of the score is the heavy use of minor keys in almost all of the main arias. In an unusual twist, the aforementioned solo of the evil baritone character is written in a foursquare major key. Throughout the opera, the primary role of the orchestra is as a propulsive accompaniment. The spotlight remains glued to the singers as in few other operas. Each of the four principal characters needs to sing memorably in extremely diverse styles, often going directly from one to another. The soprano, for example, follows the delicate "D'amor sull'ali rosee" in Act IV with her full-voiced solo in the "Miserere." Similarly, the tenor's role is noted for the vigorous call to arms "Di quella pira" that concludes Act III. Directly before this, however, he has to sing the tender and romantic "Ah, si, ben mio," which is as challenging in its own, more subtle way.

Met History

Il Trovatore has featured some of the Met's most formidable singers, from the company's very first season in 1883–84 to the present day. The early decades saw such memorable performers as Enrico Caruso, Emma Eames, Giuseppe De Luca, and Louise Homer. Over the following years, some of the stars included Giovanni Martinelli, Bruna Castagna, Leonard Warren, Robert Merrill, and, notably, Zinka Milanov (in 49 performances between 1937 and 1957). James McCracken, Plácido Domingo, Martina Arroyo, Aprile Mollo, Grace Bumbry, Mignon Dunn, and Cornell MacNeil made more recent appearances. *Il Trovatore* has also been the occasion of several notable milestones in Met history: a new production unveiled for opening night in 1959 featured Fausto Cleva conducting Carlo Bergonzi, Antonietta Stella, Leonard Warren, and Giulietta Simionato in her Met

debut. Two years later, it saw the first appearances of Leontyne Price and Franco Corelli. The 1976–77 season opened with the debut of Gianandrea Gavazzeni conducting Luciano Pavarotti, Renata Scottò, Matteo Manuguerra, and Shirley Verrett. Joan Sutherland sang Leonora in ten performances, conducted by Richard Bonyngé, all during November and December of 1987, including her final Met appearance. James Levine conducted the 1988–89 season opening night, featuring Pavarotti, Eva Marton, Sherrill Milnes, and Fiorenza Cossotto. David McVicar’s production had its premiere in 2009, with the leading roles sung by Marcelo Álvarez, Sondra Radvanovsky, Dmitri Hvorostovsky, Dolora Zajick, and Kwangchul Youn, conducted by Gianandrea Nosedà.

Remembering Joe Green

1955–2016



Cinema audiences for the Met’s *Live in HD* series are accustomed to seeing backstage personnel changing scenery, touching up sets, and focusing lights during intermissions. What was different about the HD presentation of *Turandot* on Saturday, January 30, was the sea of green T-shirts worn by almost all the company’s stagehands, a tribute to the longtime electrician Joe Green, who died suddenly a few days before. Like many Met employees, Joe came from a Met family. Two

of his cousins work in the Electric and Sound Departments, and the entire family has been involved in the theater for years (including his aunt Ann Roth, the Tony Award-winning costume designer of *The Book of Mormon*). As First Assistant Electrician, he was in charge of the famed gold curtain and all the onstage pyrotechnics, including the bursts of fire in the final scene of *Don Giovanni* and the spectacular flaming ram’s head in *Francesca da Rimini* a few seasons ago. A beloved Met colleague, Joe is survived by his wife, Pat, their three daughters, and a granddaughter. Today’s performance is dedicated to his memory.

Program Note

We don't know how and when Verdi first heard about the Spanish play *El Trovador*, written by Antonio García Gutiérrez and first performed in 1836. What we do know is that his companion and future wife, Giuseppina Strepponi, translated it for him, and that in March of 1851 he wrote to Salvatore Cammarano, suggesting it as the subject of his next opera. Cammarano had provided the libretti for three of Verdi's previous stage works. It's worth looking at the qualities in the play and in the libretto that attracted Verdi and fired his imagination to compose *Il Trovatore*.

Through correspondence with Cammarano, we learn that the character of Azucena interested him the most because she was torn between two great passions: filial and maternal love. In this kind of conflict, and in living outside society, she was a female counterpart to Rigoletto, the protagonist of his previous opera. But it wasn't just this one compelling character. Verdi loved the highly theatrical situations and the built-in contrast between the chivalric life of court and castle and the life of a Gypsy, "whose roof is the sky and whose country is the world," as Azucena puts it.

Verdi's letters are full of urgings to his librettist to take advantage of everything original, out of the ordinary, even bizarre in the play. "If we cannot do our opera with all the bizarre quality of the play, we'd better give up." Cammarano didn't exactly comply: he regularized as much as he could, fitting the play into the formal conventions of contemporary opera. Verdi didn't let him get away with everything he wanted—he wouldn't let Azucena have a mad scene in the last act, for example: "Overcome with weariness, grief, terror, lack of sleep, she is unable to speak coherently," he explained. "Her mind is oppressed, but not mad." He also didn't want Cammarano to omit the scene in which Manrico foils di Luna's attempt to abduct Leonora from the convent. "It's far too original for me to give it up," Verdi wrote. "We must make as much of it as possible and get all the effect we can." (In fact, it was just this scene that provided the illustration for the title page of the published score.)

