

APPROXIMATE TIMINGS

Live cinema relay begins at 7.15pm

Acts I and II 66 minutes

Cinema interval

Acts III and IV 61 minutes

The live relay will end at approximately 10.15pm

Tweet your thoughts about tonight's performance before it starts, during the interval or afterwards with **#ROHchenier**

2014/15 LIVE CINEMA SEASON

DER FLIEGENDE HOLLÄNDER TUESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2015

SWAN LAKE TUESDAY 17 MARCH 2015

RISE AND FALL OF THE CITY OF MAHAGONNY WEDNESDAY 1 APRIL 2015

LA FILLE MAL GARDÉE TUESDAY 5 MAY 2015

LA BOHÈME WEDNESDAY 10 JUNE 2015

GUILLAUME TELL SUNDAY 5 JULY 2015

ANDREA CHÉNIER DIGITAL PROGRAMME

Royal Opera House Digital Programmes bring together a range of specially selected films, articles, pictures and features to bring you closer to the production. Buy yours to explore the story, the setting, the music and the background to Giordano's *Andrea Chénier*, and for the most recent pictures and exclusives. Visit www.roh.org.uk/publications to find out more.

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ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

THE ROYAL OPERA

MUSIC DIRECTOR SIR ANTONIO PAPPANO
DIRECTOR OF OPERA KASPER HOLTEN

ANDREA CHÉNIER

DRAMMA ISTORICO IN FOUR ACTS

MUSIC **UMBERTO GIORDANO**

LIBRETTO **LUIGI ILLICA**

BY ARRANGEMENT WITH CASA MUSICALE SONZOGNO DI PIERO OSTALI

CONDUCTOR **ANTONIO PAPPANO**

DIRECTOR **DAVID MCVICAR**

SET DESIGNS **ROBERT JONES**

COSTUME DESIGNS **JENNY TIRAMANI**

LIGHTING DESIGN **ADAM SILVERMAN**

CHOREOGRAPHY AND MOVEMENT **ANDREW GEORGE**

ROYAL OPERA CHORUS

CHORUS DIRECTOR **RENATO BALSADONNA**

ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

CONCERT MASTER **PETER MANNING**

DIRECTED FOR THE SCREEN BY

JONATHAN HASWELL

LIVE FROM THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

THURSDAY 29 JANUARY 2015

AT 7.15PM

CO-PRODUCTION WITH THE CHINA NATIONAL
CENTRE FOR PERFORMING ARTS, BEIJING,
AND SAN FRANCISCO OPERA



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

THE STORY

ACT I

The Winter Garden at the Château Coigny, 1789

During preparations for a party at the Château, Carlo Gérard, one of the Contessa's footmen, who has long been in love with her daughter Maddalena, watches his elderly father struggling to help and looks forward to the end of the aristocracy's privileged lives. Maddalena and her servant Bersi arrive, closely followed by the guests. Everyone is alarmed by tales of political unrest in Paris. The Contessa and Maddalena insist that Chénier recite a poem. He improvises verses that contrast patriotic love and compassion with the indifference of the aristocracy to the suffering of the people. Moved and shamed, Maddalena leaves, as does Chénier. Gérard lets in the starving peasants who interrupt the music and dancing. The Contessa orders them to be thrown out. In defiance Gérard throws off his servant's livery, and leaves with his father and the mob.

ACT II

The Café Hottot, by the Perronet bridge, Paris. 1794

France has been in the throes of Revolution for five years. The King and Queen have been executed and the government, dominated by Robespierre's Jacobin party, have imposed 'The Terror'. Show-trials and executions take place daily.

A Jacobin spy (an *incroyable*, or 'Incredible') observes Chénier, Mathieu and Bersi closely. The spy is suspicious of Bersi's connection to a mysterious fair-haired woman he is seeking. Once a leading Revolutionary, Chénier has fallen from favour for his outspoken criticism of the Jacobins. His friend Roucher has procured a passport for him and urges him to leave France. But Chénier is intrigued by letters he has received from a mysterious woman signing herself 'Hope'. Gérard arrives – he has prospered in the Revolution and is now a popular Jacobin. The spy draws him aside; it is Gérard who has set him the task of finding the fair-haired woman. Bersi tells Chénier that 'Hope' will meet him that evening. When 'Hope' appears Chénier discovers it is Maddalena, and they realize that they love each other. The couple are surprised by Gérard and the Incredible. Gérard and Chénier fight, and Gérard is wounded. Recognizing the poet whose words inspired him five years ago, Gérard urges Chénier to flee with Maddalena: his name is on the list of the Public Prosecutor Fouquier-Tinville.

Interval

ACT III

The Hall of the Revolutionary Tribunal, a few months later

France is in danger, threatened by foreign invasion and internal rebellion. First Mathieu then Gérard stir the people, asking the women of France to offer their sons and jewels to the Revolution. Old Madelon offers up her grandson. Outside, news spreads of the arrest of Andrea Chénier. Gérard reflects on his hypocrisy in denouncing Chénier. Maddalena arrives and offers to give herself to Gérard to save Chénier. Gérard is affected by the force of Maddalena's love and swears to do all he can to save him. The public swarms into the hall for the latest show-trial. When Fouquier-Tinville reads out the indictment against Chénier, Gérard testifies against his own false accusations. Nonetheless, the jury condemns Chénier to the guillotine.

ACT IV

The courtyard of the St Lazare Prison, the next morning, before dawn

Chénier reads his final poem to Roucher, comparing the sunset of his life to the end of a fine spring day. Gérard arrives with Maddalena and they bribe the gaoler into letting her take the place of a woman condemned to die that same morning. Alone together, Chénier and Maddalena prepare fearlessly for death. The lovers go to the guillotine.

CAST

CARLO GÉRARD	ŽELJKO LUČIĆ
MAJOR-DOMO	JOHN CUNNINGHAM
MADDALENA DI COIGNY	EVA-MARIA WESTBROEK
BERSI	DENYCE GRAVES
CONTESSA DI COIGNY	ROSALIND PLOWRIGHT
PIETRO FLÉVILLE	PETER COLEMAN-WRIGHT
ANDREA CHÉNIER	JONAS KAUFMANN
THE ABBÉ	PETER HOARE
MATHIEU	ADRIAN CLARKE
THE INCREDIBLE (AN INCROYABLE)	CARLO BOSI
ROUCHER	ROLAND WOOD
MADELON	ELENA ZILIO
FOUQUIER-TINVILLE	EDDIE WADE
DUMAS	YURIY YURCHUK
SCHMIDT	JEREMY WHITE
GÉRARD'S FATHER, FLANDO FIORINELLI, ORAZIO COCLITÉ, MAXIMILIEN ROBESPIERRE, MADELON'S GRANDSON, GRAVIER DE VERGENNES, LAVAL-MONTMORENCY, IDIA LEGRAY ARISTOCRATS, SERVANTS, FOOTMEN, SANS-CULOTTES, PATRIOTS, URCHINS, SOLDIERS DANCERS, EXTRA CHORUS AND ACTORS	