

*Boston Lyric Opera's 2018 – 2019 Season*



Boston Lyric Opera will create a new production of *The Handmaid's Tale* based on Margaret Atwood's novel, by Danish composer Poul Ruders. It premiered to great acclaim in 2010 in Copenhagen, Denmark, and subsequently played to sold out houses in London and Toronto. *USA Today* suggested that it "restores confidence in the possibility of contemporary opera as compelling theater," and *The New York Times* suggested that it is an opera "The Metropolitan Opera should be compelled to present." Instead, BLO will seize the opportunity to bring the opera – for the first time – to the location where the story actually takes place. It will be produced as a newly envisioned artistic installation work at The Ray Laviertes Basketball Pavilion at the Briggs Athletic Center at Harvard University. This large event will undoubtedly become a cultural highlight for our City.

This new BLO Production will be directed by prolific and award-winning stage director and author Anne Bogart. She will be joined by installation, video, and film designers. The opera will be conducted by BLO Music Director David Angus premiering the composer's new revised orchestration. Our stellar cast includes Jennifer Johnson Cano, international opera star Maria Zifchak, and Caroline Worra as well as 16 other featured soloists, and our large professional BLO Chorus and Orchestra.

Related city-wide community events are already being launched and we look forward to having Margaret Atwood join us for the festivities.

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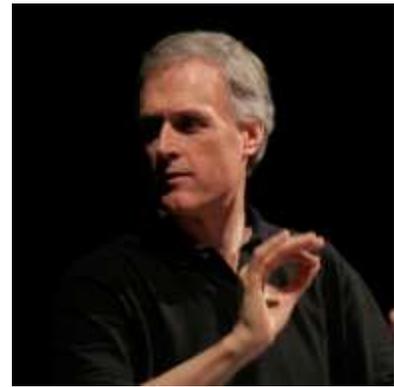
Synopsis: Set in the United States in the early 21st Century, the country is run by a theocratic Protestant fundamentalist dictatorship known as the Republic of Gilead. Political and religious dissidents live in daily fear of deportation to a gulag of labor camps or public execution. Offred, having been caught attempting to flee from Gilead, is sentenced to become a Handmaid - a surrogate mother for a high-ranking couple suffering from fertility problems. She makes contacts with the underground resistance and is smuggled on the underground railroad to Canada. At the end of the opera, it is learned that the tape on which her story is revealed was retold in a safe house within Gilead. The success or failure of her attempt to flee to Canada is therefore unknown.



Poul Ruders  
Composer



Anne Bogart  
Stage Director



David Angus  
Conductor



Jennifer Johnson Cano  
Offred



Maria Zifchak  
Serena Joy



Caroline Worra  
Aunt Lydia



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**"We slept in what had once been the gymnasium."**

— *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood

