

# The Metropolitan Opera

*Radio Broadcasts*

## BROADCAST GUIDE

2008–09 Season

The 2008–09 Metropolitan Opera broadcast season is sponsored by **Toll Brothers, America's luxury home builder**,<sup>®</sup> with generous long-term support from **The Annenberg Foundation** and the **Vincent A. Stabile Endowment for Broadcast Media**, and through contributions from **listeners worldwide**.



# The Toll Brothers–Metropolitan Opera International Radio Network

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## The 2008–09 Radio Season

- 5 A Note from the General Manager
- 7 A Message from Toll Brothers
- 8 LA DAMNATION DE FAUST November 29
- 9 TRISTAN UND ISOLDE December 6
- 10 THE QUEEN OF SPADES December 13
- 11 THAÏS December 20
- 12 THE MAGIC FLUTE December 27
- 13 LA BOHÈME January 3
- 14 LA RONDINE January 10
- 15 DOCTOR ATOMIC January 17 (previously recorded)
- 16 ORFEO ED EURIDICE January 24
- 17 RIGOLETTO January 31
- 18 LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR February 7
- 19 EUGENE ONEGIN February 14
- 20 ADRIANA LECOUVREUR February 21
- 21 IL TROVATORE February 28
- 22 MADAMA BUTTERFLY March 7
- 23 RUSALKA March 14
- 24 LA SONNAMBULA March 21
- 25 L'ELISIR D'AMORE April 4
- 26 DER RING DES NIBELUNGEN  
March 28, April 11, 18, 25



Margaret Juntwait  
returns as radio host for  
the fifth year.

Performances that are part of *The Met: Live in HD* series, seen in movie theaters worldwide, are identified as “HD transmission.”

For more information on the operas in this guide and the Met’s 2008–09 season, visit [metopera.org](http://metopera.org).



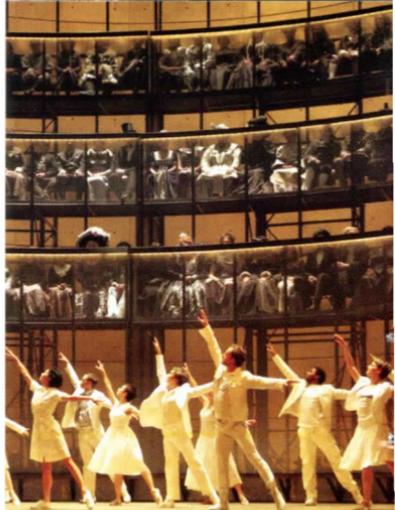
*Christoph Willibald Gluck*

# ORFEO ED EURIDICE

Gluck's operatic adaptation of the ancient Orpheus myth returns in Mark Morris's hit production, conducted by James Levine. Stephanie Blythe portrays the title role of the singer whose art overcomes death itself.

**Act I** Nymphs and shepherds lament the death of Euridice, who was bitten by a snake. Her husband, Orfeo, vows to rescue her from the underworld. Amor, god of love, appears with word that Jove, pitying Orfeo, will allow him to descend into the land of the dead to retrieve Euridice. To make this trial more difficult, Orfeo must neither look at Euridice, nor explain why looking is forbidden. Otherwise he will lose her forever. **Act II** Furies and ghosts try to deny Orfeo's passage at the gates of Hades, but his lament softens and placates them. He is eventually allowed to pass through to the Elysian Fields, where Euridice is brought to him. Without looking at her, he takes her away. **Act III** Orfeo leads Euridice toward the upper world. Euridice, who doesn't understand his seemingly cold behavior, panics at the thought of a life without Orfeo's love. In desperation he turns to her. She dies, again. Grief-stricken, Orfeo wonders how he can live without her. He decides to kill himself. Amor appears and stays Orfeo's hand. In response to Orfeo's deep love and devotion, Amor revives Euridice and the three return to Earth, where they are joined by the nymphs and shepherds in celebration of the power of love.

For longer synopses and more information on this and the other operas in this guide, visit [metopera.org](http://metopera.org).



HD TRANSMISSION

Libretto by Ranieri de' Calzabigi

**January 24, 2009**  
**1:00–2:45pm ET**

CONDUCTOR **James Levine**  
PRODUCTION **Mark Morris**  
SET DESIGNER **Allen Moyer**  
COSTUME DESIGNER  
**Isaac Mizrahi**  
LIGHTING DESIGNER  
**James F. Ingalls**  
CHOREOGRAPHER **Mark Morris**

EURIDICE **Danielle de Niese**  
AMOR **Heidi Grant Murphy**  
ORFEO **Stephanie Blythe**

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