

PHILIP GLASS

AKHNATEN

TRANSMITTED LIVE ON SAT, NOV 23

The Met
ropolitan
Opera **HD**
LIVE

CONDUCTOR

Karen Kamensek

PRODUCTION

Phelim McDermott

SET AND PROJECTION DESIGNER

Tom Pye

COSTUME DESIGNER

Kevin Pollard

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Bruno Poet

CHOREOGRAPHER

Sean Gandini

LIVE IN HD DIRECTOR

Gary Halvorson

LIVE IN HD HOST

Joyce DiDonato

QUEEN TYE

Dísella Lárusdóttir

NEFERTITI

J'Nai Bridges

AKHNATEN

Anthony Roth
Costanzo

HIGH PRIEST OF AMON

Aaron Blake

HOREMHAB

Will Liverman

AYE

Richard Bernstein

AMENHOTEP III

Zachary James

ACT I At the funeral of Amenhotep III, the pharaoh's heart is weighed against a feather to see if he will travel into the afterlife. Amenhotep's son steps forward, and the coronation ceremony begins. The new pharaoh rises up the stairs to make his first pronouncement. At the Window of Appearances, he reveals his intentions to form a monotheistic religion. He changes his name to Akhnaten, meaning "Spirit of Aten."

INTERMISSION

ACT II Akhnaten leads a revolt to banish the old religion and replace it with his own. He banishes the priests of Amon and forms the new order of Aten. Akhnaten and Nefertiti affirm their love for each other. The new city of Akhetaten—"the City of the Horizon of Aten"—is built in praise of the new religion. Akhnaten sings a private prayer to his god.

INTERMISSION

ACT III Akhnaten and Nefertiti dwell in an insular world of their own creation with their six daughters. Crowds gather outside the gates, and the priests of Amon break through the palace doors. Akhnaten is killed. Akhnaten's son Tutankhamun is crowned as the new pharaoh, and the old polytheistic religion is restored.

EPILOGUE The ghosts of Akhnaten, Nefertiti, and Queen Tye are heard from the ancient world once again.

This production was originally created by English National Opera and LA Opera

In collaboration with Improbable

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