

CLASSICAL DOMAIN

New York, NY

Médée Matters

The many forms of Euripides' play, based on the myth of Jason and Medea, gets an NYU conference, and Cherubini's opera *Médée* gets a concert performance under conductor Peter Tiboris at Carnegie Hall.

Cherubini's *Médée*, a missing link in the history of opera as a dramatic art form will receive a concert performance on Saturday, June 3rd at Carnegie Hall. Peter Tiboris will lead the Manhattan Philharmonic the performance of this rarely heard opera. Soloists include Soprano Irimi Tsirakidou as Medea. The Aquila Theatre Company will perform the speaking parts of a new translation of Cherubini's original French libretto, Saturday.

Médée is familiar to many opera lovers via the great recording of the work with Maria Callas as *Medea*. The opera, as generally performed until about ten years ago, bore little resemblance to Cherubini's original conception of the work. Cherubini, whether by design or because of the dictates of theater management, structured his a dramatic opera using the conventions of the French opéra-comique, where the drama is carried forward by means of spoken dialogue rather than recitative. Performing the dialogue at Carnegie Hall and at the conference will be the Aquila Theatre Company, company-in-residence at NYU's Center for Ancient Studies.

On Thursday, June 1st, 2006, beginning at 5:00 pm, NYU's Center for Ancient Studies will host a conference for all things Medea, entitled Enacting Medea: Theatre, Opera and Film. the conference will bring noted panelists together to discuss interpretations of Medea across the spectrum of performing art forms. This special event will be held in NYU's Hemmerdinger Hall. This conference is free of charge and open to the public, seating is by general admission.

Featured panelists include:

Daniel Mendelsohn, Flint Professor of Humanities at Bard College, and noted author and critic for the New York Times: *Medea in 431 BC: Passions and Politics*.

Michael Beckerman, Professor of Music at NYU: *Medea in Opera: Cherubini and Jiri Bender*.

Herbert Golder, Professor of Classics at Boston University and frequent collaborator with filmmaker Werner Herzog; *Medea on Film: Passolini, Jules Dassin, and Lars von Trier*.

The Aquila Theatre Company will present selected scenes from Euripides and Cherubini.

Enacting Medea: Theatre, Opera and Film

The Rose-Marie Lewent Conference
NYU Center for Ancient Studies
Hemmerdinger Hall, New York University
100 Washington Square East
Thursday, June 1st
Free Event, 5:00 — 8:00 pm

Cherubini: *Médée*

Manhattan Philharmonic
Isaac Stern Auditorium, Carnegie Hall
Saturday, June 3rd at 7:30 pm

Peter Tiboris, Conductor

Irimi Tsirakidou • Attila Fekete • Marc Claesen •
Simona Bertini • Ketty Ballester • Sabrina Vitali •
Giada Amparan

The Russian Chamber Chorus of New York
Members of the Aquila Theater Company, in speaking roles.
Sung in French with supertitles in English