



HoustonGrandOpera

510 Preston Street
Houston, Texas 77002-1504
Tel. 713-546-0200
Fax. 713-228-4355
HGO.org

Patrick Summers

Artistic & Music Director
Margaret Alkek Williams Chair

Perryn Leech

Managing Director

PRESS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Christine Cantrell

christine@elmorepr.com

713-524-0661

Judith Kurnick

HGO Director of Communications

jkurnick@hgo.org

713-546-0240

Houston Grand Opera's 2016–17 Season Features Iconic Repertoire including *Götterdämmerung* and World Premiere by Jake Heggie/Gene Scheer

*Celebrates 30th Anniversary of HGO World Premiere of John Adams's
Nixon in China*

Houston, January 29, 2016—Houston Grand Opera will present four pinnacles of the operatic repertoire during the company's 2016–17 season, which also features the highly anticipated world premiere of *It's a Wonderful Life* by composer **Jake Heggie** with libretto by **Gene Scheer**, and much-loved comedies by Donizetti and Mozart. **Artistic and Music Director Patrick Summers** will lead *Götterdämmerung*, the final installment of Wagner's epic *Ring* cycle, featuring a new generation of leading Wagnerians including **Simon O'Neill** as Siegfried and **Christine Goerke** as Brünnhilde. HGO will bring back its popular production of Gounod's *Faust*, with the HGO debut of international star tenor **Michael Fabiano** in the title role partnered by Houston favorite **Ana María Martínez** as Marguerite, along with the role debut of prominent bass-baritone **Luca Pisaroni** as Mephistopheles. The company will celebrate the 30th anniversary of HGO's world premiere of **John Adams's** pivotal *Nixon in China* by presenting **James Robinson's** production, of which HGO is a co-producer, with HGO Studio alumnus **Scott Hendricks** as Richard Nixon and soprano **Andriana Chuchman** as his wife, Pat. Patrick Summers will conduct **Verdi's** thrilling **Requiem**, which critics at the time termed "an opera in ecclesiastical robes," with soloists **Angela Meade**, soprano, in her HGO debut; **Sasha Cooke**, alto; **Alexey Dolgov**, tenor; and **Peixin Chen**, bass; and the **HGO Orchestra and Chorus**. HGO's 62nd season will open with a whimsical production of Donizetti's buoyant *The Elixir of Love*, featuring tenor **Dimitri Pittas** as Nemorino and HGO Studio alumna **Nicole Heaston** as Adina and led by the eminent English conductor **Jane Glover**, HGO's 2016–17 Lynn Wyatt Great Artist, in her first HGO appearance. Mozart's zany yet deeply emotive comedy *The Abduction from*

the Seraglio, featuring Russian coloratura soprano and HGO Studio alumna **Albina Shagimuratova** as Konstanze and leading American tenor **Lawrence Brownlee** as Belmonte in HGO's inventive 2002 co-production, will close the main-stage season.

HGO's main-stage season will comprise 42 performances (including two free community performances) of seven productions. The company will also present three student performances.

The company will also present the world premiere of *Some Light Emerges* by composer **Laura Kaminsky** with libretto by **Mark Campbell** and **Kimberly Reed**. Inspired by the creation of Houston's iconic Rothko Chapel by philanthropist and art collector Dominique de Menil, the work is commissioned by HGOco, the company's community collaboration and education initiative.

This season HGO launches a new subscription series for young people ages 25 and under, offering seven operas for \$125. This series complements the ongoing discounted Opening Nights for Young Professionals series, as well as continuing opportunities available to the community for discounted and free tickets through the multiyear Nexus ticket underwriting initiative.

HGO Artistic and Music Director Patrick Summers notes, "This season we conclude HGO's first Wagner *Ring* cycle, present three operas by important living composers, and enjoy a glorious "tenor-fest" unique in our history. *Götterdämmerung* brings the *Ring* to a summit that is shattering, provocative, and hopeful, with a cast of young Wagnerians long ago identified and cultivated by HGO. Our 30th anniversary production of John Adams's unparalleled *Nixon in China* returns this important opera to the stage where it premiered. The most prolific of modern composers, Jake Heggie, presents his sixth opera and his third premiere with HGO, based on an iconic American story that will inspire us at holiday time and will star tenor William Burden. Renowned composer Laura Kaminsky and her probing colleagues bring their unique voices to an opera about the creative forces behind Houston's Rothko Chapel. Our opening repertoire features two operas with iconic tenor roles, *The Elixir of Love* and *Faust*, and HGO welcomes the opportunity to present in them two of America's most gifted new stars, Dimitri Pittas and Michael Fabiano. I am particularly gratified that our superb HGO Orchestra and Chorus will take center stage in what I have always considered to be Verdi's greatest score, his powerful Requiem."

