

# Don Giovanni

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Dramma giocoso in two acts (1787)  
Music by **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**  
Libretto by **Lorenzo Da Ponte**

New production  
Coproductioin with Metropolitan Opera, New York

What is this flame that compels Don Giovanni to seduce, subjugate and conquer women one after the other, with the fervour and cold indifference of a predator securing his prey; to pursue through his conquests some obscure and ever-elusive objective? For his second collaboration with Da Ponte, Mozart was to brand the history of opera with a hot iron and forever haunt European culture. In this Libertine Punished, Kierkegaard invites us to hear “the whisperings of temptation, the whirlwind of seduction, the silence of the moment”. The Mozart-Da Ponte cycle continues with a *Don Giovanni* entrusted to director Ivo Van Hove. In the wake of *Boris Godunov*, the director, accustomed to examining the political meaning of works, presents his second production for the Paris Opera.

Presented by **Alain Duault**

Conductor: **Philippe Jordan**  
Director: **Ivo Van Hove**  
Sets: **Jan Versweyveld**  
Lighting design: **Jan Versweyveld**  
Costumes: **An D’Huys**  
Video: **Christopher Ash**  
Dramaturgy: **Jan Vandenhouwe**  
Chorus master: **Alessandro Di Stefano**

Paris Opera Orchestra and Chorus

Don Giovanni, **Étienne Dupuis**  
Il Commendatore, **Ain Anger**  
Donna Anna, **Jacquelyn Wagner**  
Don Ottavio, **Stanislas de Barbeyrac**  
Donna Elvira, **Nicole Car**  
Leporello, **Philippe Sly**  
Masetto, **Mikhail Timoshenko**  
Zerlina, **Elsa Dreisig**

3:30 including one 30-min interval  
Performed in Italian, with English subtitles  
Film Director: **Don Kent**

## ACT I

Bemoaning his condition, Leporello stands guard while his master Don Giovanni tries to ravish Donna Anna, the daughter of the Commendatore. The seducer suddenly appears, pursued by the young woman eager to catch him in order to discover his identity. Alerted by the cries, the Commendatore rushes to the scene and challenges Don Giovanni to a duel. The latter mortally wounds the Commendatore and flees. Joined by her fiancé Don Ottavio, Donna Anna swears revenge over the body of her dead father.

No sooner has he escaped than Don Giovanni again catches “the scent of a woman”. However, it is none other than Donna Elvira - the woman he had promised to marry before abandoning her. Don Giovanni slips away, leaving Donna Elvira alone with Leporello, who recites to her the impressive list of his master’s conquests.

Don Giovanni now set his sights on a new victim: Zerlina, a young peasant girl who is celebrating her wedding with Masetto. But Donna Elvira arrives in time to bring the naïve young woman to her senses. When an incognito Don Giovanni bumps into Donna Anna and Don Ottavio, he rapidly promises to help them exact their revenge. But Elvira returns and warns the couple, forcing the womanizer to retreat. Donna Anna then recognises the voice of her father’s murderer.

Don Giovanni organises a tremendous party. Donna Anna, Donna Elvira and Don Ottavio attend in masks in order to confound their host. Meanwhile, Don Giovanni finds Zerlina and tries to seduce her. However, the girl’s cries alert the guests. Don Giovanni stands up to them and then manages to flee.

## ACT II

Don Giovanni asks Leporello to pretend to be him with Elvira while he seduces her maid. Elvira allows herself to be easily taken advantage by Leporello who soon enjoys himself. Don Giovanni begins a serenade which is soon interrupted by Masetto who has come with a menacing group of companions in search of the debauched womanizer. Passing himself off as Leporello, he pretends to espouse their cause, and then, left alone with Masetto, gives him a good beating.

Leporello, who is still with Donna Elvira, catches sight of Donna Anna and Don Ottavio. As he tries to slip away, he runs into Zerlina and Masetto. With the ruse uncovered, Leporello mumbles a few explanations and manages to flee. Don Ottavio, now convinced of Don Giovanni’s guilt, decides to file charges.

Don Giovanni and Leporello meet in front of the Commendatore’s statue. Don Giovanni starts to tell Leporello of his latest exploits when they hear an unearthly voice. Noticing the statue, Don Giovanni orders a terrified Leporello to invite it to dinner. The statue nods.

For his part, Don Ottavio urges his fiancée to marry him but Donna Anna again resists citing the turmoil afflicting her. Meanwhile, as Don Giovanni sits down to dinner, Donna Elvira visits him one last time to implore him to change his life. Don Giovanni sends her packing. The Commendatore enters in answer to Don Giovanni’s invitation and orders him to repent. Don Giovanni refuses and the earth opens up beneath him and he disappears into the fires of Hell. When Donna Elvira, Donna Anna, Don Ottavio, Zerlina and Masetto arrive with the law, they can do no more than note the death of the dissolute womaniser.

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