

**Hopkins Center  
for the Arts**  
at Dartmouth

presents

The Metropolitan Opera



**Aida**

Giuseppe Verdi

**Saturday, January 25, 12:30 pm**

Loew Auditorium • Dartmouth College • 2025

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Cynthia and Jeffrey Manocherian P'15, '18*

# Aida

Giuseppe Verdi

Duration: 3 hours, 25 minutes including intermission

(Cast in order of vocal appearance)

Aida .....Angel Blue  
Amneris .....Judit Kutasi  
Radamès .....Piotr Beczała  
Amonasro .....Quinn Kelsey  
Ramfis .....Dmitry Belosselskiy  
The King .....Morris Robinson

Conductor .....Yannick Nézet-Séguin  
Production .....Michael Mayer  
Set Designer .....Christine Jones  
Costume Designer .....Susan Hilferty  
Lighting Designer .....Kevin Adams  
Projection Design .....59 Productions  
Choreographer .....Oleg Glushkov  
Production Consultant .....Stephen Pickover  
Live in HD Director .....Gary Halvorson  
Live in HD Host .....Rhiannon Giddens

# Synopsis

## ACT I

*Egypt, during the reign of the pharaohs.* At the royal palace in Memphis, the high priest Ramfis tells the warrior Radamès that Ethiopia is preparing another attack against Egypt. Radamès hopes to command the Egyptian army. He is in love with Aida, the Ethiopian slave of Princess Amneris, the King's daughter, and he believes that victory in the war would enable him to free and marry her. But Amneris also loves Radamès and is jealous of Aida, whom she suspects of being her rival for Radamès's affection. A messenger brings news that the Ethiopians are advancing. The King names Radamès to lead the army, and all prepare for war. Left alone, Aida is torn between her love for Radamès and loyalty to her native country, where her father, Amonasro, is king.

In the temple of Vulcan, the priests consecrate Radamès to the service of the god Ptah. Ramfis orders Radamès to protect the homeland.

## ACT II

Ethiopia has been defeated, and in her chambers, Amneris waits for the triumphant return of Radamès. Alone with Aida, she pretends that Radamès has fallen in battle, then says that he is still alive. Aida's reactions leave no doubt that she loves Radamès. Amneris is certain that she will defeat her rival.

At the city gates, the King and Amneris observe the victory celebrations and praise Radamès's triumph. Soldiers lead in the captured Ethiopians, among them Amonasro, who signals his daughter not to reveal his identity as king. Amonasro's eloquent plea for mercy impresses Radamès, and the warrior asks that the order for the prisoners to be executed be overruled and that they be freed instead. The King grants his request but keeps Amonasro in custody. He declares that as a victor's reward, Radamès will have Amneris's hand in marriage.

**Intermission** (35 Minutes)

## ACT III

On the eve of Amneris's wedding, Ramfis and Amneris pray in a temple on the banks of the Nile. Nearby, Aida is waiting for Radamès, lost in thoughts of her homeland. Suddenly, Amonasro appears. Appealing to Aida's sense of duty, he makes her promise to discover from Radamès which route the Egyptian army will take to invade Ethiopia. Amonasro hides as Radamès arrives. He and Aida dream about their future life together, and Aida convinces him to run away with her. Aida asks him about his army's route, and just as he reveals the secret, Amonasro emerges from his hiding place. Realizing what he has done, Radamès is horrified. Aida and Amonasro try to calm him when Ramfis and Amneris emerge from the temple. Father and daughter are able to escape, but Radamès surrenders himself to the high priest's guards.

# Synopsis *continued*

## ACT IV

Radamès awaits trial as a traitor, believing Aida to be dead. Amneris summons him, but even after he learns that Aida has survived, he rejects Amneris’s offer to save him if he gives up his lover. Brought before the priests, Radamès refuses to answer their accusations, and they condemn him to be entombed alive. Amneris begs for mercy, but the judges will not change their verdict.

Aida has hidden in the vault to share Radamès’s fate. They express their love for the last time while Amneris, in the temple above, prays for peace.

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