



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 6PM WEDNESDAY 13 APRIL

OPERA AND MUSIC 2011/12 SEASON

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THE ROYAL OPERA

In the run-up to London 2012, the Royal Opera's 2011/12 Season chimes in with the London Olympic and Paralympic aims of pursuing excellence and achievement, presenting a fully international, world-class programme including a clutch of cycles reflecting the interlocking circles of the Olympic symbol. These include a cycle of the three **Mozart/Da Ponte** comedies; Berlioz's rarely staged epic *Les Troyens*, set at the close and in the aftermath of the Trojan War; and Puccini's *Il trittico*, a cycle of three one-act operas. In addition, the fortieth anniversary of the Royal Opera debut of **Plácido Domingo** is celebrated with a special evening bringing together acts from three operas significant in his career, and two of **Verdi's** Shakespearean operas are performed in close proximity at the end of the Season, including a new production of *Falstaff*.

ROH2 SEASON OVERVIEW

In a varied and imaginative Season, ROH2 commissions and produces several high-profile productions; invites guest and partner companies to bring new and innovative work to the Royal Opera House; and creates innovative platforms for emerging composers creating new work through the Opera Development programme.

THE ROYAL OPERA: NEW PRODUCTIONS

IL TRITTICO

12 September 2011

The Royal Opera's first complete production since 1965 of **Puccini's** 'Triptych' of one-act operas opens the Season. **Puccini's** late work, which received its premiere at the Metropolitan Opera, New York, in 1918, represented a new departure in comprising three short individual operas designed to offer maximum contrast when performed together on one evening: the dark realistic thriller *Il tabarro* (The

Cloak), the personal tragedy and miraculous redemption in the convent-based *Suor Angelica*, and the mordant comedy of *Gianni Schicchi*. Conducted by Music Director **Antonio Pappano** and directed by **Richard Jones**, *Gianni Schicchi* was a major hit when presented in 2007. Now Jones and Pappano return to complete *Il trittico* by adding the remaining two panels, with German soprano **Anja Harteros**, Dutch soprano **Eva-Maria Westbroek**, Italian baritone **Lucio Gallo** and Latvian tenor **Aleksandrs Antonenko** in leading roles.

RUSALKA

27 February 2012

Fully staged for the first time at the Royal Opera House, **Dvořák's** *Rusalka* has been a mainstay of the Czech national tradition ever since its premiere in Prague in 1901, and has increasingly entered the international repertory in recent years. Deriving from local folk stories reworked into literary classics by the romantic writers **Friedrich de la Motte Fouqué** and **Hans Christian Andersen**, *Rusalka* tells the tragic story of a water nymph who longs to become human and experience true love, and who pays a terrible price. Previously performed at the Royal Opera House in concert in 2003, Dvořák's 'lyric fairytale' is seen at Covent Garden in a radical interpretation by **Jossi Wieler** and **Sergio Morabito**, acclaimed at the Salzburg Festival in 2008. Finnish soprano **Camilla Nylund** sings the title role, with American tenor **Bryan Hymel** as the Prince, American bass-baritone **Alan Held** as her father and Polish mezzo **Agnes Zwierno** as the witch Ježibaba. Canadian rising star **Yannick Nézet-Séguin** makes his Royal Opera debut conducting Dvořák's glamorous late Romantic score.

MISS FORTUNE: UK PREMIERE

12 March 2012

A major event of the Season is the UK premiere of a new opera by **Judith Weir**, co-commissioned by The Royal Opera and the Bregenz Festival, where it receives its world premiere in July 2011. Born in Scotland in 1954, and raised in London, Weir has long shown an interest in creating original, individual and accessible additions to the operatic medium, with such previous successes to her name as *A Night at the Chinese Opera* (1987), *The Vanishing Bridegroom* (staged by Scottish Opera at Covent Garden in 1990), *Blond Eckbert* (1993) and *Armida* (Channel 4,

2005). Her latest work is her own retelling of an old Sicilian folktale that concerns Tina, daughter of Lord and Lady Fortune, whose loss of their family wealth leads to hardship, suffering and a crucial meeting with Fate. As in Bregenz, the UK premiere production is directed by the Chinese-born theatre, opera and film director **Shi-Zheng Chen** whose spectacular staging of **Damon Albarn's** *Monkey: Journey to the West* came to Covent Garden in 2008. Leading the cast are UK soprano **Emma Bell** and South African baritone **Jacques Imbrailo**, with former ENO Music Director **Paul Daniel** conducting.

