

Hopkins Center for the Arts at Dartmouth

presents

The Metropolitan Opera **HD LIVE**

Akhnaten

Phillip Glass

Sat, Nov 23, 2019, 1 pm
Spaulding Auditorium

Cosponsored by



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

Akhnaten

Phillip Glass

Duration: 3 hours, 41 minutes

(Cast in order of vocal appearance)

Akhnaten	Anthony Roth Costanzo
Aye.....	Richard Bernstein
Queen Tye.....	Dísella Lárusdóttir
High Priest of Amon.....	Aaron Blake
Amenhotep III	Zachary James
Nefertiti.....	J’Nai Bridges
Horemhab.....	Will Liverman
Conductor.....	Karen Kamensek
Production.....	Phelim McDermott
Set and Projection Designer	Tom Pye
Costume Designer.....	Kevin Pollard
Lighting Designer.....	Bruno Poet
Choreographer	Sean Gandini
Live in HD Director	Gary Halvorson
Live in HD Host	Joyce DiDonato
Live in HD Host	Christine Goerke

Synopsis

ACT I

Year 1 of Akhnaten’s reign. Thebes.

Funeral of Amenhotep III: The opera begins with the death of Amenhotep III. We see him first revealed as a corpse and then as a ghostly figure, reciting words taken from the Egyptian Book of the Dead. A ceremony takes place that represents a sacred ritual occurring in the Egyptian Book of the Dead, in which the body’s organs are carefully taken out and placed in canopic jars before the body is wrapped and embalmed. The pharaoh’s heart is weighed against a feather; if his heart is as light as this, it will ensure that Amenhotep will travel through into the afterlife.

Coronation of Akhnaten: The figure of Amenhotep’s son steps forward and the coronation ceremony begins. The new pharaoh is dressed in sacred robes, and the crowns representing Upper and Lower Egypt are brought together to symbolize Amenhotep IV’s power over all of Egypt. Once he is crowned, the new pharaoh rises up the stairs to make his first pronouncement.

The Window of Appearances: At the Window of Appearances, the pharaoh reveals his intentions to form a monotheistic religion. He changes his name from Amenhotep IV, meaning “spirit of Amon,” to Akhnaten, meaning “spirit of Aten.” Aten, the sun god, is glorified by Akhnaten, his wife Nefertiti, and Queen Tye, his mother. As the trio make their pronouncement at the window, the sun rises behind them.

Intermission (32 Minutes)

ACT II

Years 5 to 15. Thebes and Akhetaten.

The Temple: Akhnaten and Queen Tye begin to make the changes that he has promised. He leads a revolt to banish the old religion and replace it with his own. When Akhnaten enters the temple and finds the priests performing the old religious rituals, he banishes them and forms the new order of Aten.

Akhnaten and Nefertiti: Akhnaten and Nefertiti affirm their love for each other.

The City: The site for a new city is chosen carefully. The new city of Akhetaten—“The City of the Horizon of Aten”—is built in praise of the new religion.

Hymn: Akhnaten sings a private prayer to his god. His vision of a new religion and a new society is complete.

Intermission (31 Minutes)

ACT III

Year 17 and the present. Akhetaten.

The Family: Akhnaten and Nefertiti dwell in an insular world of their own creation with their six daughters. Meanwhile, Queen Tye is uneasy. She senses unrest beyond the city’s walls. Crowds gather outside the gates, and letters arrive expressing increased concern about Akhnaten’s self-imposed isolation.

Attack and Fall: The priests of Amon emerge from the gathering crowds and break through the palace doors. The daughters try to escape and are drawn away from Akhnaten and into the swelling mass. Queen Tye and Nefertiti are also separated from Akhnaten, who is finally killed.

The Ruins: Akhnaten’s father mourns his son’s death. Meanwhile, the new pharaoh, the young Tutankhamun, is crowned in a ceremony similar to that of his father, and the old polytheistic religion is restored. Intercutting this ceremony, a group of modern-day students listen to a lecture given by a professor.

Epilogue: The ghosts of Akhnaten, Nefertiti, and Queen Tye are heard from the ancient world once again.

Upcoming Events



The Met Opera in HD **Wozzeck**

Sat & Sun, Jan 11 & 12, 1 pm

Groundbreaking visual artist William Kentridge uses projections of his own charcoal drawings to invoke the war setting of this 20th-century masterwork.



The Met Opera in HD **Porgy and Bess**

Sat & Sun, Feb 1 & 2, 1 pm

The Gershwins' modern American masterpiece returns to the Met for the first time in almost three decades. It may be February, but it will feel like "Summertime."



For tickets or more info, call the Box Office at 603.646.2422 or visit hop.dartmouth.edu. Share your experiences! #HopkinsCenter

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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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