



THE MET: LIVE IN HD RETURNS WITH FOURTH SEASON OF THE AWARD-WINNING SERIES TO MOVIE THEATERS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES

The Metropolitan Opera and NCM Fathom Reach New Agreement to Transmit Nine Opera Performances Including Such Favorites as Carmen, Aida and Tosca to Nearly 500 Movie Theaters during the 2009-2010 Season

2009-2010 *The Met: Live in HD* Series Tickets Now on Sale

New York and Centennial, Colo. – Sept. 14, 2009 – The Metropolitan Opera’s Emmy® and Peabody award-winning [The Met: Live in HD](#) series returns to movie theaters for a fourth season this fall, featuring nine LIVE operas beginning with a new production of Giacomo Puccini’s *Tosca* starring soprano Karita Mattila on October 10th. The critically-acclaimed series will be transmitted live, in high definition, expanding by more than 50 new theaters to nearly 500 movie theaters and performing arts centers in the United States through a renewed agreement with National CineMedia (NCM), the operator of the largest digital in-theater network for cinema advertising and alternative entertainment and events in North America. Each live performance will take place on Saturdays at 1:00 p.m. Eastern / Noon Central / 11:00 a.m. Mountain / 10:00 a.m. Pacific followed by an evening pre-recorded encore presentation the third Wednesday after the live performance.

Tickets are available at participating theater box offices and online at www.FathomEvents.com. For a complete list of theater locations, please visit the web site (*theaters and participants are subject to change*). Ticket prices vary by location.

“We are pleased that the success of *The Met: Live in HD* series continues to grow and that more people than ever can now enjoy the transmissions,” said Metropolitan Opera General Manager Peter Gelb.

The Metropolitan Opera and Fathom, NCM's alternative entertainment and events division, present the 2009-10 season of [The Met: Live in HD](#) featuring live transmissions of four new productions, including the aforementioned *Tosca*, *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*, *Hamlet* and the Met premiere of *Armida*, in addition to opera favorites *Aida*, *Turandot*, *Der Rosenkavalier*, *Carmen* and *Simon Boccanegra*.

[The Met: Live in HD](#) series participating theaters include select AMC Entertainment Inc., Celebration! Cinema, Cinemark Holdings, Inc., Clearview Cinemas, Cobb Theatres, Georgia Theatre Company, Goodrich Quality Theatres, Hollywood Theaters, Kerasotes Showplace Theatres, Malco Theatres, Marcus Theatres, National Amusements and Regal Entertainment Group movie theaters, as well as independent theaters including Arena Theatre, The Arlington Theatre, Carolina Theatre, El Raton Theatre, The Grand Theatre, Ocean Reef Cultural Center, Palace 9 Cinema, Penn Cinema, Rose Theatre, The Society of the Four Arts Theatre, Strand Theatre, State Theatre (State College, PA) and the State Theatre (Traverse City, MI).

The Met: Live in HD series was honored with a prestigious Peabody Award for its "vividly designed, smartly annotated productions of *Hansel and Gretel*, *Doctor Atomic*, *Peter Grimes* and other operas," and the use of "state-of-the-art digital technology to reinvent the presentation of a classic art form." In addition, the Met won a special Emmy® Award in January 2009 for "advancing technology through ongoing, live, global transmission of high-definition programming to movie theaters."

[The Met: Live in HD](#) is expanding the appeal and reach of opera around the world and has been met with both critical and popular acclaim. Using robotic cameras and state-of-the-art technology, *The Met: Live in HD* captures the onstage action from striking angles and heightens attention to the narrative elements of both performance and production. The series offers behind-the-scenes features, live interviews with cast and crew, insightful short documentaries, and bird's-eye views of the productions, offering an unprecedented look at what goes into the staging of an opera. *The Met: Live in HD* is made possible by a generous grant from the Neubauer Family Foundation. Bloomberg L.P. is the global corporate sponsor of *The Met: Live in HD*.

