



ROYAL  
OPERA  
HOUSE

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**OPERA & MUSIC | AUTUMN 2013**

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## THE ROYAL OPERA

### DELOITTE IGNITE 2013

Verdi / Wagner curated by Stephen Fry and The Royal Opera

Friday 6 – Sunday 29 September 2013

Contemporary arts festival *Deloitte Ignite* returns for its sixth year curated for the first time by **Stephen Fry**, actor, writer, comedian, television presenter and lifelong Wagner fan, alongside The Royal Opera. *Deloitte Ignite* this year explores the work and creativity of Verdi and Wagner celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of their birth with a range of events from a unique installation in Covent Garden Piazza by **Es Devlin**, to a one-man show by **Simon Callow**, to live radio broadcasts and choral work.

This year's *Deloitte Ignite* also marks the start of a new five year partnership between Deloitte and the Royal Opera House building on the success of the previous five *Deloitte Ignite* festivals. *Deloitte Ignite 2013* also extends over four weekends rather than just one, with both free and ticketed events.

**Es Devlin**, designer of the London 2012 Closing Ceremony, *Take That's Progress Live* tour amongst many other rock/pop, opera, dance and stage shows, has created a unique installation offering an intriguing introduction to *The Ring Cycle* by **Richard Wagner** which will be displayed in Covent Garden Piazza throughout September. It's an interactive sculpture creating an immersive experience using behind the scenes footage taken on 21 separate cameras from a performance of Act III from *Die Walküre* at the Royal Opera House in 2012. Working in partnership with Capital & Counties Properties PLC (Capco), the sculpture will also be lit at night, continuing to be a visual spectacle nestled in the shadow of the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden's iconic Piazza.

Eminent writer, director and actor **Simon Callow** will write and star in a new one-man show commissioned especially for this year's festival. *Inside Wagner's Head* sees Simon Callow portraying the composer **Richard Wagner** in the style of his previous one man shows based on the lives of **Charles Dickens** and **William Shakespeare**. **Simon Stokes** directs with designs by **Robin Don**. Performances will be in the Linbury Studio Theatre throughout September. Tickets are £25.

# ***TURANDOT***

**Giacomo Puccini**

**CAST A: 9, 12, 17, 19, 24 September at 7.30pm**

**14, 28 September at 7pm**

**21 September at 12 noon**

**CAST B: 17, 20, 25, 28 February 4, 7, 10 March at 7.30pm**

- **Generous philanthropic support from the Royal Opera House Endowment Fund.**

**Andrei Serban's** production of *Turandot*, first seen at Covent Garden in 1984, remains one of the most popular in The Royal Opera repertory and returns for its 16th revival. Puccini's final opera tells the dark, erotic tale of Prince Calaf's bold attempts to capture Princess Turandot's heart – or die in the attempt.

Designs are by **Sally Jacobs** with lighting by **F. Mitchell Dana**. Original choreography is by **Kate Flatt**.

## **CAST A**

Hungarian conductor **Henrik Nánási** makes his debut with The Royal Opera. He regularly appears in the Italian repertory at the Semperoper Dresden – including in Puccini's *La bohème* and *Madama Butterfly*. He has previously worked at The Royal Opera as Antonio Pappano's musical assistant. He conducts all performances of the autumn revival.

Singing the title role is American soprano **Lise Lindstrom**, who makes her Royal Opera debut this September. She has previously sung the role of Turandot worldwide – most recently with Dallas Opera, Arena Verona, Chorégies d'Orange and Theater Wiesbaden. Her other recent performances include Senta (*Der fliegende Holländer*) in Warsaw and Brünnhilde (*Die Walküre*) in Palermo.

Italian tenor **Marco Berti** returns to The Royal Opera to sing Calaf for the first time. He most recently sang Calaf for the Metropolitan Opera, New York, and in San Francisco. With The Royal Opera, he has sung Pinkerton (*Madama Butterfly*), Manrico (*Il trovatore*), Macduff (*Macbeth*), and Don José (*Carmen*).