HGO Managing Director Perryn Leech adds, "HGO's Ring cycle has raised the level of excitement around opera in Houston to a new level, and we are thrilled to continue serving the entire Houston community through both the main-stage season and our HGOco activities at the Wortham and at venues around the city. We are especially pleased to reaffirm our commitment to Houston's young audiences with the addition of our new Under 25 subscription series. We know that many young people in our growing city are looking for exciting entertainment experiences at a reasonable price. They are keen to investigate new works and a broad range of repertoire. Now they can see seven stirring and very different operas, each at around the cost of a movie ticket."

Details of the upcoming Houston Grand Opera productions are provided below, and more information is available at the company's website: HGO.org. All repertoire, dates, pricing, productions, and casting are subject to change without notice.

Götterdämmerung: Final installment of cutting-edge Ring cycle showcasing a new generation of Wagnerians (April 22–May 7, 2017)

HGO's four-year mounting of Wagner's epic cycle reaches its searing climax this season with *Götterdämmerung* (The Twilight of the Gods), featuring leading young Wagnerians of our time in the dazzling **La Fura dels Baus** staging. New Zealand tenor Simon O'Neill takes on the role of Siegfried with "a sound to give one real hope for the healthy future of Wagner singing" (*International Record Review*). Superstar soprano Christine Goerke returns as Brünnhilde; of her portrayal in HGO's *Die Walküre* last season, *Opera News* wrote, "beyond the power and warmth of her voice, Goerke's vigorous performance radiated brash confidence." Italian bass **Andrea Silvestrelli**, who sang Fafner in *Das Rheingold*, returns as Hagen, and bass-baritone and HGO Studio alumnus **Ryan McKinny**, who performed Donner in *Das Rheingold*, portrays Gunther. Mezzo-soprano and HGO Studio alumna **Jamie Barton**, whom the *New York Times* terms "a leader of a new generation of opera stars," returns as Waltraute/Second Norn after singing Fricka in *Das Rheingold* and in *Die Walküre*. Reprising his role as Alberich will be English bass-baritone **Christopher Purves**. Contralto **Meredith Arwady**, who portrayed Erda in *Das Rheingold*, will sing First Norn. Soprano **Heidi Melton** will sing Third Norn/Gutrune. HGO Artistic and Music Director Patrick Summers conducts.

It's a Wonderful Life: World premiere adaptation of the iconic American story by acclaimed Jake Heggie/Gene Scheer creative team (December 2–17)

The 1946 Frank Capra film *It's a Wonderful Life* has become synonymous with the American holiday spirit. The story of a man at the precipice who is given an opportunity to see what the world would have been like if he had never lived becomes the newest in HGO's series of holiday operas. This world premiere by Jake Heggie and librettist Gene Scheer is based, like the film, on Philip Van Doren Stern's 1943 story, *The Greatest Gift*. Unlike Heggie's best-known operas, which are based on real-life situations or stories, *It's a Wonderful Life* is a fantasy comedy-drama, with mystical elements not bound by the limits of time and space.

