

OLLI February 11, 2021

CCM

www.ccm.uc.edu

Friday, 2/12, 7:30, Ariel Quartet and Diversity Fellows, see website, streaming free

- Brahms, Sextet in B-flat Major, Op. 18
<https://youtu.be/c5D9FbG71eE>
- Felix Mendelssohn, String Quartet in D Major, Op. 44 No. 1
<https://youtu.be/E7GWMg2V0t4>
- Mozart, String Quintet in G Minor, No. 4, K. 516
<https://youtu.be/hEFu9iV0Zxw>

Creating a new show—Jessica Hendy and Richard Oberacker

[With Beckett | Indiegogo](#)

METROPOLITAN OPERA

www.metopera.org

Friday, 2/12, 7:30 and 23 hours thereafter, Philip Glass, *Akhnaten* free (synopsis below)

trailer

https://youtu.be/rSn_UAquOfw

duet—Akhnaten and Nefertiti

<https://youtu.be/d4a9y1jaXEI>

CSO

www.cincinnati-symphony.org

Friday 2/19 and Saturday 2/20, 7:30, and Sunday, 2/21, 2:00

- Darius Milhaud, *La création du monde* (“The Creation of the World”)
<https://youtu.be/xg5GhEbSVcE>
- Anthony Davis, *Litany of Sins*
<https://youtu.be/UUJu12SYR9s>

- Leonard Bernstein, *Prelude, Fugue and Riffs*
<https://youtu.be/Ke9NzaXmzlk>
- John Adams, Chamber Symphony
<https://youtu.be/KNqGLYWX4Bo>

BONUS

Anton Bruckner, Te Deum

https://youtu.be/ISE_unmv60I

SYNOPSIS

Act I

Year 1 of Akhnaten's reign. Thebes. Funeral of Amenhotep III The opera begins with the death of Amenhotep III. We see him first revealed both as a corpse and as a ghostly figure, reciting an Egyptian funerary incantation. During the funeral ceremony, we see a sacred ritual performed in which the body's organs are carefully taken out and placed into canopic jars and the body is wrapped and embalmed. A ceremony takes place that represents a ritual occurring in the Book of the Dead, in which the pharaoh's heart is weighed against a feather: If his heart is as light as this, it will ensure that Amenhotep will travel through into the afterlife. Coronation of Akhnaten The figure of Amenhotep's son steps forward, and the coronation ceremony begins. The new pharaoh is dressed in sacred robes, and the crowns representing Upper and Lower Egypt are brought together to symbolize Amenhotep IV's power over all of Egypt. Once he is crowned, the new pharaoh rises up the stairs to make his first pronouncement. The Window of Appearances At the Window of Appearances, the pharaoh reveals his intentions to form a monotheistic religion. He changes his name from Amenhotep IV, meaning "spirit of Amon," to Akhnaten, meaning "spirit of Aten." Akhnaten, Nefertiti, and Queen Tye glorify Aten, a form of the sun god, Ra. As the trio makes their pronouncement at the window, the sun rises behind them.

Act II

Years 5 to 15. Thebes and Akhetaten The Temple Akhnaten and Queen Tye begin to make the changes that he has promised. He leads a revolt to banish the old religion and replace it with his own. Akhnaten enters the temple and finds the priests performing the old religious rituals. Akhnaten banishes them and forms the new order of Aten. Akhnaten and Nefertiti Akhnaten and Nefertiti affirm their love for each other. The City The site for a new city is chosen carefully. The new city of Akhetaten—"the City of the Horizon of Aten"—is built in praise of the new religion. Hymn Akhnaten sings a private prayer to his god. His vision of a new religion and a new society is complete.

Act III

Year 17 and the present. Akhetaten The Family Akhnaten and Nefertiti dwell in an insular world of their own creation with their six daughters. Meanwhile, Queen Tye is uneasy. She senses unrest beyond the city's walls. Crowds gather outside the gates, and letters arrive expressing increasing concern about

Akhnaten's self-imposed isolation. Attack and Fall The priests of Amon emerge from the gathering crowds and break through the palace doors. The daughters try to escape and are drawn away from Akhnaten and into the swelling mass. Queen Tye and Nefertiti are also separated from Akhnaten, who is ultimately killed. The Ruins The spirit of Akhnaten's father mourns his son's death. Meanwhile, the new pharaoh, the young Tutankhamun, is crowned in a ceremony similar to that of his father, and the old polytheistic religion is restored. Intercutting this ceremony, a group of modern-day students is listening to a lecture given by a professor. Epilogue The ghosts of Akhnaten, Nefertiti, and Queen Tye are heard from the ancient world once again.

Synopsis reprinted courtesy of English National Opera

Bob Zierolf

zierolrl@gmail.com