Singing the role of Liù is Japanese soprano **Eri Nakamura**, a former member of the Jette Parker Young Artist Programme. For The Royal Opera she has sung roles including Musetta (*La bohème*), Frasquita (*Carmen*), Giannetta (*L'elisir d'amore*), and Susanna (*Le nozze di Figaro*). She has previously sung Liù in Munich and for Opera Oviedo. Other recent appearances include Adina (*L'elisir d'amore*) for Bavarian State Opera in Munich.

American bass **Raymond Aceto** sings Timur for the first time with The Royal Opera, having previously sung the role with San Francisco Opera in 2011. His first performances with The Royal Opera were as Don Basilio (*Il barbiere di Siviglia*) in 2005, conducted by Mark Elder. He has since sung Sparafucile (*Rigoletto*), Ferrando (*Il trovatore*) and Nourrabad (*Les Pêcheurs de perles*).

Greek baritone **Dionysios Sourbis** makes his Royal Opera debut singing the role of Ping. He has recently sung Ford (*Falstaff*) at the Teatro Comunale di Treviso in Italy and Marcello (*La bohème*) at the Teatro La Fenice, Venice.

Making his role debut as Pang for The Royal Opera is current Jette Parker Young Artist British tenor **David Butt Philip**. His 2012/13 roles with the Company were Bastien (*Bastien und Bastienne*), First Chevalier/Master of Ceremonies (*Robert le diable*), Abdallo (*Nabucco*), First Man in Armour (*Die Zauberflöte*) and Master of Ceremonies (*Gloriana*). During The 2013/2014 Season his other roles include Gastone de Letorières (*La traviata*) and First Commissary (*Dialogues des Carmélites*).

Making his role debut with The Royal Opera in the role of Pong is American tenor **Doug Jones**. He first sang with The Royal Opera in 2003 as Tobias Ragg (*Sweeney Todd*). He recently made his debut with Pittsburgh Opera as Bardolfo (*Falstaff*), and sang Second Jew (*Salome*) in San Diego, Spoletta (*Tosca*) with Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Monostatos (*Die Zauberflöte*) in Toulouse and Shabby Peasant (*Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*) in Tel Aviv.

Making his return to The Royal Opera is Scottish tenor **Alasdair Elliott**, who sings Emperor Altoum for all performances. He previously sang the role with the Company in 2001 and has also sung the role of Pong (*Turandot*) with the Company several times. Recently he sang Bardolfo (*Falstaff*) and Monstotos (*Die Zauberflöte*) for The Royal Opera, as well as Balthazar Zorn (*Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*) and Gamekeeper (*Rusalka*) for Glyndebourne Festival.

Making his role debut as Mandarin for The Royal Opera is current Jette Parker Young Artist Brazilian baritone **Michel de Souza**. His roles in the 2012/13 Season included Schaunard (*La bohème*), Angelotti (*Tosca*) and City Crier (*Gloriana*). His roles for the 2013/14 Season include Angelotti (*Tosca*), Moralès (*Carmen*) and Baron Douphol (*La traviata*).

## **CAST B**

Italian conductor **Nicola Luisotti** returns to The Royal Opera to conduct all February and March performances. He is Music Director for San Francisco Opera and the Teatro di San Carlo, Naples. He previously conducted a revival of this production in 2009. In the 2012/13 Season he conducted *Nabucco* for The Royal Opera. He has also conducted *Il trovatore* and *Madama Butterfly* for the Company and in the 2013/14 Season will also conduct Kasper Holten's new production of *Don Giovanni*.

Swedish soprano **Iréne Theorin** returns to The Royal Opera to sing the role of Turandot. She first sang Turandot in Copenhagen in 2005, and sang Turandot for The Royal Opera in 2008. She has since sung the role worldwide. As well as Turandot, recent appearances include Brünnhilde (*Der Ring des Nibelungen*) for Berlin State Opera and La Scala Milan, and Isolde (*Tristan und Isolde*) for Bayreuth Festival and the Liceu, Barcelona.

