Verdi

AIDA

Krassimira Stoyanova
Riccardo Massi
Violeta Urmana
George Gagnidze

The Metropolitan Opera
Orchestra and Chorus

Daniele Rustioni



The Met
ropolitan
Opera

Giuseppe Verdi (1813—1901)

AIDA

Libretto by Antonio Ghislanzoni

Live performance recorded April 15, 2017

CONDUCTOR Daniele Rustioni

Cast in order of vocal appearance

RAMFIS James Morris
RADAMÈS Riccardo Massi
AMNERIS Violeta Urmana
AIDA Krassimira Stoyanova
THE KING Soloman Howard
A MESSENGER Ronald Naldi
A PRIESTESS Jennifer Johnson Cano
AMONASRO George Gagnidze

The Metropolitan Opera
Orchestra and Chorus
CHORUS MASTER Donald Palumbo

PRODUCTION Sonja Frisell
SET DESIGNER Gianni Quaranta
COSTUME DESIGNER Dada Saligeri
LIGHTING DESIGNER Gil Wechsler
CHOREOGRAPHER Alexei Ratmansky
REVIVAL STAGE DIRECTOR Stephen Pickover

The production of *Aida* was made
possible by a generous gift from
Mrs. Donald D. Harrington

The revival of this production is made possible
by a gift from the Estate of Francine Berry

MUSIC PRODUCER Jay David Saks

Recorded and mixed live on April 15, 2017 by Jay David Saks

RECORDING ENGINEER/OPERATIONS DIRECTOR John Kerswell

DIGITAL REMASTERING Grace Row

PRODUCT MANAGER Steven Carter

Track Listing

DISC 1 (69:49)

ACT I

1	Prelude	3:58
2	Sì, corre voce che l'Etiope ardisca sfidarci ancora Ramfis, Radamès	1:39
3	Se quel guerrier io fossi! … Celeste Aida Radamès	4:37
4	Quale insolita gioia nel tuo sguardo! Amneris, Radamès	3:13
5	Vieni, o diletta appressati Amneris, Aida, Radamès	2:53
6	Alta cagion v'aduna King, Messenger, Radamès, Ramfis, Aida, Amneris, Chorus	3:18
7	Su! Del Nilo al sacro lido King, Ramfis, Aida, Radamès, Amneris, Messenger, Chorus	3:07
8	Ritorna vincitor! Aida	7:00
9	Possente, possente Fthà Priestess, Chorus	3:10
10	Sacred Dance of the Priestesses Chorus	2:12
11	Mortal, diletto ai Numi—Nume, custode e vindice Ramfis, Radamès, Priestess, Chorus	5:22

ACT II

12	Chi mai fra gli inni e i plausi Amneris, Chorus	2:59
13	Dance of the Young Moorish Slaves Amneris, Chorus	3:30
14	Fu la sorte dell'armi a' tuoi funesta, povera Aida! Amneris, Aida	7:30
15	Su! Del Nilo al sacro lido Amneris, Aida, Chorus	2:56
16	Gloria all'Egitto Chorus	3:24
17	Triumphal March	3:24
18	Ballet	4:51
19	Vieni, o guerriero vindice Chorus	2:29
20	Salvator della patria, io ti saluto King, Radamès, Chorus	2:17
21	Che veggo! … Egli? … Mio padre! Aida, Amneris, Radamès, Ramfis, King, Amonasro	6:08

Track Listing continued

DISC 2: (79:11)

ACT II CONT'D

1	O Re, pei sacri Numi Radamès, King, Amneris, Ramfis, Chorus	2:31
2	Gloria all'Egitto King, Ramfis, Aida, Radamès, Amonasro	3:16

ACT III

3	O tu che sei d'Osiride Priestess, Ramfis, Amneris, Chorus	5:11
4	Qui Radamès verrà! ... O patria mia Aida	6:36
5	Ciel! mio padre! —Rivedrai le foreste imbalsamate Aida, Amonasro	5:26
6	Padre! A costoro, schiava, non sono Aida, Amonasro	2:20
7	Pur ti riveggo, mia dolce Aida Radamès, Aida	3:03
8	Fuggiam gli ardori inospiti Aida, Radamès	4:15
9	Aida! ... Tu non m'ami Radamès, Aida, Amonasro, Amneris	5:36

ACT IV

10	L'aborrita rivale a me sfuggia Amneris	2:59
11	Già i sacerdoti adunansi Amneris, Radamès	7:12
12	Ohimè! Morir mi sento! Amneris, Ramfis, Chorus	4:30
13	Radamès! Radamès! Radamès! Ramfis, Amneris, Chorus	7:01
14	La fatal pietra sovra me si chiuse —Vedi? Di morte l'angelo Radamès, Aida, Amneris, Chorus	6:06
15	O terra, addio Aida, Radamès, Amneris, Chorus	4:44

TOTAL RUN TIME: 149 MINS

Synopsis

ACT I *Egypt, during the reign of the pharaohs.* At the royal palace in Memphis, the high priest Ramfis tells the warrior Radamès that Ethiopia is preparing another attack against Egypt. Radamès hopes to command the Egyptian army. He is in love with Aida, the Ethiopian slave of Princess Amneris, the king's daughter, and he believes that victory in the war would enable him to free her and marry her. But Amneris also loves Radamès and is jealous of Aida. A messenger brings news that the Ethiopians are advancing. The king names Radamès to lead the army, and all join in a patriotic anthem. Left alone, Aida is torn between her love for Radamès and loyalty to her native country, where her father, Amonasro, is king.

In the temple of Vulcan, the priests consecrate Radamès to the service of the god. Ramfis orders him to protect the homeland.

ACT II Ethiopia has been defeated, and Amneris waits for the triumphant return of Radamès. Alone with Aida, she pretends that Radamès has fallen in battle, then says he is still alive. Aida's reactions leave no doubt that she loves Radamès. Amneris is certain she will defeat her rival.

At the city gates, the king and Amneris observe the triumphal celebrations and crown Radamès with a victor's wreath. Captured Ethiopians are led in, among them Amonasro, who signals his daughter not to reveal his identity as king. Radamès is impressed by Amonasro's eloquent plea for mercy and asks that the order for the prisoners to be executed be overruled and for them to be freed instead. The king grants his request but keeps Amonasro in custody. He declares that as a victor's reward, Radamès will have Amneris's hand in marriage.

ACT III On the eve of Amneris's wedding, Ramfis and Amneris pray in a temple on the banks of the Nile. Nearby, Aida is waiting for Radamès, lost in thoughts of her homeland. Suddenly, Amonasro appears. Appealing to Aida's sense of duty, he makes her promise to find out from Radamès which route the Egyptian army will take to invade Ethiopia. Amonasro hides as Radamès arrives. He and Aida dream about their future life together, and Radamès agrees to run away with her. Aida asks him about his army's route, and just as he reveals the secret, Amonasro emerges from his hiding place. Realizing what he has done, Radamès is horrified. Aida and Amonasro try to calm him when Ramfis and Amneris step out of the temple. Father and daughter are able to escape, but Radamès surrenders to the priests.

ACT IV Radamès awaits trial as a traitor, believing Aida to be dead. Even after he learns that she has survived, he rejects Amneris's offer to save him. Brought before the priests, Radamès refuses to answer their accusations and is condemned to be buried alive. Amneris begs for mercy, but the judges will not change their verdict.

Aida has hidden in the vault to share Radamès's fate. They express their love for the last time while Amneris, in the temple above, prays for peace.

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