

# SEMELÉ



Mythology goes to church in New Zealand Opera's unique staging of Handel's baroque masterpiece inside Auckland's magnificent Holy Trinity Cathedral.

This site-specific production showcases Handel's exquisitely lyrical music and presents a powerful story of ambition that is as relevant today as it was when written nearly three centuries ago.

# SEMELE

NZ Opera in partnership with Greenstone TV presents a film production of Handel's baroque masterpiece.

Witness the wedding of the year, filmed live at the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Auckland in October 2020. Drawn from Ovid's Metamorphoses, the sensual story explores a love triangle between Jupiter, King of the Gods, his wife, the goddess Juno, and his lover, the mortal princess Semele.

This new production was conceived and directed by New Zealand Opera's General Director Thomas de Mallet Burgess with Jacqueline Coats, alongside Tracy Grant Lord (Designer) and Jo Kilgour (Lighting designer).

At a time where the performing arts was silenced around the world due to the global pandemic, NZ Opera was fortunate to be able to stage this triumphant work and have it interpreted for film by director Rebecca Tansley.

## **Key Information**

Year of Production 2021

Duration 150 minutes

Presenting Company NZ Opera

Production Company Greenstone TV

Film directed and produced by Rebecca Tansley

Definition HD

**Film credits**

**Director, Producer** Rebecca Tansley

**Director of Photography** Simon Raby

**Editor** Thomas Gleeson

**Line Producer** Rochelle Leef

**Executive Producer** Tash Christie

**Head of Operations** Kylie Croft

**Camera Operators** Jonathan Drew, Joe Lawry, Greg Parker, Yves Simard, Callum Thomas

**Camera/Grip Assistant** Matt Wyn-Harris

**Audience Cams** Rose Tansley-Broad, Sophia Constable-Wheeler

**Audio Record Engineer** Richard Baker

**Audio RF Technician** Lisa Fahrenberger

**Audio Technician** Bjarne Hemmingsen

**Production Coordinator** Lucy Glass

**DIT** Brandon Hermite

**Technical Producers** James Brookes & James Gardner

Post-production by Department of Post, Auckland, New Zealand

## **Creative team – New Zealand Opera live performance**

Conducted by Peter Walls

Directed by Thomas de Mallet Burgess & Jacqueline Coats

Designed by Tracy Grant Lord

Lighting designed by Jo Kilgour

Chorusmaster Andrew Crooks

Principle Répétiteur David Kelly

Intimacy Director Jennifer Ward-Lealand CNZM

### **Cast**

Semele Emma Pearson

Jupiter/Apollo Amitai Pati

Juno/Ino Sarah Castle

Cadmus/Somnus Paul Whelan

Athamas Stephen Diaz

Iris Chelsea Dolman

Priest Sashe Angelovski

Chorus Freemasons New Zealand Opera Chorus

Choir Holy Trinity Cathedral Choir

### **Orchestra**

Concertmaster Peter Clark

First Violin Anne Löser, Rebecca Struthers

Second Violin Miranda Hutton, Amelia Giles, Fiona Haughton

Viola Wen Chuan Lin, Alison Salmons

Cello/Continuo James Bush

Cello Imogen Granwal

Double bass Malcolm Struthers

Oboe Kamala Bain

Recorder Jessica Shaw

Bassoon Ben Hoadley

Horn/Trumpet Gordon Lehany

Horn/Trumpet Peter Reid  
Timpani Yoshiko Tsuruta  
Harpichord/Continuo Douglas Mews

**Freemasons New Zealand Opera Chorus**

Soprano Ella Ewen, Elizabeth Mandeno, Emma Roxburgh, Kerry Scurr, Te Ohore Williams  
Alto Meghan Carppe, Jessica Duirs, Helen Kim, Claire Scholes, Jessica Wells  
Tenor Lachlan Craig, Andrew Grenon, Nathan Hauraki, O'neal Mendoza, David Wallace  
Bass Sashe Angelovski, Arthur Adams-Close, Bernard Braithwaite, Rhys Hingston, Thomas  
Roeshol

**Holy Trinity Cathedral Choir**

Soprano Bernice Austin, Ann McGlinn, Christine Rush  
Alto Victoria Andersen, Cecily Shaw, Suzanne Shaw-Lentini  
Tenor Patrick Kelly, Mike Liu, Hamish Regan  
Bass Dragan Atanasov, Daniel Kim, Christoph Schnoor\*

**Supers**

William Clark, Junior Misimoa, Leon Liu, Ramzi Rahman

**Stunt doubles**

Pai Pai, Jess Howse  
New Zealand Stunt School

**Live production crew**

Technical & Production Manager Hemi Wi-Piti  
Company Manager Inge Teunissen, Carla Parry  
Stage Manager Vicki Cooksley, Entertainment Production Services Ltd  
Deputy Stage Manager Youra Hwang  
Assistant Stage Manager Michael Clark  
Head Mechanist Andrew Gibson, Entertainment Production Services Ltd  
Mechanist/Stage Hand Jazmin Whittall  
Head of Lighting Abby Clearwater

Lighting Systems Technician Zachary Howells

Lighting Technician Hannah Moore

Head of Wardrobe Sophie Ham

Wardrobe Construction Supervisor Sara Whittaker

Wardrobe Assistant Bridget Brian, Charlie Baptist

Head of Wigs and Makeup Charlie Oswin

Deputy Head of Wigs and Makeup Karina Jonassen

Wigs & Makeup Assistants Abi Taylor, Stephanie Sharp, Freya de Raadt, Samuel de Raadt

Properties Builder Grant Reynolds

AV & Projection Simon Barker, Lotech Media

Production & Comms Technician Bryce Holmes

Projection Operator Khalid Parkar

Surtitles Operator Laura Patterson

Usher Manager Sian Tucker

Ushers Jessica Bennett, Ruby Hansen, Lucy Elliott