FALSTAFF

15 May 2012

Verdi's final masterpiece receives a new production directed by the Canadian director **Robert Carsen** and conducted by the Italian maestro **Daniele Gatti**. The cast is led by an internationally acclaimed exponent of the title role, Italian baritone **Ambrogio Maestri**, with Puerto Rican soprano **Ana María Martínez** as Alice Ford, Slovak baritone **Dalibor Jenis** as Ford, Canadian contralto **Marie-Nicole Lemieux** as Mistress Quickly, and American soprano **Amanda Forsythe** and Spanish-born tenor **Joel Prieto** as the young lovers, Nannetta and Fenton.

LES TROYENS

25 June 2012

Hector Berlioz's rarely performed operatic epic *Les Troyens* (The Trojans) returns to the stage of the Royal Opera House for its first complete performances since 1972. **David McVicar** directs this major work in a renewal of his collaboration with Music Director **Antonio Pappano**. Composed in 1856-8, *The Trojans* was Berlioz's most ambitious score, only partially performed during his lifetime. Previous Royal Opera productions in 1957 and 1969 have represented crucial moments in the work's belated recognition as one of the greatest achievements of 19th-century opera. The production is strongly cast, with German tenor **Jonas Kaufmann** as Enée (Aeneas), the Italian **Anna Caterina Antonacci** as Cassandre and Dutch soprano **Eva-Maria Westbroek** as Didon.

ROH2

HEART OF DARKNESS

ROH2: World premiere: November

A co-production between ROH2 and **Opera East**, originally commissioned and developed through ROH2's OperaGenesis programme, *Heart of Darkness* is the first opera by the acclaimed British composer **Tarik O'Regan**, working in collaboration with the artist, composer and librettist **Tom Phillips** and based on the famous novella by **Joseph Conrad** (1902) that also provided the source for the 1979 Francis Ford Coppola film *Apocalypse Now*. A former member of the Young Artists' Programme, Opera East's Artistic Director **Oliver Gooch** conducts.

OPERA EXPOSURE

ROH2: World premiere: November

A showcase of operas and short new dance works in progress, highlighting emerging visiting companies to the venue, *Opera Exposure* will also feature the latest in ROH2's ongoing programme *OperaShots* – initiatives that develop work ranging from observer programmes through courses and workshops to full-scale commissions – with the world premiere of the opera *Yes* by playwright **Bonnie Greer** and composer **Errollyn Wallen**. The work is based on **Bonnie Greer's** experiences leading up to her appearance on the BBC's 'Question Time' programme in which one of her fellow panellists was BNP leader **Nick Griffin**.

OPERASHOTS

ROH2: April

ROH2 explores the new directions opera might take in the 21st century by inviting composers and writers from other fields to break the mould and take a brand new shot at opera. Lasting about half an hour each, *OperaShots* is short, sharp and experimental, and offers a new angle on opera, for both experienced opera lovers and opera virgins. This is the third year of *OperaShots*, with new commissions from **Scott Walker**, **Graham Fitkin** and **Neil Hannon**.

SUM

ROH2: World premiere: May

Commissioned by ROH2, and based on the cult book *Sum: Forty Tales of the Afterlife* by American neuroscientist **David Eagleman**, a new chamber opera by the German-born, British composer **Max Richter** layers music, film and performance to conjure up a possible vision of our journey after death, populated by computers, suburban anterooms and mind-stretching scenarios. Renowned choreographer **Wayne McGregor** directs, further developing his exploration of the fields of neuroscience and creativity.

THE LION'S FACE

ROH2: March

Given its premiere by **The Opera Group** in May 2010 at the Brighton Festival and seen at the Linbury Studio Theatre in July of that year, the opera by **Elena Langer** and **Glyn Maxwell** about Alzheimer's disease returns in a revival of the enthusiastically received production by **John Fulljames**.

THE ROYAL OPERA: REVIVALS

In addition to the UK premiere of *Miss Fortune* and four other new productions, The Royal Opera's 2011/12 Season includes 13 major revivals.

A complete cycle of the three Mozart/Da Ponte comedies: *Don Giovanni* (21 January), *Così fan tutte* (27 January) and *Le nozze di Figaro* (11 February). *Don Giovanni* returns in a production by **Francesca Zambello** conducted by **Constantinos Carydis**, with two starry casts led by Canadian baritone **Gerald Finley** and Uruguayan bass **Erwin Schrott** as the legendary seducer. Former Royal Opera Music Director **Colin Davis** takes the baton for *Così fan tutte* in the popular staging by **Jonathan Miller**, with a cast featuring Swedish soprano **Malin Byström**, American tenor **Charles Castronovo**, British soprano **Rosemary Joshua** and British baritone **Thomas Allen**, and debutant **Nikolay Borchev**, born in Belarus. The acclaimed production of *Le nozze di Figaro* by **David McVicar** is conducted by **Antonio Pappano**, with British baritone **Simon**

Keenlyside, Polish soprano **Aleksandra Kurzak**, British soprano **Kate Royal** and Italian bass **Ildebrando D’Arcangelo** in the main roles.

