



ROYAL  
OPERA  
HOUSE

THE ROYAL OPERA

Music Director

SIR ANTONIO PAPPANO *cvo*

Director of Opera

OLIVER MEARS

# ANDREA CHÉNIER

DRAMMA ISTORICO IN FOUR ACTS

Music UMBERTO GIORDANO

Libretto LUIGI ILLICA by arrangement with  
CASA MUSICALE SONZOGNO DI PIERO OSTALI

Conductor ANTONIO PAPPANO

Director DAVID MCVICAR

Revival Director THOMAS GUTHRIE

Set Designer ROBERT JONES

Costume Designer JENNY TIRAMANI

Lighting Designer ADAM SILVERMAN

Choreography and Movement ANDREW GEORGE

Revival Choreographer (Act I) AGURTZANE ARRIEN

ROYAL OPERA CHORUS

Chorus Director WILLIAM SPAULDING

ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

Principal Guest Concert Master by arrangement with  
Trittico VASKO VASSILEV

Directed for the screen by PETER JONES

A co-production with China National Centre for the  
Performing Arts, Beijing and San Francisco Opera

Exceptional philanthropic support from  
Royal Opera House Principals  
JULIA AND HANS RAUSING


Season Principal

ALINE FORIEL-DESTEZET

Generous philanthropic support from AUD JEBSEN,  
MRS SUSAN A. OLDE OBE, DAVID FRANSEN, CHARLES  
AND KAAREN HALE, PETER HARRISON AND FIONA  
WILLIS, ALAN AND CAROLINE HOWARD, SUSAN AND  
JOHN SINGER, JOHN SUNDERLAND AND GEORGE  
SHISHKOVSKY, THE JEAN SAINSBURY ROYAL OPERA  
HOUSE FUND, MARTIN AND JANE HOUSTON, MRS  
TREVOR SWETE, THE FRIENDS OF COVENT GARDEN and  
THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF COVENT GARDEN

Position of Music Director Maestro Antonio Pappano

Generously supported by MRS SUSAN A. OLDE OBE

Production generously sponsored by  **ROLEX**

Capture of 5 June will be broadcast to cinema on  
TUESDAY 11 JUNE 2024 7.15PM

## APPROXIMATE TIMINGS

PRE-SHOW 15 minutes

ACT I AND ACT II 65 minutes

INTERVAL (INCLUDING INTERVAL FEATURE) 30 minutes

ACT III AND ACT IV 65 minutes

CURTAIN CALL 10 minutes

## CAST

Carlo Gérard AMARTUVSHIN ENKHBAT

Major-Domo SIMON THORPE

An Old Gardener RICHARD HOLLIDAY

Maddalena di Coigny SONDRA RADVANOVSKY

Bersi KATIA LEDOUX

Contessa di Coigny ROSALIND PLOWRIGHT

Pietro Fléville WILLIAM DAZELEY

Filandro Fiorinelli RICH GITTINS

Andrea Chénier JONAS KAUFMANN

The Abbé ALED HALL

Mathieu JAMES CLEVERTON

Orazio Coclite MICHAEL KENNETH STEWART

The Incredibile (An Incroyable) ALEXANDER KRAVETS

Roucher ASHLEY RICHES

Maximilien Robespierre ANDREW HOBDAY

Madelon ELENA ZILIO

Madelon's Grandson MARKEL STEWART-ARRIEN

Fouquier-Tinville EDDIE WADE

Laval-Montmorency IRENE HARDY

Dumas JAMIE WOOLLARD\*

Gravier de Vergennes RICHARD HOLLIDAY

Idia Legrey JUDITH GEORGI

Schmidt JEREMY WHITE

Aristocrats, servants, footmen, sans-culottes, patriots,  
urchins, soldiers

\*Jette Parker Artist

Extra Chorus

Sopranos CELESTE GATTAI, BERNADETTE LORD,  
ELIZABETH ROBERTS

Mezzo-sopranos SIOBHAIN GIBSON, ZOE HAYDN,  
FRANCES JELLARD, MARIA JONES

Actors JAMES ALLEN, FABRIZIO AMANAJAS,  
ASHLEY BAIN, RAIN DE RYE BARRETT,  
LUCY BRENCHLEY, LUKE COLDHAM, PETER COONEY,  
JAMIE FRANCIS, JUDITH GEORGI, RICH GITTINS,  
IRENE HARDY, ANDREW HOBDAY, RICHARD HOLLIDAY,  
SASHA KANE, BRENNAN MADDY, XAVI MONREAL,  
EDWARD HAYES NEARY, LOCKHART OGILVIE,  
JASON SABIN, NADIA SADIQ, MICHAEL KENNETH  
STEWART, ANNA-MARIE SULLIVAN, DANIEL SWAN

