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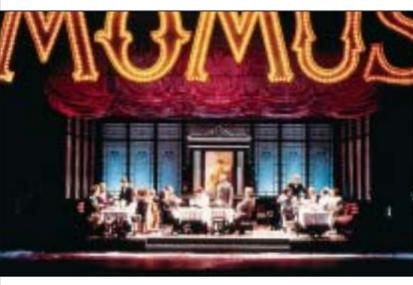
“Houston Grand Opera is the jewel in the cultural crown [of Houston]. [The] Opera often seems especially satisfying — carefully cast, thoughtfully directed, stylishly designed...”

—New York Times



Houston Grand Opera's 2002-2003 Season

Featuring the Houston Grand Opera Orchestra and Chorus



Puccini
LA BOHÈME
 October 25–November 10, 2002; Evenings 7:30, Matinees 2:00
 Opening—October 25, 7:00 p.m.
 Poverty and true love collide in Puccini's classic tale, *La Bohème*. This joint production with New York City Opera and Glimmerglass moves the tale of starving Parisian artists to the start of WWI. As bodies returning from the front, our young Bohemian heroes lose both their innocence and idealism. **Ana Maria Martinez** returns to HGO as the ill-fated Mimi. **Roberto Aronica**, fresh from his HGO success as the Duke in *Rigoletto*, sings Rodolfo. Internationally renowned **Sebastian Lang-Lessing** conducts.
Sung in Italian with English Surtitles

Handel
ARIODANTE

November 1–17, 2002; Evenings 7:30, Matinees 2:00
Susan Graham makes her long-awaited HGO debut in this highly theatrical production from English National Opera. Handel's story of honor lost and regained is baroque opera at its finest. And who more capable to wield the baton than **Christopher Hogwood**, founder of The Academy of Ancient Music. *Ariodante* is, above all, a singer's opera, full of dazzling vocal gymnastics that convey a full range of human emotions. You can look forward to the seamless, creamy voice of Susan Graham, the power of **Umberto Chiummo**, and the grace of **Alexandra Coku**. Without a doubt, a night of old-world magic and vocal brilliance.
Sung in Italian with English Surtitles; Corporate Guarantor: NL Industries, Inc.



WINTER REPERTORY

Donizetti
LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR

January 16–February 2, 2003; Evenings 7:30, Matinees 2:00
 HGO is offering *Lucia* this season for one reason—**Laura Claycomb**. Her performance as Gilda in last season's *Rigoletto* stopped the show and brought the audience to its feet. You can expect fireworks when she reaches the famous "Mad Scene." This is the world of Sir Walter Scott—a world of rival Scottish clans, strategic alliances, madness and murder. **Vinson Cole** portrays Edgardo, the man Lucia loves but is forbidden to marry. **Chen-Ye Yuan** sings Enrico, the brother who forces Lucia to marry Arturo, whom she murders in her bridal chamber. Music Director **Patrick Summers** conducts.
Sung in Italian with English Surtitles; Corporate Guarantor: Lyondell Chemical Company



Lehár
THE MERRY WIDOW

January 30–February 16, 2003; Evenings 7:30, Matinees 2:00
 We return to the world of Viennese operetta for what promises to be a night of pure pleasure and humor. This gorgeous production is filled with can-can girls, tuxedos, light waltzes and tune after memorable tune. We are in Paris at the dawn of the 20th century. The wealthy widow Hanna must wade through a sea of suitors to winnow out the greedy from the sincere. **Susan Graham**, one of the great beauties in opera today, sings her first Hanna. HGO favorite **Bo Skovhus** is Count Danilo, the man who will do anything to hide his love for the widow. Music Director **Patrick Summers** conducts.
Sung in English with Surtitles; Corporate Guarantor: ExxonMobil



Verdi
LA TRAVIATA

April 17–May 4, 2003; Evenings 7:30, Matinees 2:00; Special—May 2, 8:00 p.m.
 At long last, **Renée Fleming** sings her first Violetta—and she has chosen HGO for that honor! Verdi's most accessible and poignant opera tells the story about a Parisian courtesan pressured into sacrificing her own hard-won love. **Paul Charles Clarke** sings Alfredo, the lover Violetta is forced to abandon. **Dwayne Croft**, in his long-awaited HGO debut, portrays Alfredo's conniving father Germont. Music Director **Patrick Summers** conducts this night for romantics and traditionalists.
Sung in Italian with English Surtitles; Corporate Grand Guarantor: Shell Oil Company Foundation; Corporate Guarantor: Anadarko Petroleum Corporation