Korean tenor **Alfred Kim** makes his Royal Opera role debut singing Calaf, having last sung with The Royal Opera in 2008 and 2009 in the title role of *Don Carlo*. His recent appearances include Calaf for Deutsche Oper Berlin, Manrico (*Il trovatore*) in Toulouse, Don Alvaro (*La forza del destino*) in Barcelona and Don Carlo and Caradossi (*Tosca*) in Frankfurt.

American soprano **Ailyn Pérez** returns to The Royal Opera to make her Royal Opera role debut as Liù. Previously she has sung Violetta (*La traviata*) for The Royal Opera and also sang at the 2011 Plácido Domingo Celebration. In The Royal Opera's 2013/14 season she will sing two other major roles for the Company: Manon (*Manon*) and Violetta (*La traviata*), which she will sing opposite her husband **Stephen Costello** as Alfredo.

Making his Royal Opera role debut as Timur is British bass **Matthew Rose**. He made his debut with the Royal Opera as Jonas Fogg (*Sweeney Todd*) in 2003 and has since gone on to sing many roles for the Company to great critical acclaim. Most recently, he has sung Lord Sidney (*Il viaggio a Reims*), Colline (*La bohème*), Sparafucile (*Rigoletto*) and Masetto (*Don Giovanni*) for The Royal Opera.

Australian baritone **Grant Doyle** returns to The Royal Opera to make his Royal Opera role debut as Ping. Recently he sang the title role of *Don Giovanni* with Garsington Opera, Figaro (*Il barbiere di Siviglia*) with English Touring Opera, Robin Oakapple (*Ruddigore*) with Opera North, Mr Fox (*Fantastic Mr Fox*) with Opera Holland Park, and Abraham in James MacMillan's opera *Clemency* at the Edinburgh Festival with Scottish Opera, and at the Linbury Studio Theatre at The Royal Opera House in 2011. In the Royal Opera's 2013/14 Season he will also sing Second Apprentice and Soldier (*Wozzeck*).

Reprising the role of Pang for The Royal Opera is current Jette Parker Young Artist British tenor **David Butt Philip**. His roles for the 2012/13 Season were Bastien (*Bastien und Bastienne*), First Chevalier/Master of Ceremonies (*Robert le diable*), Abdallo (*Nabucco*), First Man in Armour (*Die Zauberflöte*) and Master of Ceremonies (*Gloriana*). In the 2013/2014 Season he sings roles including Gastone de Letorières (*La traviata*) and First Commissary (*Dialogues des Carmélites*).

Portuguese tenor and current Jette Parker Young Artist **Luis Gomes** makes his Royal Opera role debut singing Pong. This Season he also sings Lamplighter (*Manon Lescaut*), Gastone de Letorières (*La traviata*) and Esquire (*Parsifal*) for The Royal Opera.

Making his return to The Royal Opera is Scottish tenor **Alasdair Elliott**, who sings Emperor Altoum for all performances. He previously sang the role with the Company in 2001 and has also sung the role of Pong (*Turandot*) with the

Company several times. Recently he sang Bardolfo (*Falstaff*) for The Royal Opera and English National Opera, as well as Balthazar Zorn (*Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*) and Gamekeeper (*Rusalka*) for Glyndebourne Festival.

Making his role debut singing Mandarin is British baritone **Ashley Riches**. A current Jette Parker Young Artist, his 2012/13 roles with the Company include Third Chevalier/Prince of Granada (*Robert le diable*), Flemish Deputy (*Don Carlo*) and Crébillon (*La rondine*). In the 2013/14 Season he also sings Baron Douphol in *La traviata*, First Officer in *Dialogues des Carmélites* and Wig Maker in *Ariadne auf Naxos*.