Tenor **William Burden** will portray the protagonist George Bailey; a frequent proponent of new work, he created the role of Ruben Iglesias in Jimmy López's *Bel Canto* at Lyric Opera of Chicago in December 2015. He was last seen at HGO in 2007 in the title role in *Faust*. The angel Clara will be sung by the "silvery-toned" (*BBC Music*) soprano **Talise Trevigne**, who sang in the premiere of Jake Heggie's *Pieces of 9/11: Memories from Houston* at HGO and created the role of Pip in Heggie's *Moby-Dick* in Dallas in 2010. Baritone **Robert Orth**, who will sing Henry F. Potter, created the role of Owen Hart in the world premiere of Heggie's *Dead Man Walking* in 2000, which he recreated in 2014 in a "heartfelt performance" (*Gazette*, Colo.). As Mary Hatch Bailey and Harry Bailey, HGO brings back two HGO Studio alumni: soprano **Andrea Carroll**, whose "bright and airy soprano" (*Houston Chronicle*) infused the role of Anne Egerman in Sondheim's *A Little Night Music* (2014), and baritone **Joshua Hopkins**, who "unfurled a robust and polished baritone" (*Houston Chronicle*) in his HGO portrayal of the Pilot in Rachel Portman and Nicholas Wright's *The Little Prince* in December 2015. Tenor **Anthony Dean Griffey**, last heard at HGO in *Die Fledermaus* (2013), will sing Uncle Billy.

It's a Wonderful Life will be the Heggie/Scheer team's third commission from HGO; in 2008 the company premiered *Last Acts (Three Decembers)* and the song cycle *Pieces of 9/11* followed in 2011. This will be the sixth

Heggie world premiere conducted by HGO Artistic and Music Director Patrick Summers. At HGO he led *The End of the Affair* (2004) and *Three Decembers* (2008); at San Francisco Opera he led *Dead Man Walking* (2000); and at the Dallas Opera he conducted *Moby-Dick* (2010) and *Great Scott* (2015).

Leonard Foglia, who will direct the production, also has collaborated on several previous Heggie world premieres, including *Three Decembers*, *The End of the Affair*, and *Moby-Dick*. He also directed the New York City Opera production of *Dead Man Walking* (2002). His most recent directing collaborations with HGO include José “Pepe” Martínez’s *El Pasado Nunca Se Termina* (2015), for which he also wrote the libretto, and the world premiere of Ricky Ian Gordon’s *A Coffin in Egypt* (2014).

***Nixon in China*: Thirty years after HGO’s world premiere, John Adams’s landmark opera returns in new-to-Houston production (January 20–28, 2017)**

Houston Grand Opera’s world premiere of *Nixon in China* in 1987 made political headlines and galvanized the opera world. A dramatization of President Richard Nixon’s historic 1972 visit to China, John Adams’s first opera, with a libretto by Alice Goodman and staging by Peter Sellars, broke new ground with its visceral portrayal of relatively recent world events and its bold departures in musical style and instrumentation. The Houston production was televised on PBS’s *Great Performances* and recorded the same year; the recording won a Grammy Award in 1988. Since then *Nixon in China* has been produced worldwide and has become one of the most performed among operas of our time.

In 2004, director James Robinson created a new production for the Opera Theatre of St. Louis that takes a more intimate approach than the original staging, including incorporating 8 mm home movies filmed by the delegation that accompanied Nixon to China. HGO will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the work’s historic world premiere by presenting this reinterpretation, directed by Robinson, who will also direct HGO’s *The Abduction from the Seraglio* later in 2017.

Leading the cast in the title role will be baritone and HGO Studio alumnus Scott Hendricks, whose “sonorous voice” was noted by the *Houston Chronicle* in his 2015 portrayal of Sharpless in HGO’s *Madame Butterfly*. Pat Nixon will be played by Canadian soprano Andriana Chuchman, whose 2014 last-minute replacement of Anna Netrebko in the Metropolitan Opera’s *The Elixir of Love* was deemed “an assured, sparkling success” by the *New York Times*. This appearance will mark her HGO debut. Chinese baritone **Chen-Ye Yuan**, an HGO Studio alumnus who makes his home in China, will play the role of Chou En-lai. Tenor and HGO Studio alumnus **Chad Shelton** and bass-baritone **Patrick Carfizzi**, both frequently seen on HGO’s main stage, will portray Mao Tse-tung and Henry Kissinger, respectively. The coloratura role of Chiang Ch’ing will be sung by soprano **Erin Morley**, who displayed “dramatic flair” (*New York Times*) as Olympia in the Metropolitan Opera’s 2015 *Les contes d’Hoffmann*.

Conductor **Robert Spano**, music director of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and the Aspen Music Festival and an active proponent of contemporary composers, will be on the podium. He most recently conducted *The Magic Flute* at HGO in 2015.