Massenet
MANON

April 25–May 11, 2003; Evenings 7:30, Matinees 2:00
 The bewitching **Elizabeth Futral** is Manon, an adorable but fickle coquette who can't resist wealth. Join her as she rips a path through the hearts and wallets of 18th-century France. From the glitter of gambling halls to the austere halls of an abbey, Manon toys with the heart of the man who truly loves her, Chevalier des Grieux, sung by **Marcello Giordani**. It is only in the face of arrest, deportation and death that she finally realizes her love for him. Futral's gorgeous, limpid vocalism makes this a must-see production. Acclaimed French conductor **Emmanuel Joel** makes his HGO debut.
Sung in French with English Surtitles

CULLEN THEATER PRODUCTION

WORLD PREMIERE

Rachel Portman
THE LITTLE PRINCE

May 31–June 22, 2003; Evenings 8:00, Matinees 2:30
 Rachel Portman brings Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's beloved novel to life in beautiful, magical and amusing music. Having received Oscar nominations for her film scores to *Chocolat* and *Cider House Rules*, and winning the Academy Award for her score to *Emma*, Ms. Portman turns her attention to this classic tale of a pilot who crash lands in the Sahara only to meet the mysterious and riddle-prone Little Prince. This profound and deeply moving story will touch people of all ages with its important and timely message: *It is only with the heart that we can see rightly.*
Sung in English with Surtitles; Performance Corporate Guarantor: BP America

Production made possible by a challenge grant from The Edgar Foster Daniels Foundation

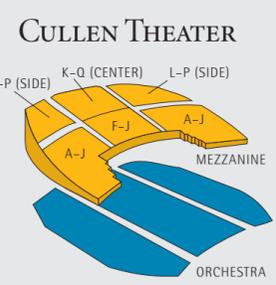


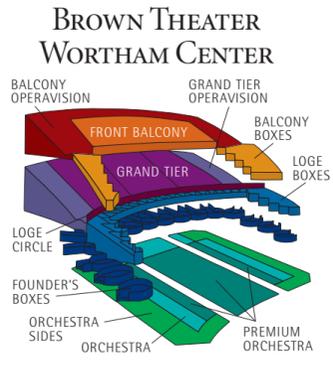
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<i>La Bohème</i>	Oct. 25	Oct. 27	Oct. 30	Nov. 2	Nov. 8	Nov. 10	Nov. 2
<i>Ariodante</i>	Nov. 1	Nov. 3	Nov. 12	Nov. 9	Nov. 15	Nov. 17	Nov. 3
<i>Lucia di Lammermoor</i>	Jan. 16	Jan. 19	Jan. 22	Jan. 25	Jan. 31	Feb. 2	Feb. 2
<i>The Merry Widow</i>	Jan. 30	Feb. 9	Feb. 11	Feb. 1	Feb. 7	Feb. 16	Feb. 1
<i>La Traviata</i>	Apr. 17	Apr. 20	Apr. 23	Apr. 26	May 2	May 4	Apr. 26
<i>Manon</i>	Apr. 25	Apr. 27	May 6	May 3	May 9	May 11	Apr. 27
<i>The Little Prince*</i>	May 31	June 15	June 4	Fri. June 6	June 13	June 15	June 22



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LC	\$31.94	\$31.94
FB **	Sold Out	Sold Out
OP **	\$61.69	\$61.69
OR	\$49.00	\$49.00
OS	\$33.69	\$33.69

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Sincere Thanks

The 2002–2003 season is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, the City of Houston through the Cultural Arts Council of Houston and Harris County, and by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts through the Cultural Arts Council.

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OperaVision is funded by the Bill and Sara Morgan Family Foundation.

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Back Cover Photos—*La Traviata*: Houston Grand Opera, Jim Caldwell
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