## **LE NOZZE DI FIGARO**

**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**

**CAST A: 16, 18, 21, 25, 27 September, 2, 4 7 October at 7pm**

**CAST B: 2, 5, 7, 15 May at 7pm / 10 May at 12 noon**

- ***Le nozze di Figaro* will be broadcast on BBC Radio 3, date to be announced.**

**David McVicar's** acclaimed 2006 production of *Le nozze di Figaro* returns for its fourth revival. The setting of the production around 1830, with ornate and realistic designs by **Tanya McCallin**, emphasizes the opera's undercurrents of unresolved class tensions in Europe after the French Revolution. Lighting design is by **Paule Constable** and movement by **Leah Hausman**.

*Le nozze di Figaro* (1786) was adapted from the French playwright Pierre-Augustin Caron de Beaumarchais' five-act French play *Le Mariage de Figaro*, which in the 1780s was banned in Vienna. The libretto only took around six weeks to complete and was the first of Mozart's collaborations with the Italian librettist Lorenzo da Ponte.

British conductor **John Eliot Gardiner** returns to The Royal Opera to conduct both casts, having recently conducted *Rigoletto* for the Company, as well as Bach's *St John Passion* at Aldeburgh and Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* at the Salle Pleyel in Paris.

## CAST A

Making his Royal Opera debut is Italian bass-baritone **Luca Pisaroni**, who sings the role of Figaro. He has previously sung this role in New York, Madrid, San Francisco, Amsterdam, Strasbourg, and for the Salzburg Festival. Recently he has sung the roles of Guglielmo (*Così fan tutte*) at the Salzburg Festival, Leporello (*Don Giovanni*) at Baden-Baden Festival and Tiridate (*Radamisto*) in Paris.

Singing the role of Susanna for the first time for The Royal Opera is British soprano **Lucy Crowe**. She has previously sung the role for Garsington Opera and Opera North. She made her Royal Opera debut in 2009 singing the role of Belinda (*Dido and Aeneas*) and returned in November and December 2009 as Sophie (*Der Rosenkavalier*) and in 2012 as Gilda (*Rigoletto*). Most recently, she sang Clomiri (*Imeneo*) in Paris, Gilda (*Rigoletto*) in Berlin and Rosina (*Il barbiere di Siviglia*) for English National Opera.

Welsh soprano **Rebecca Evans** returns to The Royal Opera to sing the role of Countess Almaviva for the first time with the Company. She made her Royal Opera debut in 1997 and sang Susanna with the Company in 1998. Since then, she has sung many roles for The Royal Opera including Johanna (*Sweeney Todd*), Pamina (*Die Zauberflöte*), Mimì (*La bohème*) and Nella (*Gianni Schicchi*). She has previously sung Countess Almaviva with Welsh National Opera. She has sung extensively in Europe, and in America where her roles have included Susanna (*Le nozze di Figaro*) and Zerlina (*Don Giovanni*) for the Metropolitan Opera, New York, and Adina (*L'elisir d'amore*) for San Francisco Opera

The role of Count Almaviva is sung by British baritone **Christopher Maltman**, who has previously sung this role with Zürich Opera, and most recently at Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires. He made his debut with the company in 1997 singing Ned Keene (*Peter Grimes*) in the Farewell Gala. He has since sung many other roles for the Company including Marcello (*La bohème*), Papageno (*Die Zauberflöte*) and Forester (*The Cunning Little Vixen*).

Croatian mezzo-soprano **Renata Pokupić** sings the role of Cherubino. She has previously sung the role for Washington National Opera and Los Angeles Opera. She made her debut with The Royal Opera in 2010 singing Irene (*Tamerlano*). Later in the 2013/14 Season she sings the role of Siébel (*Faust*) for the Company.



American mezzo-soprano **Helene Schneiderman** sings Marcellina for the first time with the Company. For her debut with The Royal Opera in 1995, she sang the role of Cherubino. She most recently sang the role of Suzuki (*Madama Butterfly*) with The Royal Opera in 2011 and also sang Despina (*Così fan tutte*) for The Royal Opera in 2010. She has previously sung Marcellina at the Salzburg Festival and for Paris Opéra.