“Fathom continues to transform movie theaters into community centers by offering various and diverse forms of entertainment – from the more informative, inspirational and cultural to comedic, light hearted and serious,” said Shelly Maxwell, senior vice president of NCM Fathom. “**The Met: Live in HD** series has proven to be a tremendous success and we are excited to continue our exclusive U.S. partnership with the Met, bringing an amazing fourth season to local movie theaters in hundreds of communities.”

The 2009-10 **The Met: Live in HD** series planned schedule* is as follows:

Saturday, October 10, 2009 **TOSCA** – A new production of Puccini’s *Tosca* by **Luc Bondy** in his house debut, starring **Karita Mattila** in her first performance of the title role outside her native Finland, and **Marcelo Álvarez** as Cavaradossi. **Juha Uusitalo** sings the role of Scarpia. **James Levine** conducts. NEW PRODUCTION.

Wednesday, October 28 – 6:30 p.m. local time
Encore presentation of **TOSCA**
(Available in select theaters only.)

Saturday, October 24, 2009 **AIDA** – **Daniele Gatti** returns for the first time in 14 years to conduct a cast of powerful voices in Verdi’s *Aida*. **Violeta Urmana** sings the title role, while **Dolora Zajick** returns in one of her most acclaimed portrayals as the Egyptian princess Amneris. **Johan Botha** is Radamès and **Carlo Guelfi** sings Amonasro.

Wednesday, November 11 – 6:30 p.m. local time
Encore presentation of **AIDA**
(Available in select theaters only.)

Saturday, November 7, 2009 **TURANDOT** – **Franco Zeffirelli**’s classic production of Puccini’s *Turandot* features the Met role debuts of **Maria Guleghina** in the title role, **Marcello Giordani** as Calàf, **Samuel Ramey** as Timur, and **Marina Poplavskaya** as Liù. Conductor **Andris Nelsons** also makes his Met debut.

Wednesday, November 18 – 6:30 p.m. local time
Encore presentation of **TURANDOT**
(Available in select theaters only.)

Saturday, December 19, 2009 **LES CONTES D’HOFFMANN** – **Bartlett Sher** returns to direct his second Met production: Offenbach’s *Les Contes d’Hoffmann*, conducted by **James Levine**, featuring **Anna Netrebko** as Antonia, **Ekaterina Gubanova** as Giulietta, **Kate Lindsey** as Nicklausse, **Kathleen Kim** as Olympia, and **Alan Held** as the four villains. **Joseph Calleja** stars in the title role of Hoffmann. NEW PRODUCTION.

Wednesday, January 6, 2010 – 6:30 p.m. local time
Encore presentation of **LES CONTES D'HOFFMAN**
(Available in select theaters only.)

Saturday, January 9, 2010 **DER ROSENKAVALIER** – **James Levine** conducts a stellar cast including **Renée Fleming** as the Marschallin and **Susan Graham** as Octavian. **Eric Cutler** as the Italian Singer, **Kristinn Sigmundsson** sings the role of Baron Ochs, and **Christine Schäfer** is Sophie.

Wednesday, January 27 – 6:30 p.m. local time
Encore presentation of **DER ROSENKAVALIER**
(Available in select theaters only.)

Saturday, January 16, 2010 **CARMEN** – The new *Carmen*, starring **Elīna Garanča**, who sang the title role of *La Cenerentola* at the Met last spring to great acclaim; will also feature the debuts of director **Richard Eyre** and conductor **Yannick Nézet-Séguin**. **Roberto Alagna** is the soldier Don José, **Barbara Fritoli** is Micaëla, and **Mariusz Kwiecien** is the bullfighter Escamillo. NEW PRODUCTION.

Wednesday, February 3 – 6:30 p.m. local time
Encore presentation of **CARMEN**
(Available in select theaters only.)

Saturday, February 6, 2010 **SIMON BOCCANEGRA** – Four decades into a legendary Met career, **Plácido Domingo** makes history by singing the baritone title role of *Simon Boccanegra*, conducted by **James Levine**. **Adrienne Pieczonka**, **Marcello Giordani**, and **James Morris** co-star.