The first half of the opera—although it includes a duel and the first of three sword-brandishing rushes to the rescue of a woman—is primarily narrative. Ferrando, Leonora, Azucena, and Manrico are all storytellers, and their tales have the incantatory manner of ballad. Each hears voices—Ferrando describes the feral cry of the burned witch, Azucena's mother; Azucena hears the same voice crying "Mi vendica!" ("Avenge me!"); Leonora hears the "sweet, sad" voice of the troubadour sighing her name; Manrico, his sword at di Luna's heart, hears a voice from heaven crying, "Don't strike!" All those voices speak of events that are in the past, events that shadow the present and compromise the future. Only Count di Luna acts ungoverned by inner promptings, and that's what leads to his tragedy (although he does have a moment of conscience when he wonders if he is abusing his power).

The second half of the opera, on the other hand, is filled with extreme action, extreme language, and extreme emotion—a thwarted abduction, the

questioning of a prisoner, an interrupted wedding, preparations for burning at the stake, a sexual bargain (“Drink my blood,” Leonora cries, “and trample my body underfoot”), suicide, and decapitation. Rhythm-charged melody alone can release the simultaneous pressure of these extremes.

The actions recapitulate events in the stories we have heard and even realign dramatic effects we have already experienced. We first hear Manrico, the balladeer, offstage; in the last act, Leonora hears him again as his despairing voice floats down from the prison tower. In the first act, she could not see him; now he cannot see or hear her, rescue her, or do anything to forestall her sacrifice.

Verdi thought about *Il Trovatore* for two years, a time of trying conditions and great strain. His mother had died and his father had fallen ill, Giuseppina Streponi was being snubbed by the prudes of Busseto, and he was embroiled in a number of concurrent projects, quarrels, and acrimonious exchanges of letters. Cammarano died suddenly and Verdi had to rely on a new and untried librettist, Leone Emanuele Bardare, for a number of revisions and details. But when he finally freed himself to compose, the music poured out of him—he is said to have written the opera in little more than a month.

The first performance was surrounded by the usual difficulties. The budget-minded impresario wanted to substitute an offstage accordion for the organ in the wedding scene, the baritone was not in good voice, and the mezzo was a second-rate artist. But the opening night turned out to be one of Verdi’s great triumphs; the entire final scene was encored. Four years later, for the Paris Opera, Verdi made some revisions and additions to the score. They are full of interest, but *Il Trovatore* is one of the rare instances in Verdi’s career where the original version, not the revised one, has held the stage.

For the past century and a half, commentators have recognized the insistent vigor of the music of *Il Trovatore*. Today, however, no one would dismiss it as vulgar. Present-day critics are more likely to stress the score’s own individual tint or color and to praise the wide variety of internal effect. But even at a time when its “vulgarity” was deplored, Azucena’s music was always admired for its stirring rhythmic vitality, emotional directness, and its shrewd exploitation of the resources of the mezzo-soprano voice. Perhaps today we are in a better position to appreciate the element of contrast in the long, soaring lines of Leonora’s music. There is an affinity between her music and di Luna’s, while Manrico’s vacillates between two worlds—the one he yearns to inhabit with Leonora and the one with Azucena that he cannot leave.

Nothing in *Il Trovatore* is without dignity, and if some of the situations do not satisfy the demands of realism, they release entirely convincing passions. After the premiere Verdi noted that people were complaining that “this opera is too sad, and there are too many dead people in it.” His defense was simple: “But, finally, isn’t life all death? What exists?”

George Bernard Shaw observed that “the vulgar realism of sitting down is ten times more impossible for the Count di Luna than for the Venus di Milo.” He was making a joke, but he was also telling nothing but the truth. The characters in *Il Trovatore* are always on their feet, singing their hearts out.

—Richard Dyer



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The Cast



Marco Armiliato

CONDUCTOR (GENOA, ITALY)

THIS SEASON *Il Trovatore* and *Anna Bolena* at the Met, *Lucrezia Borgia* in Barcelona, *La Traviata* at Munich's Bavarian State Opera, and *L'Elisir d'Amore*, *La Bohème*, *La Traviata*, *Simon Boccanegra*, *Manon Lescaut*, and *Roméo et Juliette* at the Vienna State Opera.

