

Upcoming Events



The Met Opera in HD **Der Fliegende Holländer**

Sat & Sun, Mar 14 & 15, 1 pm

Joyce DiDonato leads the Met premiere of this Baroque black comedy, which finds fresh political charge with Sir David McVicar's modern update.



Theater in HD **Riverdance 25th Anniversary Show**

Sun, Mar 15, 5 pm

Global phenomenon Riverdance in a gala performance comes to the big screen for the very first time!



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Patrick Ross and Atlas Key play at the Season Launch Party cocktail hour for Hop members. (Photo credit: Ben DeFloria)



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Hopkins Center for the Arts at Dartmouth

presents

The Metropolitan Opera **HD LIVE**

Agrippina

George Frideric Handel

Sat, Feb 29, 2020, 1 pm

Loew Auditorium, Black Family Visual Arts Center

Sun, Mar 1, 2020, 1 pm

Spaulding Auditorium

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Free tickets for Dartmouth students to attend The Met: Live in HD are supported by a gift from Cynthia and Jeffrey Manocherian P'15, '18

Agrippina

George Frideric Handel

Duration: 3 hours, 35 minutes

Cast/Creative Team:

Narciso Nicholas Tamagna
Poppea Brenda Rae
Agrippina Joyce DiDonato
Nerone..... Kate Lindsey
Ottone Iestyn Davies
Pallante Duncan Rock
Claudio Matthew Rose

Conductor..... Harry Bicket
Production..... Sir David McVicar
Set and Costume Designer..... John Macfarlane
Lighting Designer..... Paule Constable
Choreographer Andrew George

Synopsis

PART I

When Agrippina, wife of the Roman emperor Claudio, receives news of her husband's death, she wastes no time ensuring that Nerone, her son by a previous marriage, succeeds him. Prepared to go to any lengths to achieve her ends, she sends separately for Pallante and Narciso, of whose passion for her she is fully aware. She promises each of them in turn that she will reciprocate their love if they will proclaim Nerone as Claudio's successor.

Her scheme is thwarted when Claudio's servant announces that the emperor's life has been saved by Ottone, the commander of the army. When Ottone reaches the city, he declares that Claudio has rewarded his bravery by naming him successor; but in a private conversation with Agrippina, he reveals that he loves Poppea more than the throne.

Agrippina now devises a fresh intrigue to secure the throne for Nerone. Aware that Claudio also desires Poppea, Agrippina tells her that Ottone has betrayed Poppea by yielding her to Claudio in exchange for the throne. Agrippina suggests that Poppea should avenge herself, make Claudio jealous and convince him that Ottone has ordered Poppea to refuse Claudio and return to him. For this, the emperor will punish Ottone. When Claudio arrives, Poppea executes Agrippina's plan.

Having discovered that Agrippina has deceived them, Pallante and Narciso form an alliance. The imperial family arrives, and when Ottone approaches the emperor, Claudio accuses him of treachery. To his increasing dismay, Ottone is shunned by Agrippina, Nerone, and Poppea.

Intermission (30 minutes)

PART II

Poppea begins to doubt Ottone's guilt, and she hides at his approach. When he sees her, she reveals to him what Agrippina told her, and Ottone protests his innocence. Realizing that she has been a pawn in Agrippina's plans, Poppea swears vengeance and hatches a plot involving both Claudio and Nerone, who also desires her.

Ever ambitious, Agrippina has been plotting further to make Nerone emperor. First, she commands Pallante to murder Ottone and Narciso. Then, she asks Narciso to murder Ottone and Pallante. She tells Claudio that Ottone is seeking revenge on him for the loss of the succession and persuades him to suppress Ottone's dissent by declaring Nerone as heir. Impatient to be with Poppea, Claudio agrees.

Poppea enacts her plan for revenge. She hides Ottone, telling him not to be jealous because of anything he overhears. Nerone arrives, eager to make love to Poppea, but she pretends that Agrippina is expected at any moment and he must therefore hide. Claudio enters, and Poppea complains that he does not truly love her. He reminds her of all he has done for her, including Ottone's punishment. At this, Poppea claims that he misunderstood: It was Nerone, not Ottone, who harassed her. Having hidden Claudio, Poppea calls to Nerone, who resumes his amorous overtures; but Claudio interrupts and dismisses him. Poppea frees herself of Claudio, and she and Ottone swear their eternal love.

Nerone recounts his disgrace to Agrippina and begs her to protect him from Claudio's rage. Dismayed by all the treachery, Pallante and Narciso reveal Agrippina's conspiracy to the emperor. When Agrippina realizes that her schemes are now in jeopardy, she claims that she acted in Rome's best interests and accuses Claudio of paying undue attention to Poppea. When Agrippina reveals that Ottone loves Poppea, Claudio lays the blame for his actions on Nerone, whom he commands to marry Poppea, and names Ottone as his successor. But Ottone renounces the throne in order to reclaim Poppea. Endorsing this exchange, Claudio nominates Nerone as his heir. Agrippina's ambition for her son has finally come to fruition.