Making his Royal Opera debut is Spanish baritone **Carlos Chausson**, singing Bartolo. He has sung the role all over Europe including in Madrid, Paris and Seville. Other recent performances include Don Magnifico (*La Cenerentola*) for Paris Opéra and Pistola (*Falstaff*) in Zürich.

Scottish tenor **Alasdair Elliott** returns to the role of Don Curzio, having first sung it with The Royal Opera in 1995. His most recent appearance with the Company was as Bardolph (*Falstaff*) in 2012 and Monostatos (*Die Zauberflöte*) in May 2013 for The Royal Opera. He recently appeared as Don Curzio at Glyndebourne Festival.

The role of Antonio is sung by English bass-baritone **Lynton Black**. He made his debut with The Royal Opera in 2008, and his roles for The Royal Opera have included Luther (*Les Contes d'Hoffmann*) and Innkeeper (*Manon*). He will sing this latter role again in The Royal Opera's revival of *Manon* later in the Season.

Making her Royal Opera debut in the role of Barbarina is English soprano **Mary Bevan**. She has previously sung the role for Garsington Opera and English National Opera. Most recently she has appeared as Pamina (*Die Zauberflöte*) for Garsington Opera and Yum-Yum (*The Mikado*) with English National Opera.

## **CAST B**

Singing the role of Figaro for the first time for The Royal Opera is Italian bass **Alex Esposito**. He has previously sung the role at La Fenice, Venice, and for Paris Opéra. He first appeared with The Royal Opera in 2008 as Alidoro (*La Cenerentola*) and has also sung Leporello (*Don Giovanni*) for the Company, in 2008 and 2012.

Swedish soprano **Camilla Tilling** returns to the role of Susanna which she recently sang with Paris Opéra in 2012. She made her debut with The Royal Opera in 2000 as Sophie (*Der Rosenkavalier*) and has also sung Pamina (*Die Zauberflöte*), Dorinda (*Orlando*), Oscar (*Un ballo in maschera*) and Gretel (*Hansel and Gretel*) for The Royal Opera.

British soprano **Sally Matthews** returns to the Royal Opera House to sing Countess Almaviva. She was a Royal Opera Young Artist (2001–3). She has sung many roles for the The Royal Opera, including Pamina (*Die Zauberflöte*), Calisto (*La Calisto*), Anne Trulove (*The Rake's Progress*) and Fiordiligi (*Così fan tutte*). She recently sang Countess Almaviva for the 2012 Glyndebourne Festival and also made her Vienna State Opera debut as Donna Anna (*Don Giovanni*). Other recent appearances include Blanche (*Dialogues des Carmélites*) in Munich.

Following his performances in the title role of *Don Giovanni* in 2012, Canadian baritone **Gerald Finley** returns to sing the role of Count Almaviva. He previously sang the role in this production when it was new in 2006. He has also sung Count Almaviva with the Metropolitan Opera, New York, and at the Salzburg Festival. Other recent appearances include Hans Sachs (*Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*) for Glyndebourne Festival and *Don Giovanni* in Munich.

Returning to the role of Cherubino is Italian mezzo-soprano **Anna Bonitatibus**, who previously sang the role in 2008 and in 2012 with The Royal Opera. Her recent appearances include Dorabella (*Così fan tutte*) in Bari and Ariodante (Mayr's *Ginevra di Scozia*) in Bergamo.

Returning to the role of Marcellina is Scottish soprano **Marie McLaughlin**, who last sang the role with the Company in 2010. Her recent performances with The Royal Opera also include La Ciesca (*Gianni Schicchi*). Elsewhere she recently sang Lillian Disney (Glass's *The Perfect American*) for Teatro Real, Madrid.

Greek baritone **Christophoros Stamboglis** sings Bartolo for the first time for The Royal Opera. Previous roles for The Royal Opera include Count Rodolfo (*La sonnambula*) and Doctor Grenvil (*La traviata*). Most recently he has sung the Commendatore (*Don Giovanni*) with Garsington Opera and Ferrando (*Il trovatore*) for the Metropolitan Opera, New York.

