



ROYAL
OPERA

3 MAY 2016

CAST AMENDMENT

NORMA (Vincenzo Bellini)

12, 16, 20, 23, 26 September; 1, 4 and 8 October 2016

Following the announcement last week that Russian soprano **Anna Netrebko** has withdrawn from *Norma*, the role will now be sung by Bulgarian soprano **Sonya Yoncheva**.

Director of Opera **Kasper Holten** expressed his gratitude to the Metropolitan Opera, New York: 'A huge thank you to the Metropolitan Opera for releasing the brilliant soprano Sonya Yoncheva from her scheduled performances there as Mimì in *La bohème*. They have announced today that Ailyn Pérez will sing Mimì for them in the autumn. We are delighted and appreciative that Sonya will be able to join our excellent cast and creative team for The Royal Opera's new production of *Norma*. She has had much success at the Royal Opera House in recent Seasons and we look forward to welcoming her back in the autumn for *Norma* and as Antonia in *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*.'

Sonya Yoncheva made her Royal Opera debut in Plácido Domingo's Operalia Winners' concert in July 2012. She has subsequently sung Musetta (*La bohème*), Marguerite (*Faust*), Violetta Valéry (*La traviata*) and Micaëla (*Carmen*) for the Company. Her other recent engagements include Desdemona (*Otello*) for the Metropolitan Opera, New York, the title role in *Iolanta* for Opéra National de Paris, and Mimì (*La bohème*) and Violetta Valéry (*La traviata*) for Berlin State Opera.

The rest of the cast remains unchanged, with Maltese tenor **Joseph Calleja** as Pollione, Italian mezzo-soprano **Sonia Ganassi** as Adalgisa, British bass **Brindley Sherratt** as Oroveso, Korean tenor and Jette Parker Young Artist **David Junghoon Kim** as Flavio and Russian soprano and Jette Parker Young Artist **Vlada Borovko** as Clotilde. Music Director of The Royal Opera **Antonio Pappano** conducts all performances.

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