

# UNLEASHED

MARCH 2014 | HOUSTONGRANDOPERA.ORG | 713-546-0200 | 510 PRESTON STREET, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002

## One House, Two Homes

HGO returns to the Cullen Theater—and you made it possible.

If you've joined the HGO family in recent years, chances are you have enjoyed many productions in the Wortham Center's Brown Theater but may have never seen a main-stage opera in the Wortham's more intimate Cullen Theater. This season you'll have the opportunity. For the first time in almost a decade, HGO brings two productions to the Cullen stage this March—Stephen Sondheim and Hugh Wheeler's *A Little Night Music* and the world premiere of Ricky Ian Gordon and Leonard Foglia's *A Coffin in Egypt*.

These two productions represent HGO's commitment to producing works by contemporary composers. They also signify HGO's health as an organization—achieved through the contributions of our loyal donors. Performing in the Cullen this season requires the ability to support an increased number of both productions and performances. HGO's budget has grown at a steady pace over the past several seasons, and our staff—artistic, technical, and administrative—has never been stronger.

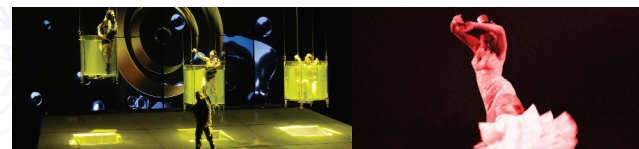
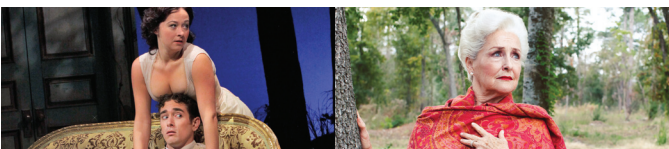


*A Coffin in Egypt* features superstar Frederica von Stade. Photo by Lynn Lane.

HGO's comprehensive fundraising campaign, *Inspiring Performance—The Campaign for Houston Grand Opera*, is in full swing through the rest of this year. The campaign's success to date is a testament to the dedication and generosity of our community. We've raised more than \$149 million of our \$165 million goal—the most ambitious fundraising goal in the history of the performing arts in Houston.

The campaign's success means continued excellence in every aspect of the company's work, from main-stage productions to community-based initiatives. HGO's undertaking of Houston's first-ever production of Richard Wagner's monumental *Ring* cycle, beginning with *Das Rheingold* this April, is one of the surest signs HGO can be counted among the premier opera companies in the world.

(continued)



