



De Munt  
La Monnaie



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# Alcina / Tamerlano

LA MONNAIE/DE MUNT

OPERA 2015

HDTV

**Alcina** Opera in three acts by George Frideric Handel (1735) | Anonymous libretto after Orlando furioso, adapted from the libretto *L'isola di Alcina* |

**Tamerlano** Opera in three acts by George Frideric Handel (1724) | Libretto by Nicola Francesco Haym |

**FILMED AT** La Monnaie/De Munt, Brussels

**IN** February 2015

**TV DIRECTOR** Myriam Hoyer (Alcina) and Stephan Aubé (Tamerlano)

**RUNNING TIME** 195' and 190'

WAHOO

mezzo

francetélévisions



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# Alcina / Tamerlano

## ARTISTIC INFORMATION

### ALCINA

**SYNOPSIS** Like Handel's *Orlando* (1732) and *Ariodante* (1734), *Alcina* derives from the narrative material in Ariosto's *Orlando furioso*. The story of the sorceress Alcina, an initially hedonistic, manipulative woman who later finds herself a victim of love, fits into the genre of the 'magical opera' with numerous magical elements, but Handel achieved considerable emotional authenticity in his characterisations. This makes *Alcina* one of the most deeply felt and multifaceted operas. 'You may despise what you like ; but you cannot contradict Handel,' said the Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw. As in *Tamerlano*, Pierre Audi based this production on the stage at the baroque theatre at Drottningholm, for which he originally developed the directing concept. The set, designed by Patrick Kinmonth, is based on the principles of perspective, with wings in the form of painted panels. The result is marvellous modern musical theatre in a historizing frame.

### PERFORMERS

*Alcina* ..... Sandrine Piau  
*Ruggiero* ..... Maïte Beaumont  
*Bradamante* ..... Angélique Noldus  
*Morgana* ..... Sabina Puértolas  
*Oberto* ..... Chloé Briot  
*Oronte* ..... Daniel Behle  
*Melisso* ..... Giovanni Furlanetto  
*Astolfo* ..... Edouard Higuet  
Chœur de Chambre de l'IMEP,  
Chorus direction ..... Benoît Giaux  
Les Talens Lyriques Orchestra

### TAMERLANO

**SYNOPSIS** *Tamerlano*, inspired by the historical confrontation of 1402 between Sultan Bayezid I and Timur Lenk, tells the story of the clash of two strong personalities : *Tamerlano* as the victor, *Bajazet* as the loser who has no intention of grovelling humbly in the dust. Following the success of *Giulio Cesare* in *Egitto*, Handel completed his highly expressive *Tamerlano* after numerous revisions. The underlying tone of the work is serious ; the composer tried to give depth to the characterisation of the historical figures. The scene preceding the death of *Bajazet* – a major part which, exceptionally, was written for a tenor – is the climax of the opera. *Tamerlano* is to be performed in alternation with *Alcina*. Pierre Audi designed both productions for the splendid baroque theatre at Drottningholm in Sweden. Both sets, designed by Patrick Kinmonth, are based on the principles of perspective, with wings in the form of painted panels. Their vision of baroque opera is modern and pared-down, but does not lose sight of tradition ; this creates a fascinating tension.

### PERFORMERS

*Tamerlano* ..... Christophe Dumaux  
*Bajazete* ..... Jeremy Ovenden  
*Asteria* ..... Sophie Karthäuser  
*Andronico* ..... Delphine Galou  
*Irene* ..... Ann Hallenberg  
*Leone* ..... Nathan Berg  
*Zaide* ..... Caroline D'Haese  
Les Talens Lyriques Orchestra



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### ARTISTIC STAFF

Music direction: Christophe Rousset | Director: Pierre Audi  
Set design and costumes: Patrick Kinmonth | Lighting: Matthew Richardson

### PRODUCTION

**PRODUCTION COMPANIES** Wahoo production, La Monnaie/De Munt, Mezzo, France Télévisions and the support of the CNC  
**ASSOCIATE PRODUCER** Odile Carlotti

### DISTRIBUTION

**TV DISTRIBUTION COMPANY** Telmondis Distribution | 7, Rue du Dôme | F – 92100 Boulogne Billancourt  
Tel/Fax: + 33 1 40 74 76 20 / 09 | www.telmondis.fr  
**VIDEO FORMAT** HDCAM, Digibeta, stereo sound and dolby 5.1