Wednesday, February 24 – 6:30 p.m. local time
Encore presentation of **SIMON BOCCANEGRA**
(Available in select theaters only.)

Saturday, March 27, 2010 **HAMLET** – Last performed at the Met in 1897, Ambroise Thomas's *Hamlet* will be seen in a new production by **Patrice Caurier** and **Moshe Leiser**, conducted by **Louis Langrée** and starring **Simon Keenlyside** in the title role and **Natalie Dessay** as Ophélie. With **Jennifer Larmore** as Gertrude, **Toby Spence** as Laërtes and **James Morris** as Claudius. NEW PRODUCTION.

Wednesday, April 14 – 6:30 p.m. local time
Encore presentation of **HAMLET**
(Available in select theaters only.)

Saturday, May 1, 2010 **ARMIDA** – The season's final new production features **Renée Fleming** in Rossini's bel canto tour de force *Armida*, directed by **Mary Zimmerman** and conducted by **Riccardo Frizza**. Also starring **Lawrence Brownlee**, **Bruce Ford**, **José Manuel Zapata**, **Barry Banks**, and **Kobie van Rensburg**. NEW PRODUCTION.

Wednesday, May 19 – 6:30 p.m. local time
Encore presentation of **ARMIDA**
(Available in select theaters only.)

*Programs and casting subject to change. For more details on the operas, please visit the Met's web site at www.metopera.org/hd

About National CineMedia

NCM LLC operates the largest digital in-theatre network in North America through long-term agreements with its founding members, AMC Entertainment Inc., Cinemark Holdings Inc. (NYSE: CNK) and Regal Entertainment Group (NYSE: RGC), the three largest theatre operators in the U.S., and through multi-year agreements with several other theatre operators. NCM LLC produces and distributes its *FirstLook* pre feature program; cinema, lobby and online advertising products; comprehensive meeting and event services and other entertainment programming content. NCM LLC's national network includes approximately 16,800 screens of which approximately 15,500 are part of the company's Digital Content Network (DCN). NCM LLC's network covers 171 Designated Market Areas® (49 of the top 50). During 2008, approximately 660 million patrons attended movies shown in theatres currently included in the network (excluding Regal Consolidated Theatres). National CineMedia, Inc. (NASDAQ: NCMI) owns a 41.5% interest in and is the managing member of NCM LLC. To learn more about National CineMedia Inc., please visit the company's website at www.ncm.com or www.FathomEvents.com.

About the Metropolitan Opera

Under the leadership of General Manager Peter Gelb and Music Director James Levine, the Met has a series of bold initiatives underway that are designed to broaden its audience and revitalize the company's repertory. The Met has made a commitment to presenting modern masterpieces alongside the classic repertory, with highly theatrical productions featuring the greatest opera stars in the world.

The Met's 2009-10 season features eight new productions, four of which are Met premieres. Opening night is a new production of *Tosca* starring Karita Mattila, conducted by Levine and directed by Luc Bondy. The four Met premieres are: Janáček's *From the House of the Dead*, conducted by Esa-Pekka Salonen and directed by Patrice Chéreau, both in Met debuts; Verdi's *Attila* starring Ildar Abdrazakov, conducted by Riccardo Muti and directed by Pierre Audi, with set and costume design by Miuccia Prada, Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron, all in their Met debuts; Shostakovich's *The Nose* featuring Paulo Szot, conducted by Valery Gergiev and directed and designed by William Kentridge in his Met debut; and Rossini's *Armida* with Renée Fleming, conducted by Riccardo Frizza and directed by Mary Zimmerman. Other new productions are Offenbach's *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* starring Joseph Calleja, Anna Netrebko, and Alan Held, conducted by Levine and directed by Bartlett Sher; *Carmen* with Elīna Garanča and Roberto Alagna, conducted by Yannick Nézet-Séguin and directed by Richard Eyre, both in Met debuts; and Thomas's *Hamlet* with Natalie Dessay and Simon Keenlyside, conducted by Louis Langrée and directed by Patrice Caurier and Moshe Leiser in their Met debuts. Building on its 78-year radio broadcast history—currently heard over the Toll Brothers-Metropolitan Opera International Radio Network—the Met now uses advanced media distribution platforms and state-of-the-art technology to attract new audiences and reach millions of opera fans around the world.