Two major Wagner productions: *Der fliegende Holländer* (18 October) and *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* (19 December). British conductor **Jeffrey Tate** makes a welcome return to lead *Der fliegende Holländer* in the acclaimed staging by **Tim Albery**, with a largely German-born cast featuring soprano **Anja Kampe**, tenor **Endrik Wottrich**, bass-baritone **Falk Struckmann** and Danish bass **Stephen Milling**. The iconic staging of *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* by **Graham Vick** is conducted by **Antonio Pappano** with an all-star cast led by German baritone **Wolfgang Koch** in his Royal Opera debut as Hans Sachs, New Zealand tenor **Simon O’Neill** as Walther, Australian baritone **Peter Coleman-Wright** as Sixtus Beckmesser, and British artists soprano **Emma Bell** as Eva, tenor **Toby Spence** as David and bass **John Tomlinson** as Veit Pogner.

Following on from the new production of *Falstaff*, a revival of Verdi’s *Otello* closes the season (12 July). **Antonio Pappano** conducts the long-running production by **Elijah Moshinsky** with **Aleksandrs Antonenko**, **Anja Harteros** and **Lucio Gallo** in the principal roles.

In addition to the new productions of *Il tritico* and *Les Troyens* and the **Plácido Domingo** celebration, Music Director **Antonio Pappano** leads three of the revivals: *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* (19 December), *Le nozze di Figaro* (11 February) and *Otello* (12 July).

One of The Royal Opera’s most popular stagings, the production of *La traviata* by **Richard Eyre** returns with a series of exciting casts. The first cast (30 September) offers Russian soprano **Marina Poplavskaya**, American tenor **James Valenti** and Italian baritone **Leo Nucci** in the central roles. The second (25 November) features American soprano **Ailyn Pérez**, Polish tenor **Piotr Beczala** and British baritone **Simon Keenlyside** in the lead roles. In the third (2 January) the soprano role of Violetta is shared between Albanian **Ermonela Jaho** and Russian **Anna Netrebko**; the tenor role of Alfredo between American **Stephen Costello** and Italian **Vittorio Grigolo**; Italian baritone **Paolo Gavanelli** sings Giorgio Germont.

The remaining revivals are *Faust* (18 September), with **Angela Gheorghiu** (sharing the role of Marguerite with **Malin Byström**), **Vittorio Grigolo** (who makes three appearances this season), **Dmitri Hvorostovsky** (sharing the role of Valentin with **ZhengZhong Zhou**) and **René Pape**; *La sonnambula* (2 November), starring **Eglise Gutiérrez** and Royal Opera debutant Spanish tenor **Celso Albelo**; *Rigoletto* (30 March), conducted by **John Eliot Gardiner**, with **Ekaterina Siurina**, **Vittorio Grigolo** and Royal Opera debutant Greek baritone **Dimitri Platanias**; *La Fille du régiment* (19 April), with **Patrizia Ciofi** and **Colin Lee** in the leading roles; *La bohème* (April 28), conducted by **Semyon Bychkov**, and with **Anja Harteros** sharing the role of Mimì with **Barbara Frittoli** opposite **Joseph Calleja** and **Roberto Alagna** respectively; and *Salome* (31 May), conducted by **Andris Nelsons**, with **Angela Denoke**, **Egils Silins**, **Stig Andersen** and **Rosalind Plowright** in the principal roles.

JETTE PARKER YOUNG ARTISTS 2011/12

Five singers will join the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme in September 2011 - Portuguese soprano **Susana Gaspar**, Lithuanian mezzo-soprano **Justina Gringyte**, Polish mezzo-soprano **Hanna Hipp**, Argentinean tenor **Pablo Bensch** and Korean bass **Jihoon Kim** - as well as a new stage director, Portuguese director **Pedro Ribeiro**.