***Faust*: Renowned tenor Michael Fabiano makes HGO debut opposite Houston favorite soprano Ana María Martínez with role debut of Luca Pisaroni as Mephistopheles, in acclaimed HGO production (October 28–November 11)**

Gounod's *Faust* returns to the HGO stage after an absence of nine years in a revival of the “striking, handsome, beautifully lit” (*Los Angeles Times*) production that **Francesca Zambello** created for HGO in 1985, with sets and costumes designed by Houston artist **Earl Staley**.

Two much-anticipated debuts mark this remounting: performing the title role will be highly sought-after tenor Michael Fabiano, who in 2014 became the only singer to win the prestigious Richard Tucker and Beverly Sills awards in the same year; making his role debut as Mephistopheles is Italian bass-baritone Luca Pisaroni, a leading international Mozart interpreter who appeared as Count Almaviva in HGO's 2011 *The Marriage of Figaro*, when the *Houston Chronicle* reported that he “exudes complete authority and magnetism.” Soprano Ana María Martínez (Lynn Wyatt Great Artist 2010–11), a Houston audience favorite, returns to sing Marguerite after acclaimed HGO appearances as Cio-Cio San in *Madame Butterfly* (2015) and Carmen (2014).

Faust will be directed by **Garnett Bruce**, who directed *Tannhäuser* at Lyric Opera of Chicago in 2015 and has revived a number of productions for the company. Italian conductor **Antonino Fogliani**, who led HGO's *Aida* in 2013, will be on the podium.

***The Abduction from the Seraglio*: Dramatic coloratura Albina Shagimuratova and celebrated tenor Lawrence Brownlee headline revival of inventive HGO co-production (April 28–May 12, 2017)**

HGO brings back Mozart's comic singspiel *The Abduction from the Seraglio* in the widely admired staging by James Robinson that the company premiered in 2002 and last presented in 2008. The updating of the Middle Eastern–flavored action from Istanbul to the Orient Express was deemed by *Opera News* “inventive...a dramatic refocusing that puts Mozart's wonderfully emotive arias into high relief...also looked wonderful, in Allen Moyer's cleverly designed sets.”

The demanding dramatic coloratura role of Konstanze will be performed by Russian soprano and HGO Studio alumna Albina Shagimuratova, who last appeared at HGO as Violetta in *La traviata* (2012). She has gained international acclaim for her portrayals of the Queen of the Night in *The Magic Flute*, described by the *Times* of London: “Every note is luminescent, star bright.” Tenor Lawrence Brownlee, acclaimed as part of a “new golden age of bel canto” (*New York Times*), will sing Belmonte. He portrayed Lindoro in HGO's 2012 *The Italian Girl in Algiers*. Making his HGO debut as Osmin will be bass-baritone **Ryan Speedo Green**, noted by the *New York Times* as “excellent as Osmin...a scene-stealing baritone with a robust voice.” Ukrainian soprano and HGO Studio alumna **Uliana Alexyuk** returns to the company as Blonde. Her 2014 last-minute portrayal of Gilda in *Rigoletto* “captured Gilda's sweetness, ardor, and vulnerability” (*Houston Chronicle*).

Austrian conductor **Thomas Rösner**, who led HGO's 2013 *Die Fledermaus*, will be in the pit. James Robinson returns to direct.

***The Elixir of Love*: Colorful production features tenor Dimitri Pittas and soprano Nicole Heaston, HGO debut of eminent English conductor Jane Glover (October 21–November 4)**

Donizetti's ebullient comedy *The Elixir of Love* sets a celebratory tone as HGO's season opener. English director Daniel Slater's staging, created for Opera North in 2001, transfers the cheerfully sentimental story from a rural Italian village to the terrace of a Rivera resort, replete with hot-air balloons. The result has delighted audiences and critics: "deliciously entertaining and unpretentious" (*Telegraph*, London).

Singing the naive Nemorino will be tenor Dimitri Pittas, whose performance of the role at Welsh National Opera was deemed "utterly glorious" (*Theatre in Wales*). He was last seen at HGO as Edgardo in *Lucia di Lammermoor* (2011) and Rodolfo in *La bohème* (2012). Houston soprano Nicole Heaston, whose "warm, supple soprano" (*Houston Chronicle*) was admired in HGO's 2015 *The Magic Flute*, returns to sing Adina. The wily Dr. Dulcamara will be portrayed by bass-baritone Patrick Carfizzi, most recently heard as the Speaker of the Temple in HGO's 2015 *The Magic Flute*.

