

The Metropolitan Opera

2009–10 Live in HD Season

Tosca **Giacomo Puccini**

Lecture: October 1, 2009
Performance: October 10, 2009



Tosca tells the story of three people—a famous opera singer, a free-thinking painter, and a sadistic chief of police—caught in a net of love and politics.

Aida **Giuseppe Verdi**

Lecture: October 17, 2009
Performance: October 24, 2009



Set in ancient Egypt, *Aida* is both a heartbreaking love story and an epic drama full of spectacular crowd scenes.

Turandot **Giacomo Puccini**

Lecture: October 29, 2009
Performance: November 7, 2009



Director Franco Zeffirelli's breathtaking production of Puccini's last opera is a favorite of the Met repertoire.

Les Contes d'Hoffmann **Jacques Offenbach**

Lecture: December 12, 2009
Performance: December 19, 2009



Offenbach's fictionalized take on the life and loves of the German Romantic writer E.T.A. Hoffmann is a fascinating psychological journey.

Der Rosenkavalier **Richard Strauss**

Lecture: January 7, 2010
Performance: January 9, 2010



Strauss's comic masterpiece is a story of love and intrigue in 18th-century Vienna

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The Metropolitan
Opera **HD
LIVE**



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“They’re going to learn that opera isn’t for stuffy people.”
—Michael Blauner, PhD

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(Lecture Schedule Inside)

Welcome to the Wonderful (and Sometimes Amazing) World of Opera!

Join us for this fascinating lecture series. Each lecture will be about a week before the showings of *The Metropolitan Opera HD Live* at *Regal Cinema Montrose* and are geared toward the knowledge of the opera patron so that he/she will understand the music, magic and mystery taking place in front of them. All lectures are held at *Summer on Ridgewood* and begin at 2 pm. The schedule is as follows:

Tosca—Giacomo Puccini

☞ Thursday, October 1 at 2 pm

Aida—Giuseppe Verdi

☞ Saturday, October 17 at 2 pm

Turandot—Giacomo Puccini

☞ Thursday, October 29 at 2 pm

Les Contes d'Hoffmann—Jacques Offenbach

☞ Saturday, December 12 at 2 pm

Der Rosenkavalier—Richard Strauss

☞ Thursday, January 7 at 2 pm

Carmen—Georges Bizet

☞ Saturday, January 9 at 2 pm

Simon Boccanegra—Giuseppe Verdi

☞ Saturday, January 30 at 2 pm

Hamlet—Ambroise Thomas

☞ Saturday, March 20 at 2 pm

Armida—Gioachino Rossini

☞ Saturday, April 24 at 2 pm

☞ *Are you an opera enthusiast, but want to enjoy your opera experience even more?*

☞ *Are you new to opera, and are looking for a way to learn what it's all about?*

☞ *Do you still think opera is oversized singers playing unbelievable roles?*

Our lecturer, Michael Blauner, PhD, says, *"I am not a musician; I am a sociologist. I have a Master's degree in medical anthropology and a Ph.D. in social work. For over fifty years, I have been a dedicated student of operas, their composers, and the times in which these musicians lived. Opera is not just music; it is also psychology, history, and sociology. The lessons we learn apply not just to our past but also to our current and future lives."*

"I always look for the funny things in opera. It's the emotion and passion in other people's lives intensified through the music."

Blauner has had a passion for opera since he saw his first, *Madama Butterfly*, 48 years ago when a friend was acquainted with one of the singers. He recalled being introduced to Rona Ponselle, *"possibly the greatest American soprano, ever."*

"After that, there was no stopping me. I just kept learning and learning."

Blauner hopes his audience will develop a love of opera similar to his. *"It will enrich their lives," he said. "Opera is therapeutic. ... It's cheaper than psychiatry."*

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Carmen Georges Bizet

Lecture: January 9, 2010

Performance: January 16, 2010

One of the most popular operas of all time, *Carmen* "is about sex, violence, and racism—and its corollary: freedom," says award-winning director Richard Eyre.



Simon Boccanegra Giuseppe Verdi

Lecture: January 30, 2010

Performance: February 6, 2010

Four decades into a legendary Met career, tenor Plácido Domingo makes history singing the title role in Verdi's gripping political thriller, a moving and tragic story of a father and his lost daughter.



Hamlet Ambroise Thomas

Lecture: March 20, 2010

Performance: March 27, 2010

The works of Shakespeare have inspired more operatic adaptations than any other writer's and *Hamlet* has some of his most unforgettable characters



Armida Gioachino Rossini

Lecture: April 24, 2010

Performance: May 1, 2010

This mythical story of a sorceress who entralls men in her island prison has inspired operatic settings by a multitude of composers.

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Opera 