



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Opening Day Ticket Sales for *The Met: Live in HD* Break Sales Record

*80,000 Tickets Sold in a Single Day to SCENE and Met Opera Members,  
Tickets go on sale to the general public on August 29th*

Toronto, ON, (TSX: CGX), August 22, 2011 – Cineplex Entertainment, via our *Front Row Centre Events* is very pleased to announce that tickets sales for the sixth season of *The Met: Live in HD* surpassed all expectations and set a new single day record this past Friday. More than 80,000 tickets were sold in a single day which represents an increase of more than 14% over last year's record first day sales.

"Cineplex audiences across the country love *The Met: Live in HD* performances as demonstrated by the tremendous growth in this season's opening day ticket sales," said Pat Marshall, Vice President, Communications and Investor Relations, Cineplex Entertainment. "*Don Giovanni* and *La Traviata* were the most popular choices of the 11 performances available this season however all of the productions sold thousands of tickets. This year we added the option for guests to purchase season tickets online at [cineplex.com](http://cineplex.com) which processed thousands of ticket sales and contributed to this new sales record."

The 2011-12 season of *The Met: Live in HD* will feature 11 transmissions broadcast live, via satellite in high definition and 5.1 digital surround sound, beginning on October 15<sup>th</sup> with *Anna Bolena*.

SCENE and qualified Met Opera members can purchase tickets for the 2011-12 season at participating theatre box offices or, for the first year ever, guests can buy their tickets from the comfort of home, online at [www.cineplex.com/events](http://www.cineplex.com/events) now. The on sale date for the general public is August 29<sup>th</sup>. Season ticket packages are available at a special rate; tickets for individual performances are also available. A group rate is available for groups of 20 or more. For additional information on group rates, please call 1.800.313.4461 or email [corporatesales@cineplex.com](mailto:corporatesales@cineplex.com).

Membership in the SCENE program is free and guests can apply online at [www.scene.ca](http://www.scene.ca).

The 2011-12 season of *The Met: Live in HD* will feature the following productions:

### **Donizetti's *Anna Bolena* (Met Premiere Production) – October 15, 2011 at 12:55 p.m. EDT**

Anna Netrebko opens the Met season with her portrayal of the ill-fated queen driven insane by her unfaithful king. She sings one of opera's greatest mad scenes in this Met premiere production by David McVicar. Ekaterina Gubanova is her rival, Jane Seymour, Ildar Abdrazakov sings Henry VIII, and Marco Armiliato conducts.

### **Mozart's *Don Giovanni* (New Production) – October 29, 2011 at 12:55 p.m. EDT**

Mariusz Kwiecien brings his youthful and sensual interpretation of Mozart's timeless anti-hero to the Met for the first time, under the direction of Tony Award®-winning director Michael Grandage and with James Levine conducting. Also starring Marina Rebeka, Barbara Frittoli, Ramón Vargas, and Luca Pisaroni.

**Wagner's *Siegfried* (New Production) – November 5, 2011 at 12 p.m. EDT**

In part three of the *Ring*, Wagner's cosmic vision focuses on his hero's early conquests, while Robert Lepage's revolutionary stage machine transforms itself from bewitched forest to mountaintop love nest. Gary Lehman sings the title role and Deborah Voigt's Brünnhilde is his prize. Bryn Terfel is the Wanderer. James Levine conducts.

**Glass's *Satyagraha* – November 19, 2011 at 12:55 p.m. EST**

The Met's visually extravagant production is back for an encore engagement. Richard Croft once again is Gandhi in Philip Glass's unforgettable opera, which the *Washington Post* calls "a profound and beautiful work of theatre."

**Handel's *Rodelinda* – December 3, 2011 at 12:30 p.m. EST**

Sensational in the 2004 Met premiere of Stephen Wadsworth's much-heralded production, Renée Fleming reprises the title role. She's joined by Stephanie Blythe and counter-tenor Andreas Scholl, and Baroque specialist Harry Bicket conducts.

**Gounod's *Faust* (New Production) – December 10, 2011 at 12:55 p.m. EST**

With Jonas Kaufmann in the title role, René Pape as the devil, and Marina Poplavskaya as Marguerite, Gounod's classic retelling of the Faust legend couldn't be better served. Tony Award®-winning director Des McAnuff updates the story to the first half of the 20th century with a production that won praise in London last season. Yannick Nézet-Séguin conducts on the heels of his *Don Carlo* success.