The role of Don Curzio is sung by British tenor **Timothy Robinson** in a role debut with The Royal Opera. He first sang with The Royal Opera in 1995 as Federico di Frengel (*Stiffelio*) and he has most recently appeared as Third Jew (*Salome*) and Walther von der Vogelweide (*Tannhäuser*) with The Royal Opera.

British bass **Jeremy White** returns to the role of Antonio, having last sang it with The Royal Opera in 2012, as well as in 2006, 1998 and 1995. Since his debut with The Royal Opera in 1991 as Thoré (*Les Huguenots*) he has gone on to sing many roles for The Royal Opera – most recently, Sacristan (*Tosca*), Benoît (*La bohème*) and second Soldier (*Les Troyens*).

Serbian soprano **Dušica Bijelić**, a current Jette Parker Young Artist, sings Barbarina in her role debut. She made her Royal Opera debut in December 2012 and her roles in the 2012/13 Season were Bastienne (*Bastien und Bastienne*), Lady-in-Waiting (*Robert le diable*), Anna (*Nabucco*), Tebaldo (*Don Carlo*) and Yvette (*La rondine*).

## ***ELEKTRA***

### **Richard Strauss**

**23, 26 September at 8pm**

**1, 9 October at 8pm**

**6 October at 7.30pm**

**12 October at 7pm**

- ***Elektra* will be broadcast on BBC Radio 3, date to be announced.**

*Elektra*, Richard Strauss's disturbing psychological interpretation of a classic Greek tragedy, returns to The Royal Opera this September. First seen here in 2003, and now in its second revival, this is a violent, brutal work with the capacity to disturb and delight in equal measure. Strauss's richly-orchestrated score is one of his most concentrated works, and in style and instrumentation one of his most modernist scores.

Direction, set designs and lighting are by **Charles Edwards**, with costume designs by **Brigitte Reiffenstuel** and movement by **Leah Hausman**.

Latvian conductor **Andris Nelsons**, Music Director of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, will conduct all performances. He made his debut with The Royal Opera in 2009 conducting *La bohème* and returned to conduct *Madama Butterfly* (2011) and *Salome* (2012).

American soprano **Christina Goerke** will make her Royal Opera role debut as Elektra, a role which she has previously also sung in Houston, Madrid and Chicago. She made her debut with The Royal Opera as Donna Anna (*Don Giovanni*) in 2002. Recent performances elsewhere include Leonore (*Fidelio*) in Detroit, Eboli (*Don Carlo*) for Houston Grand Opera and Ortrud (*Lohengrin*) for Deutsche Oper Berlin.

Canadian soprano **Adrienne Pieczonka** will sing the role of Chrysothemis for the first time with The Royal Opera, having previously sung the role in Barcelona in 2008, She will also perform the role at the Aix-en-Provence Festival in July 2013. This will be her first return to The Royal Opera since her debut here as Donna Anna (*Don Giovanni*) in 2002. Recent performances include Ariadne (*Ariadne auf Naxos*) in Munich, and Desdemona (*Otello*) and the title role in *Tosca* in Berlin.

German mezzo-soprano **Michaela Schuster** will perform the role of Klytämnestra, having previously sung the role in Amsterdam in 2011. She made her debut at Covent Garden as Herodias (*Salome*) in 2008 and will return to the main stage in March 2014 as Nurse (*Die Frau ohne Schatten*). Recent performances elsewhere include Kundry (*Parsifal*) for the Salzburg Festival and Herodias (*Salome*) in Vienna. She sang Princesse de Bouillon (*Adriana Lecouvreur*) and Venus (*Tannhäuser*) for The Royal Opera in 2010.

The role of Orest will be sung by Scottish bass-baritone **Iain Paterson**. This is the first time he will perform this role at Covent Garden. He has previously sung Orest in a concert performance at the Edinburgh Festival in 2006. Iain's debut with The Royal Opera was as Count Lamoral (*Arabella*) in 2004. He has since performed here as First Nazarene (*Salome*) in 2008, Monterone (*Rigoletto*) in 2009 and Fasolt (*Das Rheingold*) in 2012.

Making his role debut in the role of Ägisth will be British tenor **John Daszak**. He made his debut with The Royal Opera as Otumbo (*Alzira*) and has subsequently sung Antonio (*The Tempest*), Count Elemer (*Arabella*) and Zinovy Ismailov (*Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*) for the Company.

British soprano **Anna Burford** will sing the role of the First Maid, returning to The Royal Opera following her performances as Schwertleite (*Die Walküre*) at the start of the 2012/13 Season. The role of Second Maid will be sung by Australian mezzo-soprano **Catherine Carby** making her debut with The Royal Opera. Making her role debut in the role of Third Maid will be British mezzo-soprano **Elizabeth Sikora**. Anglo-Welsh soprano **Elizabeth Woollett** will sing the role of Fourth Maid, which she also performed in the same production in 2008. Making her debut with The Royal Opera in the role of Fifth Maid will be American soprano **Jennifer Check**.

The role of Overseer will be sung by British soprano **Elaine McKrill**. She has previously sung Overseer in Amsterdam in 2011. She made her debut with The Royal Opera as Ortlinde (*Die Walküre*) and most recently sang Marianne Leitmetzerin (*Der Rosenkavalier*) with The Royal Opera.

The role of Young Servant will be sung by American tenor **Doug Jones**. He previously sang the role in Amsterdam in 2006. He made his debut with The Royal Opera as Tobias Ragg (*Sweeney Todd*) and has most recently sung the role of First Philistine (*Samson et Dalila*) with San Diego Opera.

The role of Orest's Tutor will be sung by British bass-baritone **John Cunningham**. He made his debut with The Royal Opera as Flemish Deputy (*Don Carlo*) and also sang the role of Aged Gambler (*The Gambler*) in the 2009–2010 Season. Most recently he sang the role of Cappadocian (*Salome*) in the 2011/12 Season. Company principal bass **Jeremy White** returns to sing the role of Old Servant, having previously sung this role in 2008.

## ***THE WASP FACTORY***

**Linbury Studio Theatre**

**Ben Frost**

**2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 October at 7.45pm**

- **Commissioned by Art of our Times/Bregenz Festival**
- **Co-production between HAU Hebbel am Ufer and Laura\_Next, Berlin, and The Royal Opera and Holland Festival in association with Cork Midsummer Festival**

*The Wasp Factory*, by acclaimed Australian electro-acoustic composer **Ben Frost**, with libretto by **David Pountney**, is to make its UK premiere in the Linbury Studio Theatre in October. This gripping piece of music theatre is based on the late Iain Banks's cult novel about the disturbing acts of a psychopathic teenager on a remote island. As part of a self-invented warrior cult, Frank uses a homemade apparatus called the Wasp Factory to determine whom he will kill next and how.

German designer **Mirella Weingarten** makes her debut at Covent Garden with set designs which evoke a bleak, natural landscape. Also making his debut with The Royal Opera is costume designer **Boris Bidjan Saberi**. Lighting design is by **Lucy Carter**.

## **MEET THE YOUNG ARTISTS WEEK**

**Monday 14–Saturday 19 October 2013**

Every October, the Jette Parker Young Artists take over the Linbury Studio Theatre for a showcase week of performances, giving the public the opportunity to meet the new members of the Programme and hear again those continuing for their second year. The week comprises a staged production, complemented by operatic and song repertory recitals and the popular Saturday Juke Box, where the audience at the lunchtime session choose the repertory for the evening performance. Apart from the staged production, all events are free, but bookable in advance.

### **Recitals**

**Monday 14 October : Lunchtime recital**

1–2.30pm      All the Young Artist singers and Young Artist ballet pianist **Helen Nicholas** perform a mainly operatic programme, accompanied by **David Gowland**

### Thursday 17 October: Lunchtime recital

1–2pm Australian soprano **Kiandra Howarth** and British baritone **Ashley Riches** give a song recital, accompanied by **David Gowland**.

