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The Met Series

by Hans Harald Rath

Main chandelier at the Met Foyer (ø 600 cm)





The Met - beginning of an era

When the New York Metropolitan Opera opened on September 13th, 1966, the first applause went to the twelve chandeliers that rose towards the ceiling with the first curtain. On the opening night audience and journalists were startlingly impressed by Starburst Chandeliers from Vienna, a gift to the United States of America by the Republic of Austria out of gratitude for the European Recovery Program after World War II.

The design comes from the pencil of Hans Harald Rath, company owner of those days, who worked in close collaboration with the architect. The fixtures also were the first application of Crystals from Swarovski® in a large-scale chandelier project. Hans Harald Rath was the first ever to try Swarovski crystals for chandeliers 10 years earlier.

The inspiration to this design was supplied by the architect of the Met, Edward K. Harrisson who presented pictures of distant galaxies. As a first prototype to present the design the family myth reports of a potato with tooth picks. After 50 years this line is still our best seller. The foyer chandeliers visible from the distance soon became the landmark of the Met. This is the greatest praise for us.

Original design sketch by Hans Harald Rath, 1963
The Metropolitan Opera's iconic facade



Foyer chandeliers seen from the Grand Tier

Series 6725 Metropolitan Foyer

Visible through the great windows of the Met between the two monumental Chagalls the fixtures have the best showroom one could wish for. Not only opera goers stop in admiration looking into the foyer and at the magnificent chandeliers. It is no wonder this design is our single best selling line.

Hans Harald Rath, 1963
Brass, Swarovski and hand-cut crystal;
Nickel finish with black accents

6725-D-11: Ø: 60 cm, h: 40 cm; 9 kg; 11 lights, 660 max.W.

6725-L-13: Ø: 76 cm, h: 45 cm; 11 kg; 13 lights, 780 max.W.

6725-C-16: Ø: 85 cm, h: 48 cm; 16 kg; 16 lights, 960 max.W.

6725-L-16: Ø: 100 cm, h: 55 cm; 19 kg; 16 lights, 960 max.W.

6725-L-26: Ø: 130 cm, h: 65 cm; 40 kg; 26 lights, 1.560 max.W.

6725-L-30: Ø: 160 cm, h: 75 cm; 50 kg; 30 lights, 1.800 max.W.

6725-L-36: Ø: 180 cm, h: 90 cm; 75 kg; 36 lights, 2.160 max.W.

6725-L-16 with polished copper finish
6725-L-30 with polished brass finish
6725-L-13 with all-nickel finish



Chandelier 6725-L-16 Foyer in original finish

Series 6660 Metropolitan Auditorium

This type of the Metropolitan Chandelier literally gilds the opera's auditorium. Hidden there from the casual stroller these chandeliers are a hidden classic. It was them the audience dedicated the first applause when the chandeliers rose before the opening performance in 1966.

Hans Harald Rath, 1963
Brass, Swarovski and hand-cut crystal;
Polished brass with black accents

6660-D-11: Ø: 60 cm, h: 40 cm; 9 kg; 11 lights, 660 max.W.

6660-L-13: Ø: 76 cm, h: 45 cm; 11 kg; 13 lights, 780 max.W.

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6660-L-36: Ø: 180 cm, h: 90 cm; 75 kg; 36 lights, 2.160 max.W.

6660-D-11 with all-nickel finish
6660-D-11 with nickel finish and red central sphere



Chandelier 6660-L-16 Auditorium in original finish

Metropolitan
Wall Sconce 6675-W-3
Hans Harald Rath, 1963

W.: 20 cm, H.: 40 cm
P.: 8 cm; Wt.: 3 kg
3 lights; max. W.: 180
Brass, hand cut crystal;
Nickel finish



Wall Sconces

The Metropolitan line is accompanied by a selection of sconces. Some of those are very similar to their models, some are very different. Others combine the different aspects in interesting ways...

Fingers
Wall Sconce 6865-W-3
Hans Harald Rath, 1968

W.: 38 cm, H.: 30 cm
P.: 7 cm; Wt.: 3 kg
3 lights; max. W.: 180
Brass, Swarovski crystal;
Nickel finish



Metropolitan
Wall Sconce 6675-W-3
Hans Harald Rath, 1963

W.: 13 cm, H.: 40 cm
P.: 8 cm; Wt.: 2,5 kg
3 lights; max. W.: 180
Brass, hand cut crystal;
Nickel finish

Donhauser
Wall Sconce 6867-W-2
Page Donhauser, 1968

W.: 23 cm, H.: 30 cm
P.: 18 cm; Wt.: 3 kg
2 lights; max. W.: 120
Brass, Swarovski and hand cut crystal;
Nickel finish



Sputnik
Wall Sconce 6869-W-3
Peter Rath, 1969

W.: 25 cm, H.: 38 cm
P.: 15 cm; Wt.: 3 kg
3 lights; max. W.: 180
Brass, Swarovski crystal;
Nickel finish



Embassy
Wall Sconce 6719-W-3
Ceno Kosak, 1966

W.: 20 cm, H.: 40 cm
P.: 10 cm; Wt.: 4 kg
3 lights; max. W.: 180
Brass, Swarovski and hand cut crystal;
Nickel finish



Brilliant
Wall Sconce 6878-W-1
Lobmeyr, circa 1970

W.: 30 cm, H.: 50 cm
P.: 20 cm; Wt.: 6 kg
1 light; max. W.: 60
Brass, Swarovski crystal;
Polished



6725-L-36 and 6867-W-4 in french gold finish
in the library of Hotel Vier Jahreszeiten in Hamburg

Lights of Vienna
Candle Stick 6776-A-2
Hans Harald Rath, 1967

Lx W.: 17 x 8 cm, H.: 17 cm
Wt.: 1,5 kg
2 wax candles
Brass, Swarovski crystal;
Nickel finish



Candle sticks and Standing lamps

The signature series of candle sticks are among the last works directly from the hand of H. H. Rath. The other lighting objects in the wake of the Met offer a wide freedom for the interior designer to create stunning spaces.