MET APPEARANCES More than 350 performances of 23 operas including *La Bohème* (debut, 1998), *Tosca*, *Francesca da Rimini*, *Rigoletto*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *La Rondine*, *La Traviata*, *La Fille du Régiment*, *Turandot*, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, and *Pagliacci*.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS Highlights of last season include *La Fanciulla del West* and *La Traviata* in Zurich, *Faust* with the Deutsche Oper Berlin, and *Tosca*, *Andrea Chénier*, and *Don Carlo* at the Vienna State Opera. A frequent guest at many of the world's leading opera houses, he made his Italian debut in 1995 at Venice's Teatro La Fenice with *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* and his international debut that same year at the Vienna State Opera with *Andrea Chénier*.



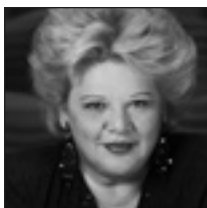
Angela Meade

SOPRANO (CENTRALIA, WASHINGTON)

THIS SEASON Leonora in *Il Trovatore* at the Met, Berlin's Deutsche Oper, and in La Coruña, the title role of *Norma* in Los Angeles, Lucrezia in Verdi's *I Due Foscari* in Madrid, Mahler's Symphony No. 8 with the Philadelphia Orchestra, and Verdi's Requiem in Bilbao, São Paulo, and Boston.

MET APPEARANCES *Norma*, Leonora, the title role of *Anna Bolena*, Alice Ford in *Falstaff*, the Countess in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, and Elvira in *Ernani* (debut, 2008).

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS Recent performances include debuts with the Vienna State Opera as Elena in *I Vespri Siciliani*, Los Angeles Opera as Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni*, Washington National Opera as *Norma*, and the New York Philharmonic in Verdi's Requiem. She has also sung Mathilde in Rossini's *Guglielmo Tell* with the orchestra of Turin's Teatro Regio at the Edinburgh Festival and at Carnegie Hall, Fidelia in Puccini's *Edgar* in Frankfurt, and *Norma* and the title role of Donizetti's *Lucrezia Borgia* at the Caramoor Festival. She was a 2007 winner of the Met's National Council Auditions and appeared in the documentary film about that competition, *The Audition*. She is the recipient of the Met's 2012 Beverly Sills Award, established by Agnes Varis and Karl Leichtman.



Dolora Zajick

MEZZO-SOPRANO (SALEM, OREGON)

THIS SEASON Azucena in *Il Trovatore* at the Met and in concert with the San Antonio Symphony, a performance of her composition *Roads to Zion*, celebrating the life of St. Teresa of Avila, in Madrid, and the Verdi Requiem in Bilbao.

MET APPEARANCES More than 225 performances including Ulrica in *Un Ballo in Maschera*, Ježibaba in *Rusalka*, Eboli in *Don Carlo*, Azucena (debut, 1988), Amneris in *Aida*, the Countess in *The Queen of Spades*, Adalgisa in *Norma*, Marfa in *Khovanshchina*, Santuzza in *Cavalleria Rusticana*, and Elvira Griffiths in the world premiere of Picker's *An American Tragedy*.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS Recent highlights include Madame de Croissy in *Dialogues des Carmélites* with Washington National Opera, Ortrud in *Lohengrin* in Madrid, the Princess in *Suor Angelica* in Barcelona, Santuzza in Seville, Adalgisa in Washington, and Azucena with Houston Grand Opera. She has also sung Santuzza at the Vienna State Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, and Houston Grand Opera, the Princess in *Adriana Lecouvreur* in Barcelona, Amneris at the Arena di Verona, Eboli with the Vienna State Opera and Los Angeles Opera, Eboli and Jocasta in *Oedipus Rex* at La Scala, and the title roles of Massenet's *Hérodiade* and Tchaikovsky's *The Maid of Orleans* in San Francisco.



Marcello Giordani

TENOR (AUGUSTA, ITALY)

THIS SEASON Cavaradossi in *Tosca* and Manrico in *Il Trovatore* at the Met, des Grieux in *Manon Lescaut* at the Vienna State Opera and in Hamburg, the title role of *Werther* at Tokyo's New National Theatre, Cavaradossi with the Cincinnati Opera, and Gustavo in *Un Ballo in Maschera* at the Staatsoper Berlin.

MET APPEARANCES He has sung more than 225 performances and 27 roles including Calaf in *Turandot*, Paolo in *Francesca da Rimini*, Dick Johnson in *La Fanciulla del West*, Gabriele Adorno in *Simon Boccanegra*, Faust in *La Damnation de Faust*, Edgardo in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Roméo in *Roméo et Juliette*, the title roles of *Ernani* and *Benvenuto Cellini*, Rodolfo in *La Bohème* (debut, 1995), Alfredo in *La Traviata*, Lenski in *Eugene Onegin*, Gualtiero in *Il Pirata*, and Enzo in *La Gioconda*.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS The Sicilian tenor has sung in all the world's leading theaters. Recent performances include Cavaradossi at the Vienna State Opera and Munich's Bavarian State Opera and Gustavo in Hamburg.