English conductor Jane Glover, renowned for her interpretations of late Baroque and classical repertoire, will make her much-anticipated HGO debut on the podium as the company's Lynn Wyatt Great Artist for the 2016–17 season. **Daniel Slater** will return to direct. He last directed *La traviata* (2012).

Verdi's Requiem: In her HGO debut, soprano Angela Meade joins stellar soloists and acclaimed HGO Chorus and Orchestra for "opera in disguise" (NPR) (February 10–18, 2017)

Houston welcomes the Super Bowl in February 2017, and the surrounding logistics have created challenges to the presentation of fully staged opera at the Wortham Theater Center during that period. HGO is delighted to take this opportunity to showcase the company's outstanding chorus and orchestra in Verdi's Requiem.

Widely recognized as one of the most dramatic works written in the form of the Christian liturgy, Verdi's mighty Requiem premiered in 1874 at Milan's Church of San Marco with four operatic soloists and the composer on the podium. The occasion was the anniversary of the death of Italian poet and national hero Alessandro Manzoni, to whom Verdi dedicated the work. Subsequent performances often took place in opera houses, and from the beginning critics remarked, some disapprovingly, on the work's operatic nature. What has never been questioned is the Requiem's profound spiritual, even cathartic impact, which has caused it to be performed under the most trying of circumstances, such as in a World War II concentration camp, and excerpted on such occasions as the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, and in New York City after the 9/11 tragedy.

HGO will devote the company's full operatic forces to Verdi's iconic score, including the HGO Orchestra led by Patrick Summers and the HGO Chorus directed by HGO's highly respected chorus master **Richard Bado**, along with four outstanding soloists.

Angela Meade, whose Norma at the Metropolitan Opera created a critical stir, will make her HGO debut as the soprano soloist. At her Requiem performance at the BBC Proms, her voice was "all gilded evanescence and glow" (*The Arts Desk*). Sasha Cooke—Magnolia Hawks in HGO's 2013 *Show Boat* and noted by the *Los Angeles Times* for her "standout" performance as Anna in San Francisco Opera's 2015 *Les Troyens*—will be the alto soloist. The tenor soloist will be Alexey Dolgov, a hit with Houston audiences in 2015 as both Pinkerton in *Madame Butterfly* and Cavaradossi in *Tosca*. The bass soloist will be Peixin Chen, a 2015 HGO Studio

alumnus who is singing Dr. Bartolo in HGO's *The Marriage of Figaro* this season and performed Sparafucile in *Rigoletto* at Santa Fe Opera (2015).

Outside HGO's main-stage subscription series, the company will present the following new work:

***Some Light Emerges*: world premiere chamber opera by Laura Kaminsky/Mark Campbell and Kimberly Reed for HGOco pays tribute to Houston's iconic Rothko Chapel (March 2017)**

In the mid-1960s, Dominique de Menil, the renowned art collector and a key player in Houston's contemporary art scene, commissioned the noted American artist Mark Rothko to create a series of paintings and the ideal gallery in which to house them. Mrs. de Menil also envisioned that the resultant Rothko Chapel, which opened in 1971, would serve as a spiritual space for "those of all faiths, or no faith."

Some Light Emerges is a new chamber opera that is set mostly within the Rothko Chapel and chronicles the direct and tangential intersections of five people across four decades who visit the chapel, as well as the struggles and triumphs of Dominique de Menil in realizing her dream. Through the personal stories of its characters—both moving and humorous—*Some Light Emerges* reveals how political and spiritual conflicts can be better understood and ultimately resolved through art, while honoring the people who create and support such art. The opera will be presented under the auspices of HGO's community collaboration and education initiative, HGOco.

