

# PITTSBURGH OPERA

**April 20, 2021**

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## **Pittsburgh Opera to perform Art Deco production of Handel's *Semele* for live, socially-distant audiences May 8-20**



**Pittsburgh, PA...** [Pittsburgh Opera](#) will present the first-ever Pittsburgh performances of George Frideric Handel's baroque gem [Semele](#) at its headquarters in the Strip District from May 8<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup>.

*Semele* is a timeless tale from Greek antiquity about the pitfalls of ambition, vanity, and making open-ended promises.

Stage Director [Kristine McIntyre](#), whose most recent collaboration with Pittsburgh Opera was the critically-acclaimed 'film noir' production of Mozart's [Don Giovanni](#) in October 2019, is giving *Semele* a stylish Roaring Twenties Art Deco treatment.

Pittsburgh Opera is pleased to partner with [Chatham Baroque](#) for *Semele*. Founded in 1990, Chatham Baroque continues to excite local, national, and international audiences with dazzling technique and lively interpretations of 17th- and 18th-century music played on authentic period instruments.

Pittsburgh Opera will have live, socially-distant audiences at all six performances. Pittsburgh Opera is maintaining its comprehensive COVID-19 safety protocols, which it used most recently at its successful April performances of [Charlie Parker's Yardbird](#) including reduced seating capacity, mandatory mask wearing, health screenings and temperature checks for all people entering the building, and more. Full details are available on Pittsburgh Opera's [COVID-19 Safety Protocols webpage](#).

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All six performances are currently sold out, but there is room on [the waiting list](#). **The Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup> performance at 7:30PM will be livestreamed free of charge on both Pittsburgh Opera's [YouTube channel](#) and [Facebook page](#).** The livestream is sponsored by [UPMC](#).

Patrons may sign up for the livestream at [pittsburghopera.org/SemeleRSVP](http://pittsburghopera.org/SemeleRSVP) to both receive a reminder email before the broadcast with links to view the livestream and to unlock premium content, including the official program book and the Pre-Opera talk podcast.

## Overview of *Semele*

Princess Semele wants to live her best life. To her, that doesn't mean marrying Athamas, a mere human prince. She has her eyes on a bigger prize, none other than Jupiter, King of the Gods, who she thinks will fulfill her in ways no mortal ever could.

Jupiter is a cad, who is all too happy to add Semele to his long list of human mistresses. His wife Juno is none too pleased, and hatches a sure-fire plan for revenge. Appearing as Semele's sister Ino—who is in love with Athamas — Juno tricks Semele into making a fatal request.

Jupiter, inflamed with passion, swears to give Semele whatever she desires. Semele insists that he appear to her in all his divine glory. Realizing this would kill her, since no human can withstand the awesome power of his thunderbolts, Jupiter tries in vain to change her mind. Undaunted, Semele insists. Being unable to rescind his oath to grant her request, Jupiter reluctantly complies, and the ensuing thunderbolts consume Semele in flames.

## Performance Schedule

- Saturday, May 8, 2021 8:00PM
- Tuesday, May 11, 7:00PM
- Friday, May 14, 7:30PM
- Sunday, May 16, 2:00PM matinee
- Tuesday, May 18, 7:00PM
- Thursday, May 20, 7:30PM

## Cast and Artistic Team

Jupiter  
Athamas / Apollo  
Semele  
Cadmus / Somnus

[Aaron Crouch+](#)  
[Yazid Gray\\*](#)  
[Véronique Filloux\\*](#)  
[Jeremy Harr\\*](#)

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Juno	<a href="#">Maire Therese Carmack*</a>
Ino	<a href="#">Madeline Ehlinger*</a>
Iris	<a href="#">Meghan DeWald+</a>
Conductor	<a href="#">Antony Walker<sup>1</sup></a>
Stage Director	<a href="#">Kristine McIntyre</a>
Set Designer	<a href="#">Carey Xu+</a>
Costume Designer	Jason Bray
Lighting Designer	Todd Nonn
Projection Designer	<a href="#">Lawrence Shea+</a>
Stage Manager	Alex W Seidel
Wig Artisan	<a href="#">Nicole Pagano</a>
Assistant Stage Manager	<a href="#">Adrienne Wells</a>
Assistant Stage Manager	<a href="#">Margaret Shumate</a>
Head of Music/Assistant Conductor	<a href="#">Glenn Lewis<sup>2</sup></a>
Director of Musical Studies/Chorus Master	<a href="#">Mark Trawka</a>
Associate Coach/Pianist	<a href="#">James Lesniak</a>
Assistant Stage Director	<a href="#">Kaley Karis Smith*</a>

+ Pittsburgh Opera debut

\* Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist

\*\* Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist alumni

<sup>1</sup> Antony Walker will be conducting the May 8, 11, 14, and 16 performances

<sup>2</sup> Glenn Lewis will be conducting the May 8, 11, 14, and 16 performances

## Sponsors

- [PNC](#) is the 2020—21 Pittsburgh Opera Season Sponsor.
- [UPMC](#) is the Livestream Sponsor.
- [Ambridge Regional Distribution and Manufacturing Center](#) is the Tuesday Performance Sponsor.
- [WQED-FM](#) is Pittsburgh Opera's Media Sponsor.

## Other Information

- The performances will be sung in English, with English supertitles projected both above the stage and on-screen during the livestream.
- Run Time: Approximately 1 hour, 25 minutes with no intermission
- Pittsburgh Opera's popular [Audio Commentary](#) program for patrons with visual impairments is available at the Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> performance.

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