The six new Young Artists will join the eight who continue on the Programme into their second year next season: sopranos **Anna Devin** and **Madeleine Pierard**, tenor **Ji Hyun Kim**, baritone **ZhengZhong Zhou** and bass-baritone **Daniel Grice**, conductor **Geoffrey Paterson**, conductor /répétiteur **Volker Krafft** and répétiteur **Jean-Paul Pruna**

Six Young Artists leave the Programme after the summer performance on **19 July 2011**: soprano **Elisabeth Meister**, mezzo-soprano **Kai Ruütel**, tenor **Steven Ebel**, baritone **Dawid Kimberg** and bass **Lukas Jakobski** complete their two year contract and **Rodula Gaitanou** completes her one-year contract as stage director. Future engagements for these artists include: for

Elisabeth Meister the title role in *Aida* for Teatro Municipal di Santiago, for Kai Ruütel the role of Meg Page in *Falstaff* for The Royal Opera, for Steven Ebel the recording of a new opera in New York, for Dawid Kimberg, Dr Falke *Die Fledermaus* at the Bol'shoy, for Lukas Jakobski, Pistola in *Falstaff* for The Royal Opera and for Rodula Gaitanou, directing *Carmen* for London's Little Opera at King's Head.

Next Season's 'Meet the Young Artists Week' will be held between 17 – 22 October 2011 and the staged production will be a double bill of Berlioz *Les Nuits d'été* and Massenet's *Le Portrait de Manon*, with **Volker Krafft** and **Geoffrey Paterson** conducting Southbank Sinfonia. The week will also include recitals and the popular Juke Box. All of the Young Artists can be seen throughout the 2011/12 Season in the 1pm Monday lunchtime recital series, mainly accompanied by the Programme's Artistic Director **David Gowland**.

In addition the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme will present *Il viaggio a Reims* as its 10th Anniversary summer performance on 19 July 2012. The cast will feature many former Young Artists including **Marina Poplavskaya**, **Ailish Tynan**, **Edgaras Montvidas**, **Ji-Min Park**, **Jacques Imbrailo**, **Kostas Smoriginas** and **Matthew Rose**.

FESTIVALS

DELOITTE IGNITE 2-4 SEPTEMBER

The fourth ROH **Deloitte Ignite** will be curated by world renowned film director and jazz musician **Mike Figgis**, and will once again run across the first weekend of September, colonizing the wonderful public and performance spaces of the ROH with a range of debates from international practitioners as well as performances, films and concerts. With opportunities to take part in extended durational and interactive events, as well as appearances from internationally renowned artists, Figgis's curatorial

approach is anticipated to be fresh and challenging and explores the theme of 'telling the truth'.

EXHIBITIONS FROM THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE COLLECTIONS

A TRIBUTE TO JOAN SUTHERLAND

ROH: September 2011-May 2012

The opening exhibition pays tribute to legendary soprano **Joan Sutherland**, who began her professional career at the Royal Opera House and died in October 2010. The exhibition will include a photographic overview of her career at the Royal Opera House from 1952 until 1990.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE

ROH: June 2012-July 2012

This Spotlight exhibition is part of the countrywide celebrations to mark the Diamond Jubilee of **Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II**. It brings together photographs and programmes from Royal Opera House collections illustrating her long association with the Royal Opera House.

EDUCATION PROJECTS AT THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

YOUTH OPERA COMPANY

ROH: July 2012

For the very first time, the children from the **Youth Opera Company** will come together with the children from the **Chance to Dance** programme and young people from the **On the Road** programme in a new work on the ROH main stage as one in a series of special performances in the lead-up to the Olympic Games.

FANFARE

ROH: Spring 2012

The Royal Opera House's **Fanfare** project encourages 11 to 16 year olds to become composers. It has been hugely well received by both teachers and students, and in its first two years well over 500 original fanfares have been submitted for an annual competition. Winning young composers work with the Royal Opera House to prepare their music to be performed and recorded by the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House; the fanfares are then played at every Royal Opera House performance to alert the audience to take their seats.

THURROCK COMMUNITY CHORUS

THURROCK: 21 March, 28 March, 3 April 13 July

The Purfleet Opera: *Ludd and Isis*, opened the Royal Opera House's **Bob and Tamar Manoukian Production Workshop** in December 2010. Over 1000 local people were involved in the creation of this new commission, working with a core team of Royal Opera House artists. 200 local people performed in the opera itself alongside principal opera singers and dancers for six sell out nights. Due to the huge success of this production we launched the **Thurrock Community Chorus** as a long term project. Original members of the opera's cast will join with new recruits from the local community to work towards several performances throughout the year. These will include a debut at the **Water City Festival** and a performance on the **High House Production Park** in July as part of the **Thurrock International Celebration of Culture**.

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PRODUCTION PHOTOGRAPHS

For production photographs, please use our FTP service. Select the relevant login details below. Navigate to the correct folder to download images of your choice. Images should only be used for press purposes.

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