Composer Laura Kaminsky's opera *As One* (libretto by Mark Campbell and Kimberly Reed), premiered at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in 2014 to critical acclaim and was subsequently produced at Utah State University, Berkeley's West Edge Opera and D.C.'s Urban Arias. Other companies, including Opera Colorado, will produce the work in 2017. Upcoming works include a Piano Quintet for Ursula Oppens and the Cassatt Quartet (2017) and a third opera with collaborators Campbell and Reed, *Today It Rains*, commissioned by Opera Parallèle for a 2018–19 season premiere. She is currently composer-in-residence at American Opera Projects and on the faculty at Purchase College Conservatory of Music/SUNY.

Librettist Mark Campbell has written 15 operas and five musicals including *Silent Night*, which premiered at Minnesota Opera, received the 2012 Pulitzer Prize in Music, and has been produced by many other American opera companies. Other operas include *Later the Same Evening*, *The Manchurian Candidate*, *As One*, *Volpone*, and *Bastianello/Lucrezia*. Campbell has eight new works premiering in the next two years, including major commissions for Minnesota Opera, Opera Philadelphia, and Santa Fe Opera.

Filmmaker/librettist Kimberly Reed's *Prodigal Sons*, a "whiplash doc that heralds an exciting talent" (*SF Weekly*), premiered at Telluride Film Festival, has been shown at 100+ festivals and broadcast worldwide, and garnered 14 awards including the FIPRESCI Prize. She is also working on *Dark Money*, a documentary about campaign finance reform. A New York Foundation for the Arts fellow, she has had residencies at Yaddo, Hermitage Artist Retreat, and Squaw Valley Community of Writers. She has made several national television and radio appearances and is one of *Filmmaker* magazine's "25 New Faces of Independent Film."

Subscription tickets for HGO's 2016–17 season are now available, and single tickets will go on sale August 28. For further information please visit HGO.org or call 713-228-OPERA (6737). Performances take place at the Wortham Theater Center, 501 Texas Avenue, unless specifically stated otherwise.

Houston Grand Opera will give two free community performances at Houston's Miller Outdoor Theatre on May 19 and 20, 2017.

* * * * *

Houston Grand Opera: 2016–17 Season

** Company debut*

*** HGO Studio artist*

Former HGO Studio artist

† Alternate cast/date

Donizetti: **The Elixir of Love**

Sung in Italian with projected English translation

October 21, 23m, 26, 29, Nov. 4, 2016

Nemorino	Dimitri Pittas
Adina	Nicole Heaston #
Dr. Dulcamara	Patrick Carfizzi
Sergeant Belcore	TBA
Conductor	Jane Glover *
Director	Daniel Slater
Set and Costume Designer	Robert Innes Hopkins
Lighting Designer	Simon Mills
Choreographer/ Associate Director	Timothy Claydon
Chorus Master	Richard Bado #

Houston Grand Opera Orchestra and Chorus

An Opera North production

Gounod: **Faust**

Sung in French with projected English translation

October 28, 30m, November 5, 8, 11, 2016

Faust	Michael Fabiano *
Marguerite	Ana María Martínez #
Mephistopheles	Luca Pisaroni
Valentin	TBA
Conductor	Antonino Fogliani
Production	Francesca Zambello
Revival Director	Garnett Bruce
Set and Costume Designer	Earl Staley
Original Lighting Designer	Ken Billington
Chorus Master	Richard Bado #

Houston Grand Opera Orchestra and Chorus

A Houston Grand Opera production

World Premiere

Jake Heggie/Gene Scheer: It's a Wonderful Life

Based in part on the film It's a Wonderful Life™ by permission of Paramount Licensing, Inc. and on The Greatest Gift, a story by Philip Van Doren Stern

Sung in English with projected English text

December 2, 4m, 6, 8†, 9, 11m, 13†, 15, 17, 2016

George Bailey	William Burden
	TBA†
Clara	Talise Trevigne
Henry F. Potter	Robert Orth
Mary Hatch Bailey	Andrea Carroll #
Harry Bailey	Joshua Hopkins #
Uncle Billy	Anthony Dean Griffey
Conductor	Patrick Summers
Director	Leonard Foglia
Set Designer	Robert Brill *
Costume Designer	David Woolard *
Lighting Designer	Brian Nason
Projections/	
Video Designer	Elaine McCarthy
Houston Grand Opera Orchestra and Chorus	