▶ *A Little Night Music*  
MARCH 7–23

▶ *A Coffin in Egypt*  
MARCH 14–21

▶ *Opera Ball*  
APRIL 5

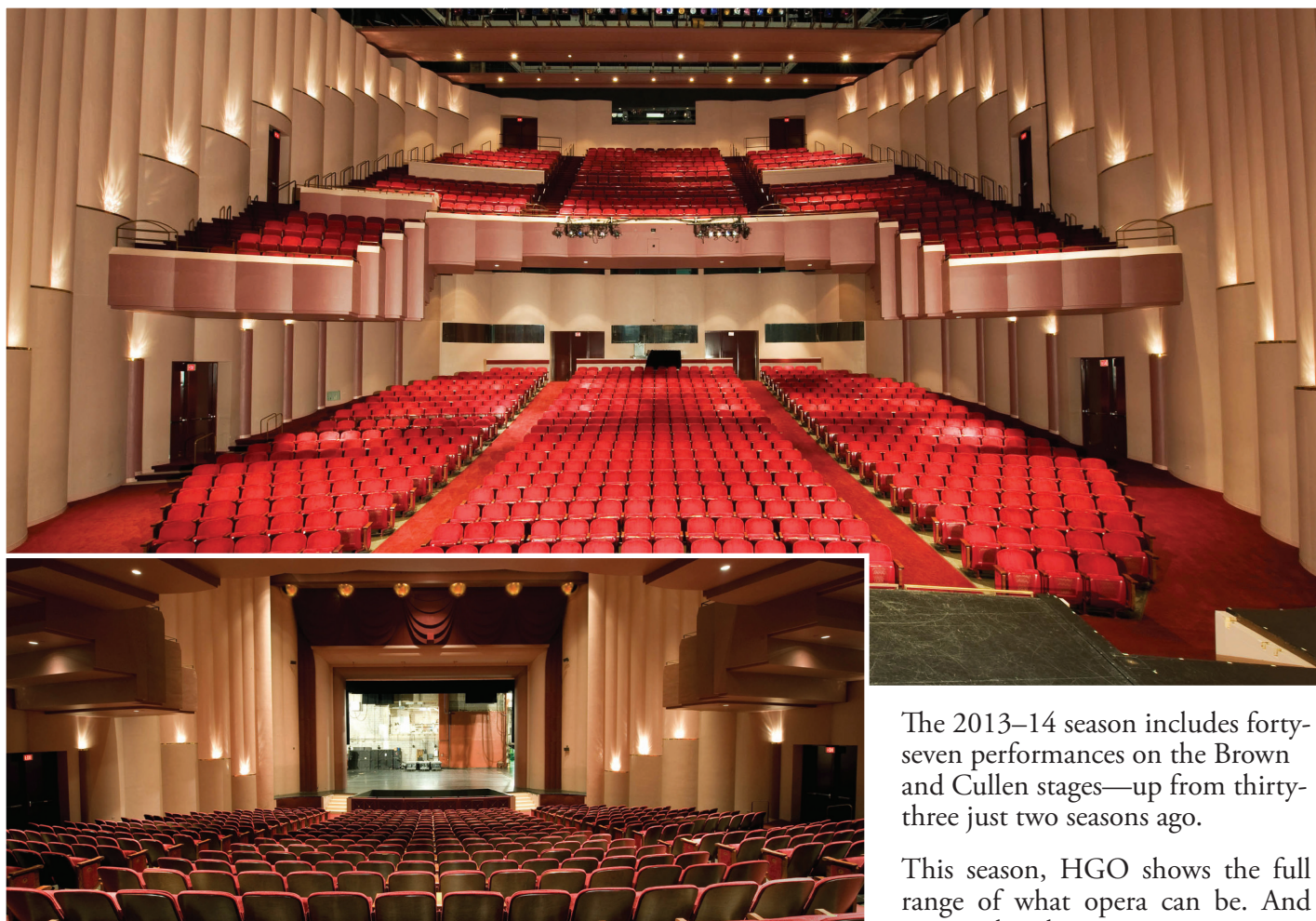
▶ *Das Rheingold*  
APRIL 11–26

▶ *Carmen*  
APRIL 25–MAY 10

▶ 2013–14 Season

▶ HGO.org





The Cullen Theater

A premier opera company produces the spectacular masterpieces that spring to mind when we talk about grand opera. A truly great opera company must also make opera relevant by sharing the stories that belong to our time. HGO does both, and we are fortunate to have

two venues to showcase productions of different sizes and scales.

The Cullen Theater, with 1,100 seats and a compact orchestra pit, is an ideal stage for opera's more intimate stories. The chamber opera *A Coffin in Egypt* is one such story. An up-close-and-personal journey through one woman's life in Egypt, Texas, this work will shine in a smaller theater. *A Little Night Music*'s subtle wit will be similarly well served in the Cullen Theater.

With a total of eight main-stage productions this season, HGO is operating at optimal capacity. The success of *Inspiring Performance* will allow us to present works as varied as Wagner's *Ring*, one of the largest-scale works in the repertoire with 136 onstage performers, and *A Coffin in Egypt*, with just eighteen performers.

The 2013–14 season includes forty-seven performances on the Brown and Cullen stages—up from thirty-three just two seasons ago.

This season, HGO shows the full range of what opera can be. And you made it happen.

### ***A Little Night Music***

Music by Stephen Sondheim

Book by Hugh Wheeler

**March 7–23**

### ***A Coffin in Egypt***

Music by Ricky Ian Gordon

Libretto by Leonard Foglia

**March 14–21**

### **2013–14 Cullen Production Funders**

#### ***A Little Night Music***

Bracewell & Giuliani LLP

Boulware & Valoir/Meg Boulware  
and Hartley Hampton

#### ***A Coffin in Egypt***

Houston Endowment, Inc.

The Powell Foundation

Ted and Mary Jo Shen Charitable  
Gift Fund

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Mr. and Mrs. Harlan C. Stai

Beirne, Maynard and Parsons LLP

Beth Madison