

## Press Release

Contact: Jane Livingston  
Head of Press, ENO  
+00 44 (0) 20 7845 9261  
[jlivingston@eno.org](mailto:jlivingston@eno.org)

Sommer Hixson  
Press Director, Metropolitan Opera  
+ 00 1 (212) 870-7457  
[shixson@metopera.org](mailto:shixson@metopera.org)

### **ENO and Metropolitan Opera to Collaborate on New Production of Philip Glass's *Satyagraha* with Innovative Theatre Company Improbable**

(London, 6 December 2006) – On the heels of the success of their first co-production, Puccini's *Madam Butterfly*, English National Opera (ENO) and the Metropolitan Opera announce that they will co-produce **Philip Glass's** *Satyagraha*. The new production is a collaboration with director Phelim McDermott and designer Julian Crouch, two of the three co-artistic directors of the visionary British theatre company, Improbable. It opens at ENO in April 2007 and at the Met in April 2008.

*Satyagraha*, written in 1980, is the second in Philip Glass's famous "portrait" trilogy, which includes *Einstein on the Beach* (1975) and *Akhmaten* (1983-84). *Satyagraha* is based on Mohandas K. Gandhi's formative years in South Africa, when he developed his philosophy of non-violent protest as a powerful force for change, the Sanskrit word *satyagraha* literally meaning "truth" and "firmness," or "force through truth."

Described by The Guardian as 'one of the most energising and provocative forces in British theatre', Improbable's work is highly imaginative and spontaneous and often involves animation in performance, as witnessed in their first production *70 Hill Lane* and the outdoor show *Sticky*. Phelim McDermott's and Julian Crouch's electrifying production of *Shockheaded Peter* enjoyed critically acclaimed runs in both London and New York City.

"With this co-production of Glass' masterpiece, *Satyagraha*, the Met's commitment to presenting important contemporary works on an on-going basis has been jump started," said **Peter Gelb**, General Manager of the Met. Previously, Mr. Gelb had announced plans to present a modern work every season, beginning in 08/09 with John Adams' *Doctor Atomic*.

Says ENO Artistic Director **John Berry**, "ENO is pleased to be continuing its close creative collaboration with the Metropolitan Opera on another adventurous new production. We are thrilled that Improbable have chosen to make their opera debut at ENO, and we welcome the return of Philip Glass to the company."

## Press Release

As part of their sponsorship of ENO's season, **Sky & Artsworld** are particularly keen to nurture productions that are inventive, contemporary and reach new audiences. This season they chose *Satyagraha* as the Sky Focus production, and it is made possible by their generous support. *Satyagraha* opens at the London Coliseum on **April 5, 2007**. The production will be presented by the Met in **April 2008**.

ENO and the Met created a sensation with their first co-production, Anthony Minghella's production of Puccini's *Madam Butterfly*, which played to sold-out houses in both theatres. It premiered first at ENO in 2005 and subsequently attracted huge attention when it opened the Met season in September 2006.

### Notes to Editors

- ENO staged the hugely successful British premiere of Glass's *Akhmaten* in 1985, revived 1987, and his *The Making of the Representative for Planet 8* in 1989 (co-production with Houston Grand Opera).
- ENO will give nine performances of *Satyagraha*: 5, 7, 13, 14, 21, 25, 26, 30 April; 1 May 2007.
- The Met commissioned Glass's *The Voyage* and gave its world premiere in 1992.
- *Satyagraha* opens at the Met on April 11, 2008.

### About ENO

ENO remains committed to creating new work for the stage with eclectic range of creative teams from the diverse worlds of opera, theatre, dance and film. With 18 new productions over two seasons, most of them originating at ENO, and two works by living composers during the present season, ENO continues to reach out to new audiences and introduce fresh and exciting talent to the art form.

### About the Met

The Met's co-production of *Satyagraha* with ENO is part of the company's larger initiative to commission new operas from contemporary composers, present modern masterpieces alongside the classic repertory, and provide a venue for artists to nurture their work, such as John Adams's *Doctor Atomic* (2008-09), John Corigliano's *The Ghosts of Versailles* (2009-2010), and Osvaldo Golijov's world-premiere opera in 2010-11. Earlier this year, The Met announced a groundbreaking commissioning program in partnership with New York's Lincoln Center Theater that provides renowned composers and playwrights with the resources to create and develop new works at the Met and Lincoln Center's Vivian Beaumont Theater.