

PINCHGUT OPERA  
PRESENTS

# MÉDÉE

BY CHARPENTIER



1 – 7 DECEMBER 2022  
CITY RECITAL HALL, SYDNEY

PINCHGUT OPERA

# Médée by Charpentier

MUSIC **Marc-Antoine Charpentier** (1643–1704)  
LIBRETTO **Thomas Corneille** (1625–1709)

Catherine Carby	Médée
Michael Petruccelli	Jason
Cathy-Di Zhang	Créuse
Andrew Finden	Oronte
Adrian Tamburini	Créon
Chloe Lankshear*	Nérine
Anna Fraser	Cléone
Brianna Louwen	Amour
Maia Andrews	Une Italienne
Louis Hurley†	Arcas / La Vengeance
Philip Barton	La Jalouise
Rhys James Hankey	Sons of Médée and Jason
Tom Hylkema	
Arvin Bhattacharya	Créon's Guards
Yusuf Nayir	
Casey Stevenson	
Jayden Yosh	

Cantillation Chorus

## Orchestra of the Antipodes

Conductor	Erin Helyard
Director	Justin Way
Designer	Charles Davis
Lighting Designer	Damien Cooper
Video Designer	David Bergman
Movement Director	Troy Honeysett



\* Chloe Lankshear is the Taryn Fiebig Scholar.

† Louis Hurley is the Humanity Foundation Taryn Fiebig Scholar.

1–7 December 2022

There will be an interval of 20 minutes at the end of Act Three.

The duration of the opera is approximately 3 hours.

Sung in French with English surtitles.

*Médée* is being recorded by ABC Classic for future broadcast. Any microphones you observe are for recording, not amplification.

**We wish to thank our incredible family of donors, whose support we deeply appreciate.**

# SYNOPSIS

## Act 1

Médée was the sorceress who helped Jason and his Argonauts find and steal the Golden Fleece. After helping Jason with this quest, Médée abandoned her home of Colchis to be with Jason, with whom she has had two sons.

Jason and Médée, pursued by the people of Thessaly because of Médée's actions, have sought refuge in Corinth. Médée is worried that Jason is growing distant from her. Jason claims he needs to win the good graces of the princess Créuse so her doting father, King Créon, will protect them. He suggests that Médée should give Créuse her beautiful robe as a present. After Médée leaves, Jason admits that he is really in love with Créuse but fears Médée's reaction. Créuse is due to be married to Oronte, prince of Argos, who now arrives in Corinth to help defend the city. King Créon suggests to Jason that he would prefer him as a son-in-law and appoints him to lead the combined Corinthian and Argive army to victory against the Thessalians.

## Act 2

Créon tells Médée that although he will not hand her over to her enemies, she must leave Corinth. Jason and his children, however, must stay. Médée protests that she only committed any crimes out of love for Jason, but Créon replies that the Corinthian people want her gone. Médée hands over her children to the care of Créuse. Créuse confesses her love to Jason. Oronte tries to woo Créuse, enlisting the aid of Cupid and an Italian woman who sing the praises of love, but to no avail.

## Act 3

Jason pleads with Médée that he is only acting in the best interests of their children. Left alone, Médée resolves to poison the robe she is to give to Créuse.

## INTERVAL

## Act 4

Jason admires Créuse in Médée's robe. Oronte finally realises that Créuse will marry Jason, not him. Médée vows that Créuse will never be Jason's bride. Créon arrives and is angered that Médée has not yet left Corinth. He orders his guards to seize her but she casts a spell to make them attack each other. After taunting Créon for being powerless to stop them, she conjures up spirits who seduce the guards away. Her magic power drives the king insane.

## Act 5

Médée considers taking her vengeance to an extreme by killing the children she has had with Jason. Créuse begs her to cure Créon's madness, even pledging to renounce all claim to Jason if she does so. News arrives of Créon's death. Créuse's poisoned robe bursts into flame. Créuse dies in Jason's arms. Jason swears revenge on Médée who tells him that she has executed their children. She vanishes into the sky, leaving the Corinthian palace in flames.

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we work and perform,  
the Gadigal people of the Eora nation – the first storytellers and singers of songs.  
We pay our respects to their elders past and present.

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