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HoustonGrandOpera



2002-2003
48TH INTERNATIONAL SEASON

La Bohème

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This is the season to become a Houston Grand Opera subscriber. It is

The Year of the Diva—Renée Fleming in her first *La Traviata*, the debut of Susan Graham in her first *Ariodante* and *The Merry Widow*, Elizabeth Futral's first *Manon*, and the return of Ana Maria Martinez and Laura Claycomb.

Absolutely extraordinary singers in productions ranging from the provocative to the nostalgic. I am particularly pleased about HGO's involvement in the world premiere of Oscar-winning composer Rachel Portman's *The Little Prince*—the book by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry has long been a personal favorite of mine. As our way of saying thank you for becoming a full season subscriber, you'll get 7 operas for the price of 6. That means you can see Ana Maria Martinez and Roberto Aronica in *La Bohème* for free! I urge you to take advantage of this special offer. But hurry—the offer expires April 1.

See you at the opera!
~David Gockley

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For the best seats, plus
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LA BOHÈME



ARIODANTE



LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR



THE MERRY WIDOW



LA TRAVIATA



MANON



Ana Maria
Martinez



Roberto
Aronica



Sebastian
Lang-Lessing



Ainhoa
Arteta



Susan
Graham



Christopher
Hogwood



Umberto
Chiummo



Alexandra
Coku

Houston Grand Opera's

2002–2003 Season

Featuring the
Houston Grand Opera
Orchestra and Chorus

FALL REPERTORY

Puccini

LA BOHÈME

October 25–November 10, 2002; Evenings 7:30, Matinees 2:00
Opening—October 25, 7:00 p.m.

Poverty and true love collide in Puccini's classic tale, *La Bohème*. This joint production with New York City Opera and Glimmerglass moves the tale of starving Parisian artists to the start of WWI. As bodies returning from the front, our young Bohemian heroes lose both their innocence and idealism. **Ana Maria Martinez** returns to HGO as the ill-fated Mimi. **Roberto Aronica**, fresh from his HGO success as the Duke in *Rigoletto*, sings Rodolfo. Internationally renowned **Sebastian Lang-Lessing** conducts.

Sung in Italian with English Surtitles

Handel

ARIODANTE

November 1–17, 2002; Evenings 7:30, Matinees 2:00

Susan Graham makes her long-awaited HGO debut in this highly theatrical production from English National Opera. Handel's story of honor lost and regained is baroque opera at its finest. And who more capable to wield the baton than **Christopher Hogwood**, founder of The Academy of Ancient Music. *Ariodante* is, above all, a singer's opera, full of dazzling vocal gymnastics that convey a full range of human emotions. You can look forward to the seamless, creamy voice of Susan Graham, the power of **Umberto Chiummo**, and the grace of **Alexandra Coku**. Without a doubt, a night of old-world magic and vocal brilliance.

Sung in Italian with English Surtitles
Corporate Guarantor: NL Industries, Inc.

WINTER REPERTORY

Donizetti

LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR

January 23–February 2, 2003; Evenings 7:30, Matinees 2:00

HGO is offering *Lucia* this season for one reason—**Laura Claycomb**. Her performance as Gilda in last season's *Rigoletto* stopped the show and brought the audience to its feet. You can expect fireworks when she reaches the famous "Mad Scene." This is the world of Sir Walter Scott—a world of rival Scottish clans, strategic alliances, madness and murder. **Vinson Cole** portrays Edgardo, the man Lucia loves but is forbidden to marry. **Chen-Ye Yuan** sings Enrico, the brother who forces Lucia to marry Arturo, whom she murders in her bridal chamber. Music Director **Patrick Summers** conducts.

Sung in Italian with English Surtitles
Corporate Guarantor: Lyondell Chemical Company

Lehár

THE MERRY WIDOW

January 31–February 16, 2003; Evenings 7:30, Matinees 2:00

We return to the world of Viennese operetta for what promises to be a night of pure pleasure and humor. This gorgeous production is filled with can-can girls, tuxedos, light waltzes and tune after memorable tune. We are in Paris at the dawn of the 20th century. The wealthy widow Hanna must wade through a sea of suitors to winnow out the greedy from the sincere. **Susan Graham**, one of the great beauties in opera today, sings her first Hanna. HGO favorite **Bo Skovhus** is Count Danilo, the man who will do anything to hide his love for the widow. Music Director **Patrick Summers** conducts.

Sung in English with Surtitles
Corporate Guarantor: ExxonMobil

SPRING REPERTORY

Verdi

LA TRAVIATA

April 17–May 4, 2003; Evenings 7:30, Matinees 2:00
Special—May 2, 8:00 p.m.