Dancers BJORN ASLUND, CORDELIA BRAITHWAITE,  
EMMA LISTER, JACK WEBB

Children GENNARO CIMAFONTE, LUCIEN FLUTTER,  
BEATRICE HOPE HENLEY, OLIVE LOUTH,  
JAMES MAINWOOD, JONAH ELIJAH MCGOVERN,  
JOEL PRICHARD, HARRY SANDRINGHAM,  
YUNA MONREAL SAYO, MARKEL STEWART-ARRIEN,  
KEVIN GABRIEL TOLBARU, DAIZE WHITE

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## SYNOPSIS

### ACT I

The Winter Garden at the Château Coigny, 1789

During preparations for a party at the Château, Carlo Gérard, one of the Contessa's footmen, who has long been in love with her daughter Maddalena, watches his elderly father struggling to help and looks forward to the end of the aristocracy's privileged lives. Maddalena and her servant Bersi arrive, closely followed by the guests. Everyone is alarmed by tales of political unrest in Paris. The Contessa and Maddalena insist that Chénier recite a poem. He improvises verses that contrast patriotic love and compassion with the indifference of the aristocracy to the suffering of the people. Moved and shamed, Maddalena leaves, as does Chénier. Gérard lets in the starving peasants who interrupt the music and dancing. The Contessa orders them to be thrown out. In defiance Gérard throws off his servant's livery, and leaves with his father and the mob.

### ACT II

The Café Hottot, by the Perronet bridge, Paris, 1794

France has been in the throes of Revolution for five years. The King and Queen have been executed and the government, dominated by Robespierre's Jacobin party, have imposed 'The Terror'. Show-trials and executions take place daily. A Jacobin spy (an incroyable, or 'Incredible') observes Chénier, Mathieu and Bersi closely. The spy is suspicious of Bersi's connection to a mysterious fair-haired woman he is seeking. Once a leading Revolutionary, Chénier has fallen from favour for his outspoken criticism of the Jacobins. His friend Roucher has procured a passport for him and urges him to leave France. But Chénier is intrigued by letters he has received from a mysterious woman signing herself 'Hope'. Gérard arrives – he has prospered in the Revolution and is now a popular Jacobin. The spy draws him aside; it is Gérard who has set him the task of finding the fair-haired woman. Bersi tells Chénier that 'Hope' will meet him that evening. When 'Hope' appears Chénier discovers it is Maddalena, and they realize that they love each other. The couple are surprised by Gérard and the Incredible. Gérard and Chénier fight, and Gérard is wounded. Recognizing the poet whose words inspired him five years ago, Gérard urges Chénier to flee with Maddalena: his name is on the list of the Public Prosecutor Fouquier-Tinville.

### INTERVAL

### ACT III

The Hall of the Revolutionary Tribunal, a few months later

France is in danger, threatened by foreign invasion and internal rebellion. First Mathieu then Gérard stir the people, asking the women of France to offer their sons and jewels to the Revolution. Old Madelon offers up her grandson. Outside, news spreads of the arrest of Andrea Chénier. Gérard reflects on his hypocrisy in denouncing Chénier. Maddalena arrives and offers to give herself to Gérard to save Chénier. Gérard is affected by the force of Maddalena's love and swears to do all he can to save him. The public swarms into the hall for the latest show-trial. When Fouquier-Tinville reads out the indictment against Chénier, Gérard testifies against his own false accusations. Nonetheless, the jury condemns Chénier to the guillotine.

### ACT IV

The courtyard of the St Lazare Prison, the next morning, before dawn

Chénier reads his final poem to Roucher, comparing the sunset of his life to the end of a fine spring day. Gérard arrives with Maddalena and they bribe the gaoler into letting her take the place of a woman condemned to die that same morning. Alone together, Chénier and Maddalena prepare fearlessly for death. The lovers go to the guillotine.

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## LANGUAGE

Sung in Italian with English subtitles

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## PRODUCTION

Music preparation PAUL WYNNE GRIFFITHS, ANDRÉ CALLEGARO, CHRISTOPHER WILLIS, MARK PACKWOOD  
Assistant Directors ANGELO SMIMMO, EMMA DOHERTY  
Language Coach EMMA ABBATE

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## THE ROYAL OPERA

Patron HM THE KING  
Music Director SIR ANTONIO PAPPANO cvo  
Director of Opera OLIVER MEARS  
Director of Casting PETER MARIO KATONA  
Administrative Director CORMAC SIMMS

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