Commissioned by Houston Grand Opera

John Adams/Alice Goodman: Nixon in China

Sung in English with projected English text

January 20, 22m, 24, 26, 28, 2017

Richard Nixon	Scott Hendricks #
Pat Nixon	Andriana Chuchman *
Chou En-lai	Chen-Ye Yuan #
Mao Tse-tung	Chad Shelton #
Henry Kissinger	Patrick Carfizzi
Chiang Ch'ing	Erin Morley *
Conductor	Robert Spano
Director	James Robinson
Set Designer	Allen Moyer
Costume Designer	James Schuette
Lighting Designer	TBA
Projections Designer	Wendall K. Harrington
Sound Designer	Brian Mohr *
Chorus Master	Richard Bado
Houston Grand Opera Orchestra and Chorus	

A co-production of Houston Grand Opera and Opera Theater of Saint Louis

Verdi: Requiem

Sung in Latin with projected English translation

February 10, 12m, 15, 17, 18, 2017

Soprano soloist	Angela Meade *
Alto soloist	Sasha Cooke
Tenor soloist	Alexey Dolgov
Bass soloist	Peixin Chen #
Conductor	Patrick Summers
Chorus Master	Richard Bado #

Houston Grand Opera Orchestra and Chorus

Wagner: Götterdämmerung

Sung in German with projected English translation

April 22, 25, 29, May 4, 7m, 2017

Siegfried	Simon O'Neill
Brünnhilde	Christine Goerke
Hagen	Andrea Silvestrelli
Gunther	Ryan McKinny #
Waltraute/Second Norn	Jamie Barton #
Alberich	Christopher Purves
First Norn	Meredith Arwady
Third Norn/Gutrune	Heidi Melton *
Conductor	Patrick Summers
Production	La Fura dels Baus
Director	Carlus Padrissa
Set Designer	Roland Olbeter
Costume Designer	Chu Oroz
Lighting Designer	Peter van Praet
Projection Designer	Franc Aleu
Chorus Master	Richard Bado #

Houston Grand Opera Orchestra and Chorus

*A co-production of Palau de les Arts Reina Sofia, Valencia,
and Maggio Musicale, Florence*

Mozart: The Abduction from the Seraglio

Sung in German with projected English translation

April 28, 30m, May 6, 10, 12, 2017

Konstanze	Albina Shagimuratova #
Belmonte	Lawrence Brownlee
Osmin	Ryan Speedo Green *
Blonde	Uliana Alexyuk #
Pedrillo	TBA
Pasha Selim	TBA
Conductor	Thomas Rösner
Director	James Robinson
Set Designer	Allen Moyer
Costume Designer	Anna Oliver
Lighting Designer	Paul Palazzo
Chorus Master	Richard Bado #

Houston Grand Opera Orchestra and Chorus

A Houston Grand Opera production

* * * * *

About Houston Grand Opera

Since its inception in 1955, Houston Grand Opera has grown from a small regional organization into an internationally renowned opera company. HGO enjoys a reputation for commissioning and producing new works, including 57 world premieres and seven American premieres since 1973. In addition to producing and performing world-class opera, HGO contributes to the cultural enrichment of Houston and the nation through a diverse and innovative program of performances, community events, and education projects that reaches the widest possible public. HGO has toured extensively, including trips to Europe and Asia, and has won a Tony, two Grammy awards, and two Emmy awards—the only opera company to have won all three honors.

Through HGOco, Houston Grand Opera creates opportunities for Houstonians of all ages and backgrounds to observe, participate in, and create art. The NEXUS Initiative is HGO's multi-year ticket underwriting program that allows Houstonians of all ages and backgrounds to enjoy world-class opera without the barrier of price. Since 2007 NEXUS has enabled more than 200,000 Houstonians to experience first-quality opera through discounted single tickets and subscriptions, subsidized student performances, and free productions.

Media Contact: Christine Cantrell, Christine@elmorepr.com, (713) 524-0661

Director of Communications: Judith Kurnick, jkurnick@hgo.org (713) 546-0240

HGO.org

facebook.com/houstongrandopera

twitter.com/hougrandopera

#

HOUSTON
Methodist
LEADING MEDICINE

Official Health Care Provider
for Houston Grand Opera

UNITED 

Official Airline of Houston Grand Opera

TENENBAUM
CLASSIC JEWELERS

Preferred Jeweler of Houston Grand Opera