Juan Jesús Rodríguez

BARITONE (HUELVA, SPAIN)

THIS SEASON Count di Luna in *Il Trovatore* for his debut at the Met and at the Palacio de la Ópera in La Coruña, Posa in *Don Carlo* in Bilbao, and the title role of *Rigoletto* at the Teatro Real in Madrid.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS He made his debut in 1994 at Madrid's Teatro de la Zarzuela and has since appeared at the Gran Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona, Teatro San Carlo in Naples, Teatro Regio in Turin, Palau de les Arts Reina Sofia in Valencia, Florence's Maggio Musicale, and the Peking Opera House, among others. He participated in the 40th anniversary gala for Alfredo Kraus at the Teatro Real in 1996. Best known for his performances in the operas of Verdi, he has worked with conductors including Zubin Mehta, Nicola Luisotti, Marco Armiliato, and Riccardo Frizza and directors including Giancarlo del Monaco, Gilbert Deflo, and John Cox. On the concert stage, he has been heard in works by Schubert and Fauré.



Kwangchul Youn

BASS (CHUNG JU, SOUTH KOREA)

THIS SEASON Talbot in *Maria Stuarda* and Ferrando in *Il Trovatore* at the Met, Pogner in *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* with the Berlin State Opera, Raimondo in *Lucia di Lammermoor* at Covent Garden, King Henry in *Lohengrin* at the Vienna State Opera, and Ramfis in *Aida* in Paris.

MET APPEARANCES Narbal/Mercury in *Les Troyens*, Raimondo, the Commendatore in *Don Giovanni*, King Marke in *Tristan und Isolde*, Sarastro in *Die Zauberflöte* (debut, 2004), Ramfis, Hermann in *Tannhäuser*, and the Old Hebrew in *Samson et Dalila*.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS He has sung Méphistophélès in *Faust*, King Henry, and Gurnemanz in *Parsifal* at the Vienna State Opera; King Henry in Dresden and at Covent Garden; Hermann, King Marke, Gurnemanz, Fasolt in *Das Rheingold*, and Hunding in *Die Walküre* at the Bayreuth Festival; Wurm in *Luisa Miller* and Padre Guardiano in *La Forza del Destino* with the Paris Opera; Fasolt, the Commendatore, and Ferrando at La Scala; and Fiesco in *Simon Boccanegra*, King Henry, and Fasolt with the Berlin State Opera.

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Telephones with volume controls and TTY Public Telephone located in Founders Hall on the Concourse level.

RESTAURANT AND REFRESHMENT FACILITIES

The Grand Tier Restaurant features creative contemporary American cuisine, and the Revlon Bar offers panini, crostini, and a full service bar. Both are open two hours prior to the Met Opera curtain time to any Lincoln Center ticket holder for pre-curtain dining. Pre-ordered intermission dining is also available for Met ticket holders. For reservations call 212-799-3400.



RESTROOMS

Wheelchair-accessible restrooms are on the Dress Circle, Grand Tier, Parterre, and Founders Hall levels.

SEAT CUSHIONS

Available in the South Check Room. Major credit card or driver's license required for deposit.

SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

For information contact the Met Opera Guild Education Department, 212-769-7022.

SCORE-DESK TICKET PROGRAM

Tickets for score desk seats in the Family Circle boxes may be purchased by calling the Met Opera Guild at 212-769-7028. These no-view seats provide an affordable way for students to study an opera's score during a performance.

TOUR GUIDE SERVICE

Backstage tours of the Opera House are held during the Met season on most weekdays at 3:15pm, and on select Sundays at 10:30am and/or 1:30pm. For tickets and information, call 212-769-7028. Tours of Lincoln Center daily; call 212-875-5351 for availability.

WEBSITE

www.metopera.org



WHEELCHAIR ACCOMMODATIONS

Telephone 212-799-3100, ext. 2204. Wheelchair entrance at Concourse level.

The exits indicated by a red light and the sign nearest the seat you occupy are the shortest routes to the street. In the event of fire or other emergency, please do not run—walk to that exit.

In compliance with New York City Department of Health regulations, smoking is prohibited in all areas of this theater.

Patrons are reminded that in deference to the performing artists and the seated audience, those who leave the auditorium during the performance will not be readmitted while the performance is in progress.

The photographing or sound recording of any performance, or the possession of any device for such photographing or sound recording inside this theater, without the written permission of the management, is prohibited by law. Offenders may be ejected and liable for damages and other lawful remedies.

Use of cellular telephones and electronic devices for any purpose, including email and texting, is prohibited in the auditorium at all times. Be sure to turn off all devices before entering the auditorium.