***The Enchanted Island* (World Premiere) – January 21, 2012 at 12:55 p.m. EST**

In one extraordinary new work, lovers of Baroque opera have it all: the world's best singers, glorious music of the Baroque masters, and a story drawn from Shakespeare. In *The Enchanted Island*, the lovers from Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* are shipwrecked on his other-worldly island of *The Tempest*. Inspired by the musical pastiches and masques of the 18th century, the work showcases arias and ensembles by Handel, Vivaldi, Rameau, and others, and a new libretto by Jeremy Sams. Eminent conductor William Christie leads an all-star cast with David Daniels (Prospero) and Joyce DiDonato (Sycorax) as the formidable foes, Plácido Domingo as Neptune, Danielle de Niese as Ariel, and Luca Pisaroni as Caliban. Lisette Oropesa and Anthony Roth Costanzo play Miranda and Ferdinand. The dazzling production is directed and designed by Phelim McDermott and Julian Crouch (*Satyagraha* and the Met's 125 anniversary gala).

**Wagner's *Götterdämmerung* (New Production) – February 11, 2012 at 12 p.m. EST**

With its cataclysmic climax, the Met's new *Ring* cycle, directed by Robert Lepage, comes to its resolution. Deborah Voigt stars as Brünnhilde and Gary Lehman is Siegfried—the star-crossed lovers doomed by fate. James Levine conducts.

**Verdi's *Ernani* – February 25, 2012 at 12:55 p.m. EST**

Angela Meade takes center stage in Verdi's thrilling early gem. Marcello Giordani is her mismatched lover, and all-star Verdians Dmitri Hvorostovsky and Ferruccio Furlanetto round out the cast. Marcello Armiliatio conducts.

**Massenet's *Manon* (New Production) – April 7, 2012 at 12 p.m. EDT**

Anna Netrebko's dazzling portrayal of the tragic heroine in Laurent Pelly's new production travels to the Met from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. Piotr Beczala and Paulo Szot also star, with the Met's Principal Guest Conductor Fabio Luisi on the podium.

**Verdi's *La Traviata* – April 14, 2012 at 12:55 p.m. EDT**

Natalie Dessay will put on the red dress in Willy Decker's stunning production, in her first Violetta at the Met. Matthew Polenzani sings Alfredo, Dmitri Hvorostovsky is Germont, and Principal Guest Conductor Fabio Luisi is on the podium.

Cineplex will offer encore presentations on Saturday afternoons and Monday evenings of select performances at participating theatres. The encore presentation schedule is as follows:

Saturday, November 12, 2011 & Monday, November 21, 2011 – ***Anna Bolena***

Saturday, December 17, 2011 & Monday, January 9, 2012 – ***Don Giovanni***

Saturday, January 14, 2012 – ***Satyagraha***

Saturday, January 28, 2012 – ***Rodelinda***

Saturday, February 4, 2012 & Monday, February 27, 2012 – ***Faust***

Saturday, March 3, 2012 & Monday, March 26, 2012 – ***The Enchanted Island***

Saturday, March 31, 2012 – ***Ernani***

Saturday, April 28, 2012 & Monday May 14, 2012 – ***Manon***

Saturday, May 26, 2012 & Monday, June 4, 2012 – ***La Traviata***

For a complete list of participating theatres, visit [www.cineplex.com/events](http://www.cineplex.com/events).

**About Cineplex Entertainment**

Cineplex Inc. ("Cineplex") is the largest motion picture exhibitor in Canada and owns, leases or has a joint-venture interest in 130 theatres with 1,351 screens serving approximately 70 million guests annually. Headquartered in Toronto, Canada, Cineplex operates theatres from British Columbia to Quebec and is the exclusive provider of UltraAVX™ and the largest exhibitor of digital 3D and IMAX projection technologies in the country. Proudly Canadian and with a workforce of approximately 10,000 employees, the company operates the following top tier brands: Cineplex Odeon, Galaxy, Famous Players, Colossus, Coliseum, SilverCity, Cinema City and Scotiabank Theatres. Cineplex shares trade on the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX) under the symbol "CGX". For more information, visit [www.cineplex.com](http://www.cineplex.com).

**About Front Row Centre Events (FRC)**

Brought to you by Cineplex Entertainment, Front Row Centre Events bring world class entertainment to your local Cineplex Entertainment theatre and other participating locations! Presented in high-definition with digital surround sound, guests can experience the best in original one-night only and series-based programming. With the Metropolitan Opera's Live in HD series, Broadway productions, live broadcasts direct from the stage of London's National Theatre, Bolshoi Ballet performances, classic films, concerts, live sporting events and documentaries, Front Row Centre Events put you in the centre of the action on the big screen!

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