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Press Contact: Katy Salomon | Jensen Artists  
646.536.7864 | katy@jensenartists.com

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**Sony Masterworks Announces  
Soprano Sonya Yoncheva in Bartlett Sher's Metropolitan Opera  
Production of  
Verdi's *Otello* on BluRay and DVD**



**Available November 4, 2016**

**Sonya Yoncheva: [www.sonyayoncheva.com](http://www.sonyayoncheva.com)**

**Purchase on Amazon: <http://bit.ly/YonchevaOtello>**

Sony Classical is pleased to announce the release of *Verdi: Otello*, a production by Tony Award®-winning director Bartlett Sher featuring rising Metropolitan Opera star soprano Sonya Yoncheva as Desdemona, Otello's innocent wife and victim. The cast also includes tenor Aleksandrs Antonenko as the doomed Otello and Zeljko Lucic as the evil Iago, who masterminds Otello's demise. Both the Blu-ray and DVD include bonus material featuring rehearsal footage and interviews with Sonya Yoncheva, six-time Met director Bartlett Sher, Zeljko Lucic and Aleksandrs Antonenko. *The New York Times* writes, "Ms. Yoncheva is poised for a major career and this Desdemona shows why."

Sonya Yoncheva has become a permanent fixture on the most important stages of the world, including the Metropolitan Opera, Royal Opera House, Bayerische Staatsoper, Berlin State Opera, Wiener Staatsoper and the Opéra de Paris. Her spectacular portrayals of iconic roles have received tremendous acclaim from critics and audiences alike. Of her performances in *La traviata* at the Staatsoper Berlin, *Die Welt* proclaimed: "She is the finest Violetta since Maria Callas. The Bulgarian soprano Sonya Yoncheva is possibly the best Traviata in the world at present."

Sonya Yoncheva's wide-ranging repertoire includes jewels of the Baroque canon as well as works by Mozart, Verdi, Tchaikovsky, and Puccini. Celebrated for her distinctly beautiful voice and exceptional dramatic presence, Sonya is equally at home on the concert and recital stage, having performed to critical acclaim in several cities including Dresden, Baden-Baden, Verbier, and Prague.

Yoncheva will make her highly anticipated debut in the title role of Bellini's *Norma* at London's Royal Opera House, in a new production directed by Àlex Ollé of *La Fura dels Baus*; she also stars as Antonia in *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* at Covent Garden. Yoncheva sings Violetta in *La traviata* with Opéra de Paris and the Bayerische Staatsoper; Tatiana in

*Eugene Onegin* and Mimì in *La bohème* at the Deutsche Oper Berlin; will embark on a concert tour featuring Baroque repertoire which will later be highlighted on a Sony Classical album release; stars in the title role in Mascagni's *Iris* at the Montpellier Festival and *Manon* in Monte-Carlo; and sings the title role in Massenet's *Thaïs* at the Salzburg Festival, with Plácido Domingo as Athanaël.

Yoncheva also returns to The Metropolitan Opera as Violetta in *La traviata*, and is a featured artist at the Met's Gala Concert celebrating its 50th Anniversary at Lincoln Center. Sonya will sing the role of Vitellia in Mozart's *La Clemenza di Tito* at the Festspielhaus Baden-Baden, in the summer of 2017.

In addition to her star turn as Violetta, Yoncheva's 2015/16 season included celebrated performances as Desdemona in The Metropolitan Opera's season opening production of *Otello*; Micaëla (*Carmen*) at the Royal Opera House; Mimì (*La bohème*) at the Staatsoper Berlin; and the title role in *Iolanta* at Opéra de Paris, where she established herself as the "great reigning" interpreter of the role (*Opera-Online*). She was also a featured artist at the annual Adventskonzert in Dresden.

Other past performance highlights include several Metropolitan Opera appearances, featuring her debut as Gilda in *Rigoletto* and star turns as Mimì in *La bohème*, Violetta in *La traviata*, and Desdemona in *Otello*; Violetta at the Staatsoper Berlin, the Palau de les Arts Valencia, Monte Carlo, and the Bayerische Staatsoper; Marguerite in *Faust* at the Vienna Staatsoper, the Royal Opera House, and the Festspielhaus Baden-Baden; Léïla in *Les Pêcheurs de perles* for the Opéra Comique Paris; and the title roles in *Lucia di Lammermoor* and *Iolanta* for Opéra de Paris.

Sonya Yoncheva is an alumna of William Christie's Le Jardin des Voix and has maintained a special focus the Early and Baroque repertory. Past engagements have featured her in several iconic roles, including Phani/Zima (*Les Indes galantes*) and Dido (*Dido and Aeneas*) on tour with William Christie in Europe, Russia and the US; La Fortuna (*L'incoronazione di Poppea*) at the Glyndebourne Festival; Giunone (*Il ritorno d'Ulisse in patria*) at the Teatro Real; Cleopatra (*Giulio Cesare*) in Reims and Versailles; and Poppea (*L'incoronazione di Poppea*) and Poppea (*Agrippina*) in Lille and Dijon with conductor Emmanuelle Haim.

Born in 1981, soprano Sonya Yoncheva graduated with performance degrees in piano and voice in her hometown of Plovdiv, Bulgaria under the tutelage of Nelly Koitcheva. Sonya later obtained her master's degree in voice at the Conservatory of Geneva, studying with Danielle Borst. Yoncheva is also the winner of several renowned international competitions, including top prize and the special CultureArte prize at Plácido Domingo's Operalia competition (2010). She was honored as the Newcomer of the Year (Singer) at the 2015 ECHO Klassik Awards and received the Special Prize of the Les Amis du Festival for her performance of Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte*, at the Academy of Festival d'Aix-en-Provence (2007). Yoncheva has also been awarded several scholarships provided by several Swiss Foundations including "Mosetti" and "Hablitzel."

Sonya Yoncheva also is a first prizewinner of numerous competitions in her home country of Bulgaria: "Competition for Bulgarian Classical Music" in 2000 and "Competition for German and Austrian Classical Music" in 2001. Sonya and her brother Marin Yonchev were lauded as the Singers of the Year in the 2000 edition of the competition "Hit-1," produced by Bulgarian National Television. Ms. Yoncheva has collaborated with acclaimed popular artists including Sting and Elvis Costello, and she retains a keen interest in film music, which includes her past collaborations with famed composer Vladimir Cosma.

Sonya records exclusively for Sony Classical; her debut recording *Paris, mon amour* is nominated for a 2016 International Opera Award in the Best CD (Operatic Recital) category. She is a featured soloist on a new release of Handel's *Messiah* with the world-renowned Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Yoncheva is also a global ambassador for Rolex.

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