Lights of Vienna
Candle Stick 6776-A (B/C)-1
Hans Harald Rath, 1967

W.: 8 cm, H.: 11,13,17 cm
Wt.: 1 kg
1 wax candles
Brass, Swarovski crystal; Nickel finish



Lights of Vienna
Candle Stick 6778-M-5
Lobmeyr, 2002

Dia.: 34 cm, H.: 44 cm
Wt.: 2 kg
5 wax candles
Brass, Swarovski crystal;
Nickel finish



Mini-Sputnik
Pendant Lamp 42470-6
Lobmeyr, 2009

Dia.: 30 cm spherical
Wt.: 1 kg
6 x 12V G4; max. W.: 60
Wood, Steel, Swarovski crystal;
Black finish



Starburst
Table Lamp 42330-4
Johannes Rath, 2000

Dia.: 50 cm, H.: 60 cm
Wt.: 7 kg
4 x E14; max. W.: 240
Brass, Swarovski and hand cut
crystal; Nickel finish



Mini-Sputnik
Pendant Lamp 42470-9
Lobmeyr, 2009

Dia.: 40 cm spherical
Wt.: 1 kg
9 x 12V G4; max. W.: 90
Brass, Steel, Swarovski crystal;
Black finish



Sputnik
Floor Lamp 7077-7
Peter Rath, 1974

Dia.: 48 cm, H.: 160 cm
Wt.: 20 kg
7 candles; max. W.: 420
Brass, Swarovski crystal;
Nickel finish



42470-9 Mini-Sputnik in a Wittmann showflat ensemble
Photo: Gregor Titze

Donhauser
Chandelier 6867-B-12
Page Donhauser, 1968



L x W.: 85 x 53 cm, H.: 38 cm
Wt.: 9 kg
12 x E14; max. W.: 720
Brass, Swarovski and hand cut crystal;
Nickel finish

More fixtures from the Seventies

The years after the grand Metropolitan project saw a great deal of innovation building on the new aesthetics established with the Metropolitan Opera chandeliers...

Embassy
Chandelier 6719-A-12
Ceno Kosak, 1966

Dia.: 42 cm, H.: 56 cm
Wt.: 10 kg
12 x E14; max. W.: 720
Brass, Swarovski and hand cut crystal;
Nickel finish



Brilliant
Pendant Lamp 6878-4
Lobmeyr, circa 1970

Dia.: 44 cm, H.: 50 cm
Wt.: 10 kg
4 lights; max. W.: 240
Swarovski crystal;
Polished



Daria M
42592-12
Lobmeyr, circa 1970

Dia.: 60 cm H.: 68 cm ca.
Wt.: 35 kg
12 x E14 lights; max. W.: 720
Brass, hand cut crystal;
Nickel finish



United Nations
Ceiling Fixture 7079-4
Carlo Mang, 1973

Dia.: 30 cm, H.: 10 cm
Wt.: 5 kg
4 lights; max. W.: 240
Brass, hand cut crystal;
Nickel finish



Paris Hilton
Chandelier 6709-22
Hans Harald Rath, 1965

L x W.: 180 x 75 cm, H.: 200 cm
Wt.: 80 kg
22 x E14; max. W.: 1320
Brass, Swarovski and hand cut crystal;
Nickel finish



Fingers
Chandelier 6865-20
Johannes Rath, 2012

Dia.: 102 cm, H.: 36 cm
Wt.: 60 kg
20 lights; max. W.: 1200
Brass, Swarovski crystal;
Nickel finish



6660-L-16 Auditorium chandelier in a living room in Vienna
Photo: Konrad Limbeck



The Making of ...

The designs of the 60ies and 70ies breathe the air of the early space age in their futuristic appearance. Still the manufacture is far from rocket science but relies strongly on the skill of our craftsmen and the application of traditional techniques. It is this contrast between modernism and tradition that makes this design stand out and helped to establish it as an icon of the 20th century.

Our policy of manufacturing to order enables us to fully exploit the versatility of the Metropolitan design. The modular set-up makes it easy to scale the chandelier to any size to match it to the intended room retaining the splendour of the original idea. It further lets us also alter the proportions, like a stretched version over a long table. We also like to offer it in many different finishes to create a unique look.

this page:
Central spheres as raw brass cast
Soldering of individual rays

right page, from left to right:
Wiring in the hollow sphere
Confectioning of the Sputnik's spokes
Assembling of a Sputnik
Arranging the Sputniks on the chandelier





Lobmeyr master craftsman dismantling Foyer
main chandelier during restoration 2008
Photo: Piotr Redlinski