At long last, **Renée Fleming** sings her first Violetta—and she has chosen HGO for that honor! Verdi's most accessible and poignant opera tells the story about a Parisian courtesan pressured into sacrificing her own hard-won love. **Paul Charles Clarke** sings Alfredo, the lover Violetta is forced to abandon. **Dwayne Croft**, in his long-awaited HGO debut, portrays Alfredo's conniving father Germont. Music Director **Patrick Summers** conducts this night for romantics and traditionalists.

Sung in Italian with English Surtitles;
Corporate Grand Guarantor: Shell Oil Company Foundation
Corporate Guarantor: Anadarko Petroleum Corporation

Massenet

MANON

April 25–May 11, 2003; Evenings 7:30, Matinees 2:00

The bewitching **Elizabeth Futral** is Manon, an adorable but fickle coquette who can't resist wealth. Join her as she rips a path through the hearts and wallets of 18th-century France. From the glitter of gambling halls to the austere halls of an abbey, Manon toys with the heart of the man who truly loves her, Chevalier des Grieux, sung by **Marcello Giordani**. It is only in the face of arrest, deportation and death that she finally realizes her love for him. Futral's gorgeous, limpid vocalism makes this a must-see production. Acclaimed French conductor **Emmanuel Joel** makes his HGO debut.

Sung in French with English Surtitles



Laura Claycomb

Patrick Summers

Susan Graham

Bo Skovhus

Dale Travis

7 Operas for the price of 6

English surtitles projected above the stage.

What if you don't speak Italian? Or understand French? Houston Grand Opera provides English surtitles for all operas. An English language translation is projected just above the stage so you won't miss a word.

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The Wortham Center features easy wheelchair access to both theaters. An infrared listening system, generously underwritten by Pennzoil-Quaker State Company, is available free of charge at all performances. For complete details, call the Subscription Office at 713-546-0246 or 1-800-346-4462 or contact us online at www.houstongrandopera.org. Descriptive services for the visually impaired are available with 48-hour advance reservations. For details, contact the Education and Outreach Department at 713-546-0708.

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As is true of opera companies around the world, even if every seat is filled for every performance, ticket sales cover only a portion of the costs to produce what you see onstage. The difference is made up from gifts of ALL sizes. HGO's vital educational, artist training, and community programs exist because of your contributed support: e.g., Houston Grand Opera Studio, free performances at Miller Outdoor Theatre, Student Matinees, High School Nights, and *Opera to Go!* Use your order form to make your contribution. Any amount will be deeply appreciated!

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George Hixson

OperaVision

Dear Mr. Gockley:

What on earth is OperaVision? I can't find it in my dictionary! Is it something you guys made up? My wife suggested I ask you about it and stop being a grump. —A Concerned Opera Goer

Dear Mr. Goer:

Your wife sounds very wise. OperaVision is HGO's state-of-the-art plasma and projection screen system designed to bring Balcony and Grand Tier patrons a close-up view of the surtitles and the action on stage. Watch Rodolfo's eyes as Mimi dies in his arms! Watch the can-can girls in *The Merry Widow* as if you had front row seats with Toulouse-Lautrec! Thanks to OperaVision's Balcony screens and Grand Tier monitors, you'll never miss a nuance. Ever. Enjoy! —David Gockley

OperaVision is funded by the Bill and Sara Morgan Family Foundation.

WORLD PREMIERE By agreement with the Saint-Exupéry Estate and Gallimard

Rachel Portman

THE LITTLE PRINCE

May 30–June 22, 2003; Evenings 8:00, Matinees 2:30

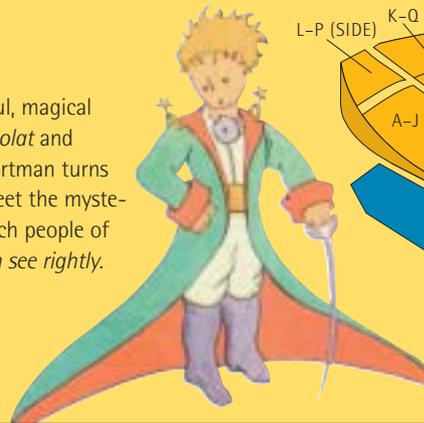
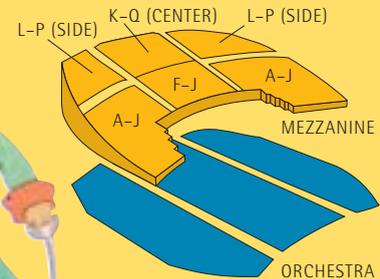
Rachel Portman brings Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's beloved novel to life in beautiful, magical and amusing music. Having received Oscar nominations for her film scores to *Chocolat* and *Cider House Rules*, and winning the Academy Award for her score to *Emma*, Ms. Portman turns her attention to this classic tale of a pilot who crash lands in the Sahara only to meet the mysterious and riddle-prone little prince. This profound and deeply moving story will touch people of all ages with its important and timely message: *It is only with the heart that we can see rightly.*