The Emmy and Peabody Award-winning *The Met: Live in HD* series returns for its fourth season in 2009-10 with nine transmissions, beginning October 10 with the new production of *Tosca* and ending with the new production of Rossini's *Armida* on May 1. The productions are seen in more than 900 theaters in 42 countries around the world and last season sold more than 1.8 million tickets. These performances began airing on PBS in March 2008, and nine HD performances are now available on DVD. *The Magic Flute* was released by the Met and is available at the newly renovated Met Opera Shop. In addition, two classic Met performances from 1978 have recently been released by the Met: *Otello*, conducted by Levine with Jon Vickers and Renata Scottò; and *Cavalleria Rusticana/Pagliacci* conducted by Levine, with Tatiana Troyanos and Plácido Domingo in the first part of the double bill and Teresa Stratas, Plácido Domingo, and Sherrill Milnes in the latter. *The Met: Live in HD* series is made possible by a generous grant from the Neubauer Family Foundation. Bloomberg L.P. is the global corporate sponsor of *The Met: Live in HD*.

HD Live in Schools, the Met's program offering free opera transmissions to New York City schools in partnership with the New York City Department of Education and the Metropolitan Opera Guild, continues for a third season. This season, for the second consecutive year the program will reach public school students and teachers in 18 cities and communities nationwide. *HD Live in Schools* is made possible by Bank of America.

Continuing its innovative use of electronic media to reach a global audience, the Metropolitan Opera last season introduced *Met Player*, a new subscription service that makes much of the company's extensive video and audio catalog of full-length performances available to the public for the first time online in exceptional, state-of-the-art quality. The new service currently offers over 170 historic audio recordings, and almost 100 full-length opera videos are available, including 24 of the company's acclaimed *The Met: Live in HD* transmissions, known for their extraordinary sound and picture quality. New content, including HD productions and archival broadcasts, are added monthly.

Metropolitan Opera Radio on SIRIUS XM Radio is a subscription-based audio entertainment service broadcasting an unprecedented number of live performances each week throughout the Met's entire season, as well as rare historical performances, newly restored and remastered, spanning the Met's 78-year broadcast history.

In addition to providing audio recordings through the *Met on Rhapsody* on-demand service, the Met also presents free live audio streaming of performances on its website once every week during the opera season with support from RealNetworks®.

The company's groundbreaking commissioning program in partnership with New York's Lincoln Center Theater (LCT) provides renowned composers and playwrights with the resources to create and develop new works at the Met and at Lincoln Center's Vivian Beaumont Theater. The Met's partnership with LCT is part of the company's larger initiative to commission new operas from contemporary composers, present modern masterpieces alongside the classic repertory, and provide a venue for artists to nurture their work. A new work by composer Nico Muhly and playwright Craig Lucas goes into workshop this fall.

The Met audience development initiatives include Open House Dress Rehearsals, which are free and open to the public; the Arnold and Marie Schwartz Gallery Met, which exhibits contemporary visual art; the immensely successful Agnes Varis and Karl Leichtman Rush Ticket program; and an annual Holiday Presentation for families. This season's special Holiday Presentation is Richard Jones's English-language production of Humperdinck's *Hansel and*

Gretel, which is given four matinee performances and four evening performance as a way for families to celebrate the holiday season.

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Press/Media Only, Contact:

Michelle Portillo / Lauren Leff

National CineMedia

(303)792-8651 / (303) 957-1709

michelle.portillo@ncm.com / Lauren.leff@ncm.com

Lee Abrahamian/Peter Clark/Charlie Siedenburg

Metropolitan Opera

(212) 870-7457

lbrahamian@metopera.org / pclark@metopera.org / csiedenburg@metopera.org