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Press Materials: [pbs.org/pressroom](http://pbs.org/pressroom) or [thirteen.org/pressroom](http://thirteen.org/pressroom)

*Great Performances at the Met: Fire Shut Up in My Bones*

Premieres Friday, April 1 at 9 p.m. ET on PBS ([check local listings](http://www.pbs.org/tv_schedules/))

**Synopsis:**

Grammy-winning jazz musician and composer Terence Blanchard’s adaptation of Charles M. Blow’s memoir marks the Met's first performance of an opera by a Black composer and first production in its theater following the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown. Featuring a libretto by filmmaker Kasi Lemmons, the opera tells the story of a young man’s journey to overcome a life of trauma and hardship. James Robinson and Camille A. Brown co-direct this new staging, with Brown also choreographing, becoming the first Black director to create a mainstage Met production. Baritone Will Liverman stars as Charles alongside soprano Angel Blue as Destiny/Loneliness/Greta, soprano Latonia Moore as Billie, and Walter Russell III as Char’es-Baby. Six-time Tony Award winner Audra McDonald hosts ***Great Performances at the Met: Fire Shut Up in My Bones***, premiering Friday, April 1 at 9 p.m. ET on PBS as part of #PBSForTheArts. The broadcast is part of season 16 of ***Great Performances at the Met*** that makes its return with 10 new operas premiering monthly February-November 2022 on PBS ([check local listings](http://www.pbs.org/tv_schedules/)).

#PBSForTheArts is a multiplatform campaign that celebrates the arts in America. For more than 50 years, PBS has been the media destination for the arts, presenting dance, theater, opera, visual arts and concerts to Americans in every corner of the country. Previous ***Great Performances*** programs include *Romeo & Juliet* from the National Theatre, *The Arts Interrupted*, *Coppelia*, and the upcoming *Reopening: The Broadway Revival.* The collection of #PBSForTheArts programs is available at [pbs.org/arts](http://pbs.org/arts) and the PBS Video app. Curated conversation and digital shorts are also available on PBS social media platforms using #PBSForTheArts.

**Cast:**

* Yannick Nézet-Séguin – Conductor
* Angel Blue – Destiny/Loneliness/Greta
* Latonia Moore – Billie
* Will Liverman – Charles
* Walter Russell III – Char’es-Baby
* Audra McDonald – Host

**Creative:**

* Terence Blanchard – Composer
* James Robinson – Co-Director
* Camille A. Brown – Co-Director, Choreographer
* Paul Tazewell – Costume Designer
* Greg Emetaz – Projection Designer
* Allen Moyer – Set Designer
* Christopher Akerlind – Lighting Designer

***Great Performances at the Met*** is produced by the Metropolitan Opera in association with PBS and The WNET Group, bringing the best of the Metropolitan Opera into the homes of opera fans across the country. ***Fire Shut Up in My Bones*** is directed for the screen by Gary Halvorson. For the Met: Mia Bongiovanni and Elena Park are Supervising Producers and Louisa Briccetti and Victoria Warivonchik are Producers. Peter Gelb is Executive Producer. For ***Great Performances***: Bill O’Donnell is Series Producer; David Horn is Executive Producer.

Corporate support for ***Great Performances at the Met*** is provided by Toll Brothers. For ***Great Performances***, funding is provided by The Joseph and Robert Cornell Memorial Foundation, the Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Arts Fund, The Philip and Janice Levin Foundation, Ellen and James S. Marcus, and Jody and John Arnhold.

**Websites:**[http://pbs.org/gperf](http://www.pbs.org/gperf), [http://facebook.com/GreatPerformances](http://www.facebook.com/GreatPerformances), [@GPerfPBS](http://twitter.com/gperfpbs), <http://youtube.com/greatperformancespbs>, [giphy.com/great-performances](https://giphy.com/great-performances/) #GreatPerformancesPBS #PBSForTheArts

**About The WNET Group**

[The WNET Group](http://wnet.org/) creates inspiring media content and meaningful experiences for diverse audiences nationwide. It is the community-supported home of New York’s [THIRTEEN](http://thirteen.org/) – America’s flagship PBS station – [WLIW21,](http://wliw.org/) THIRTEEN PBSKids, WLIW World and Create; [NJ PBS,](https://www.mynjpbs.org/) New Jersey’s statewide public television network; Long Island’s only NPR station WLIW-FM[; ALL ARTS,](http://allarts.org/) the arts and culture media provider; and newsroom [NJ Spotlight News.](https://www.njspotlightnews.org/) Through these channels and streaming platforms, The WNET Group brings arts, culture, education, news, documentary, entertainment and DIY programming to more than five million viewers each month. The WNET Group’s award-winning productions include signature PBS series ***Nature***, ***Great Performances***, ***American Masters***, ***PBS NewsHour Weekend*** and ***Amanpour and Company*** and trusted local news programs ***MetroFocus*** and ***NJ Spotlight News******with Briana Vannozzi***. Inspiring curiosity and nurturing dreams, The WNET Group’s award-winning Kids’ Media and Education team produces the PBS KIDS series ***Cyberchase***, interactive ***Mission US*** history games, and resources for families, teachers and caregivers. A leading nonprofit public media producer for nearly 60 years, The WNET Group presents and distributes content that fosters lifelong learning, including multiplatform initiatives addressing poverty, jobs, economic opportunity, social justice, understanding and the environment. Through Passport, station members can stream new and archival programming anytime, anywhere. The WNET Group represents the best in public media. Join us.

**About The Met**   
Under the leadership of General Manager Peter Gelb and Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin, the Metropolitan Opera is one of America’s leading performing arts organizations and a vibrant home for the world’s most creative and talented artists, including singers, conductors, composers, orchestra musicians, stage directors, designers, visual artists, choreographers, and dancers. The company presents more than 200 performances each season of a wide variety of operas, ranging from early masterpieces to contemporary works. In recent years, the Met has launched many initiatives designed to make opera more accessible, most prominently the Live in HD series of cinema transmissions, which dramatically expands the Met audience by allowing select performances to be seen in more than 2,200 theaters in more than 70 countries around the world.

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