



## STREAMING THE FIRST CENTURY

### SESSION 1: Slavic Sensibilities

#### FEATURED CAST AND LIBRETTO EXCERPTS: *Khovanshchina*, 1984

San Francisco Opera premiere

### **KHOVANSHCINA**

(in Russian)

Music by Modest Mussorgsky

Libretto by the composer and Vladimir Stasov

Edited and orchestrated by Dmitri Shostakovich

War Memorial Opera House

November 1984 (Broadcast)

#### CAST

Dosifei	Gwynne Howell
Marfa	Helga Dernesch*
Prince Ivan Khovansky	Matti Salminen
Prince Andrei Khovansky	Dennis Bailey

Conductor	Gerd Albrecht
Production	Sonja Frisell

\*San Francisco Opera debut

**Clip 1:** Act I, Scene 6. Dosifei leads his followers, the old believers, in a prayer of renunciation and embrace of imminent martyrdom.

#### DOSIFEI

Brothers, I am troubled.  
Can we save our faith?  
Let us sing a hymn of world renunciation.

#### OLD BELIEVERS

All-powerful God,  
Do not give victory to the forces of evil,  
And save us from the powers of temptation.

DOSIFEI

Father, I open my heart to you.

OLD BELIEVERS

Our God! Blessed One!

Give us strength!

**Clip 2:** The old Believer Marfa pours water into a silver bowl and calls upon the spirits to reveal Prince Galitsyn's future. She sees him surrounded by traitors, ready to betray him.

MARFA

Will you speak to this noble prince,

Revealing the secret of his fate?

All is quiet and clear in the heavens.

All is flooded with a magic light.

The mysterious powers have heard my call.

Prince, the secret of your fate is revealed.

You are surrounded by faces with evil smiles,

Men known to you, pointing the way to oblivion.

The truth is clear!

**Clip 3:** The people call on Ivan Khovansky to lead them against the government's troops, but he implores them to follow the will of the Tsar.

IVAN KHOVANSKY

Why do you call to me,

As if danger threatens you?

GUARDS AND WOMEN

Tsar Peter's mercenaries are trying to kill us.

Lead us to battle!

KHOVANSKY

To battle?

Remember how we fought the enemy and saved Moscow?

Things are different now.

Tsar Peter is to be feared.

Go home and await the decision of fate.

Farewell!

**Clip 4:** The pyre is lit and the Old Believers commit themselves to the flames. Blissfully embracing death, Marfa recalls her love with Andrei, while the prince is terrified and calls out to his lover.

MARTHA AND OLD BELIEVERS

Lord, protect us!

Our faith is in the truth of God.

DOSIFEI AND OLD BELIEVERS

Nothing can deprive us of it.

MARFA

Remember this bright moment!

ANDREI KHOVANSKY

Oh, Emma. Emma!

DOSIFEI AND OLD BELIEVERS

Amen!