

# SAN FRANCISCO OPERA

Lotfi Mansouri, General Director

1992 SEASON

This production was underwritten, in part, by the Carol Franc Buck Foundation.

San Francisco Opera and West Coast Premiere

Opera in two acts by JOHN ADAMS

Libretto by ALICE GOODMAN

## The Death of Klinghoffer

(in English)

Conductor  
John Adams\*

Production  
Peter Sellars\*

Set Designer  
George Tsypin\*

Costume Designer  
Dunya Ramicova\*

Choreographer  
Mark Morris\*

Lighting Designer  
James F. Ingalls\*

Sound Designer  
Jonathan Deans\*

Projection Designer  
John Boesche\*

Chorus Director  
Ian Robertson

Musical Preparation  
John McGinn\*  
Mary Chun  
Bryndon Hassman  
Peter Grunberg  
Svetlana Gorzhevskaya

Assistant to Mr. Sellars  
Fred Frumberg

Assistant Stage Directors  
Paula Williams  
Paula Suozzi

Production Stage Manager  
Keri Muir\*

Tour Technical Coordinator  
Johan Henckens\*

Assistant Sound Designer  
Graham Carmichael\*

Stage Manager  
Laurence J. Geddes\*

Assistant Costume Designer  
Elizabeth Garat\*

Co-Production Coordinating Producer  
Diane J. Malecki

First performance  
Brussels, March 19, 1991

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7 AT 8:00

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13 AT 8:00

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15 AT 2:00

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19 AT 7:30

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22 AT 2:00

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24 AT 8:00

### CAST Singers

<i>The Captain</i>	James Maddalena*
<i>The Swiss Grandmother</i>	Janice Felty
<i>The First Officer</i>	Thomas Hammons*
<i>Molqi</i>	Thomas Young*
<i>Mamoud</i>	Eugene Perry*
<i>An Austrian Woman</i>	Janice Felty
<i>Leon Klinghoffer</i>	Sanford Sylvan*
<i>"Rambo"</i>	Thomas Hammons
<i>The British Dancing Girl</i>	Janice Felty
<i>Omar</i>	Stephanie Friedman
<i>Marilyn Klinghoffer</i>	Sheila Nadler

### Dancers The Mark Morris Dance Group\*

<i>The Angel</i>	Clarice Marshall, Megan Williams
<i>The First Officer</i>	Dan Joyce, William Wagner
<i>Mamoud</i>	Kraig Patterson, Guillermo Resto
<i>Omar</i>	June Omura, Jean-Guillaume Weis
<i>Molqi</i>	Alyce Bochette, Ruth Davidson
<i>"Rambo"</i>	Joe Bowie, Mireille Radwan-Dana
<i>Leon Klinghoffer</i>	Keith Sabado
<i>Marilyn Klinghoffer</i>	Tina Fehlandt
<i>The Man with a Toolbox</i>	Mark Nimkoff
<i>Hagar</i>	Rachel Murray
<i>Ishmael</i>	Olivia Maridjan-Koop

*Exiled Jews and Palestinians, ship's passengers*

\*San Francisco Opera debut

*The Death of Klinghoffer* was co-commissioned by San Francisco Opera with the Brooklyn Academy of Music; La Monnaie/De Munt, Belgium; Opéra de Lyon; Glyndebourne Productions, Ltd.; and the Los Angeles Festival. These companies (with the substitution of the Los Angeles Music Center Opera for the L.A. Festival) are co-producers.

THERE WILL BE ONE INTERMISSION

*Latecomers will not be seated during the performance after the lights have dimmed.*

*The use of cameras, cellular phones and any kind of recording equipment is strictly forbidden.*

*The performance will last approximately two hours and forty-five minutes.*

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Kawai is the official piano of the San Francisco Opera. Pianos provided and serviced by R. Kassman

# The Death of Klinghoffer / Synopsis

## ACT I

### Prologue

*Chorus of exiled Palestinians*

*Chorus of exiled Jews*

**Scene 1**—The cruise ship *Achille Lauro* has been hijacked just a few hours out of the port of Alexandria, where a large group of passengers disembarked for a tour of the Pyramids. Those remaining on the ship are the old, the very young, those desiring a rest amid the comforts of a floating hotel, the crew and service staff. The hijackers are an unknown number of young Palestinian men. Not until much later is it discovered that there are only four of them. Their purpose is not clear. Their actions, however, are definite. A waiter has been shot in the leg. The ship's engines have been shut down. The first officer has a gun against his head. Passengers, who had gathered in the dining room for lunch, are transferred to the Tapestry Room, which is more easily guarded. Americans, Britons, and Jews are identified. The Captain urges calm.

*Ocean Chorus*

**Scene 2**—The Captain is on the bridge, guarded by the teenager Mamoud. Mamoud tunes in to various local radio stations. He sings of the night, of his love for this music, and of his memories. The Captain confides his thoughts on the nature of travel. (One passenger, an Austrian Woman, has locked herself into her stateroom, where she will remain for the next two days.) Just before dawn a bird lands on the ship's railing, almost at the Captain's elbow. He starts. Mamoud rebukes him.

*Night Chorus*

## ACT II

### Scene 1—Chorus of Hagar and the Angel

It is 11:30 a.m. The *Achille Lauro* awaits permission to enter the Syrian port of Tartus. The air corridor is deserted, as is the searoad. Americans, Britons, and Jews have been moved on deck to the Winter Garden, which is the only place a helicopter might hope to land. Leon Klinghoffer's wheelchair cannot be lifted onto the platform, so he sits a little below the others. There is no shade. Differences between the Palestinians are becoming clearer, as is their isolation from their commanders. Molqi, the leader on board the ship, has not revealed his orders. Everyone is on edge. One Palestinian torments some of the passengers. Another, Omar, invokes the holy death he longs for. Mamoud believes that their radio contacts have betrayed them. Omar and Molqi fight. Klinghoffer is wheeled away.

*Desert Chorus*

**Scene 2**—Klinghoffer is shot. Mrs. Klinghoffer, sitting on deck in wretched discomfort, has no idea her husband is dead. The Palestinians announce the murder to the Captain. He must inform the authorities on shore and let them know that other hostages will die. He considers it his duty as Captain to sacrifice his life for the others. Molqi decides that no further killing is necessary. During the ensuing radio negotiations the Captain assures Abu Abbas, among others, that no one has died. It is thus agreed that the ship will proceed to Alexandria, where the Palestinians will be allowed to disembark. As the ship begins to move, Klinghoffer's body is thrown over the side. It will drift ashore in Syria.

*Day Chorus*

**Scene 3**—The *Achille Lauro* has docked in Alexandria and the Palestinians have disembarked. The Captain calls Mrs. Klinghoffer to his cabin and breaks the news of her husband's death. She will not be consoled.

—Alice Goodman

We are grateful to Meyer Sound Laboratories, Inc. for their donation of special equipment used in this production of *The Death of Klinghoffer*.

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### The Spring '93 Opera Programs

**Springtime at the Metropolitan Opera in New York** with Herb Rowan. April 3rd to 9th. The operas: *Lucia di Lammermoor* (Veltri; Jo, Kraus, Gallo, Plishka), *La Traviata* (Cristler; Studer, Farina, Milnes), *Die Zauberflöte* (Runnicles; Fleming, Wolf, Winbergh, Oswald, Stewart, Holle), *Ariadne auf Naxos* (Marin; Voigt, Mentzer, Dahl, J. West, Stewart). Broadway play and much more.

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