Sung in English with Surtitles

Performance Corporate Guarantor: BP America

Production made possible by a challenge grant from The Edgar Foster Daniels Foundation

CULLEN THEATER



Artwork by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry



Renée Fleming

Paul Charles Clarke

Dwayne Croft

Patrick Summers

Elizabeth Futral

Marcello Giordani

Emmanuel Joel

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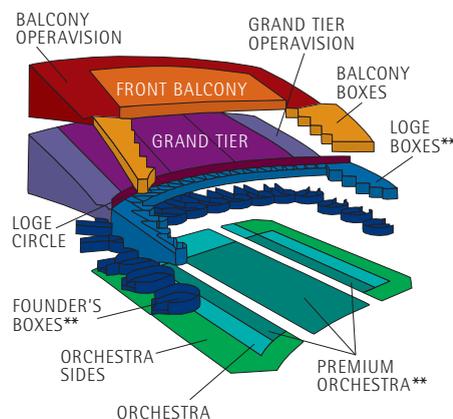
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OPERAS/SERIES	OPENING SERIES (A)	PREMIERE MATINEE SERIES (B)	WEEKNIGHT SERIES (C)	SATURDAY SERIES (D)	FRIDAY SERIES (E)	SUNDAY SERIES (F)	WEEKEND SERIES (G)
<i>La Bohème</i>	Oct. 25	Oct. 27	Oct. 30	Nov. 2	Nov. 8	Nov. 10	Nov. 2
<i>Ariodante</i>	Nov. 1	Nov. 3	Nov. 12	Nov. 9	Nov. 15	Nov. 17	Nov. 3
<i>Lucia di Lammermoor</i>	Jan. 16	Jan. 19	Jan. 22	Jan. 25	Jan. 31	Feb. 2	Feb. 2
<i>The Merry Widow</i>	Jan. 30	Feb. 9	Feb. 11	Feb. 1	Feb. 7	Feb. 16	Feb. 1
<i>La Traviata</i>	Apr. 17	Apr. 20	Apr. 23	Apr. 26	May 2	May 4	Apr. 26
<i>Manon</i>	Apr. 25	Apr. 27	May 6	May 3	May 9	May 11	Apr. 27
<i>The Little Prince*</i>	May 30	June 1	June 4	June 7	June 13	June 15	June 22
Front Balcony (BF) ♦	\$185	\$200/\$175+	\$200/\$175+	\$230	\$230	\$230	\$230
Balcony OperaVision (BV)	\$95	\$95/\$90+	\$100/\$95+	\$130	\$130	\$130	\$130
Balcony Box (BB)	\$235	\$255/\$240+	\$255/\$240+	\$295	\$295	\$295	\$295
Grand Tier (GT) ♦	\$325	\$350/\$325+	\$350/\$325+	\$390	\$390	\$390	\$390
Grand Tier OperaVision (GV)	\$250	\$255/\$240+	\$255/\$240+	\$290	\$290	\$290	\$290
Loge Box (LB) **	\$675	\$605/\$575+	\$605/\$575+	\$685	\$655	\$645	\$685
Loge Circle (LC)	\$380	\$400/\$365+	\$400/\$365+	\$450	\$450	\$450	\$450
Founder's Box (FB) **	\$1380	\$1130/\$930+	\$1155/\$980+	\$1405	\$1330	\$1230	\$1405
Premium Orchestra (OP) **	\$1030	\$805/\$705+	\$805/\$705+	\$1055	\$1055	\$1055	\$1055
Orchestra (OR)	\$645	\$595/\$560+	\$595/\$560+	\$675	\$675	\$675	\$675
Orchestra Sides (OS)	\$440	\$420/\$385+	\$420/\$385+	\$480	\$475	\$470	\$480

BROWN THEATER WORTHAM CENTER



* *The Little Prince* is in the Cullen Theater

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Sincere Thanks

The 2002–2003 season is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, the City of Houston through the Cultural Arts Council of Houston and Harris County, and by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts through the Cultural Arts Council.

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Cover photo: New York City Opera, Carol Rosegg; Inside photos: Patrick Summers' hands, George Hixson

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