



Smithsonian Associates

Art Meets Music:
A Duet Between Visual Artists and Composers
with Rachel Franklin

Thursday, October 7, 2021 - 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. ET

Music and the visual arts have always walked hand-in-hand. For millennia, artists have obsessed about how to represent music's invisible beauty, just as composers have sought to render art's vibrant colors in pure sound. Join popular speaker and concert pianist **Rachel Franklin** for a fascinating exploration into the intimate relationship between the visible and invisible arts, and how music can literally bind the arts together.

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OCT 7 Chagall at the Opera: A Listener's Guide

"I wanted to represent, as in a mirror, a bunch of dreams, the creations of the actors and musicians; to keep in mind the colourful clothes of the audience stirring on the lower level. To sing like a bird, free of any theory and method. To render homage to the great composers of operas and ballets."

From the Paris Opéra Garnier to New York's Metropolitan Opera, the great Russian artist Marc Chagall created utterly unique murals, sets and costumes for opera houses and theaters worldwide that changed theatrical design forever. He was happy working on a massive scale, so these monumental projects were a natural fit for him. The larger the space, the more his extraordinary imagination could fill it. At the pinnacle of his musical world sat Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart for whom Chagall felt the deepest reverence and love. Not only did Chagall represent Mozart on his iconic ceiling for the Paris Opéra Garnier in 1964, but Mozart is one of the central symbols in his magnificent murals at the Metropolitan Opera in New York. It's fitting to enter this world of

enchantment through Mozart's masterpiece "The Magic Flute" for which Chagall also designed the stage sets and costumes for the Met's magical new production in 1966. The artist considered this work the greatest of all operas and famously said: "For me there is nothing on earth that approaches those two perfections, The Magic Flute and the Bible."

We will also marvel at the designs and costumes Chagall created for ballet productions of Maurice Ravel's "Daphnis and Chloe" and Igor Stravinsky's "Firebird."

Works explored, media used:

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

- The Magic Flute (Die Zauberflöte): Lucia Popp performing "*Der Hölle Rache kocht in meinem Herzen.*" (Hell's vengeance boils in my heart.) Philharmonia Orchestra, conductor Otto Klemperer, 1964.
- The Magic Flute: Detlef Roth and Gaële Le Roi performing "*Papagena ! Papagena ! & Halt ein! o Papageno, und sei klug*" Paris National Opera, 2001.
- The Magic Flute: Overture, Metropolitan Opera's 125th Gala Anniversary New York, conductor James Levine, 2009. Animation by 59 Productions, directed by Leo Warner and Mark Grimmer, lead animator Peter Stenhouse. Link: <https://vimeo.com/22123743>

Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971)

- The Firebird: New York City Ballet, choreography by Georges Balanchine. With Teresa Raichlen, 2011
- The Firebird: Kirov (Mariinsky) Ballet, choreography by Michael Fokine. With Diana Vishneva, 2002

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

- Daphnis et Chloé: Royal Ballet 2011, choreography by Frederick Ashton.