### Thursday 17 October: Evening recital

7–8pm Russian mezzo-soprano **Nadezhda Karyazina** and British tenor **David Butt Philip** perform a song programme, accompanied by **David Gowland**

### Saturday 19 October: The Juke Box

1–2.30pm **Part I:** The audience at the lunchtime event select a programme for the evening recital from a selection of arias, songs and piano pieces offered by the Young Artist singers and pianist **Helen Nicholas**

7–8.30pm **Part II:** Recital by all the Young Artist singers, **Helen Nicholas** and Jette Parker Principal **Jihoon Kim**, accompanied by **David Gowland**

8.30–10pm **Part III:** Meet the JPYAP artists and staff in the Linbury Foyer; the bar remains open.

## ***DOUBLE BILL: FOLK SONGS/EL GATO CON BOTAS***

**(Berio/Montsalvatge)**

**Wednesday 16 October at 7pm, Friday 18 October at 1pm and 7pm**

This Season's chamber opera production is Montsalvatge's delightful zarzuela-inspired *El gato con botas* (Puss in Boots), sung in Spanish, with a guest appearance by Jette Parker Principal **Jihoon Kim**, staged by Portuguese director **Pedro Ribeiro**, assisted by new Young Artist stage director **Greg Eldridge**, lighting design will be by **Warren Letton**. It will be combined by a concert staging of **Berio's Folk Songs**, sung in a number of languages.

Serbian soprano **Dušica Bijelić** will sing Berio's *Folk Songs*, with Italian conductor **Michele Gamba** conducting **Southbank Sinfonia**. British conductor

**Paul Wingfield** will conduct *El gato con botas*, and Armenian soprano **Anush Hovhannisyan** will sing the role of the Princess, Irish mezzo-soprano **Rachel Kelly** will sing the role of the Cat, Portuguese tenor **Luis Gomes** will sing the role of the Miller, Brazilian baritone **Michel de Souza** will sing the role of the King and Korean bass **Jihoon Kim** will sing the role of Ogre.

## ***LES VÊPRES SICILIENNES***

**Giuseppe Verdi**

**17, 21, 24, 29 October, 1, 4, 7, 11 November at 6pm**

- **Co-production with the Royal Danish Opera**
- **Generous philanthropic support from Mrs Susan A. Olde OBE, Mrs Aline Foriel-Destezet and The Maestro's Circle**
- ***Les Vêpres siciliennes* will be broadcast on BBC Radio 3, date to be announced.**

The Royal Opera present's Verdi's first original work for Paris, *Les Vêpres siciliennes*, for the very first time, in a major new production by Norwegian director **Stefan Herheim**, who makes his debut at Covent Garden.

Stefan Herheim's production relocates the opera from 13th-century Sicily to Paris in 1855 and will focus on the musical structure of the opera, linking it to the world of 19th-century theatre and, in particular, to French grand opera.

**Philipp Fürhofer's** opulent 1850s opera house design provides the setting for the opera. Herheim takes us over the threshold from the reality of the opera house into the dreamlike stories of the operas performed there. Working together with Stefan Herheim on this production is his regular collaborator, dramaturg **Alexander Meier-Dörzenbach**. The costume designer is **Gesine Völlm**, and the lighting designer is **Anders Poll**.

There will be a strong element of dance in the production involving freelance dancers choreographed by **Andre de Jong** who has previously worked with director Stefan Herheim on his production of *Eugene Onegin* in Amsterdam.



Music Director for The Royal Opera **Antonio Pappano** will conduct all performances. He has previously conducted the opera in Vienna in 1998. He will also conduct *Parsifal*, *Manon Lescaut* and *Ariadne auf Naxos* during the 2013/14 Season.

Russian soprano **Marina Poplavskaya** will make her role debut as Héléne. A Jette Parker Young Artist with The Royal Opera 2005–7, Marina has sung many roles with The Royal Opera including Alice (*Robert le diable*), Desdemona (*Otello*), Violetta Valéry (*La traviata*), Marfa (*The Tsar's Bride*) and Elizabeth of Valois (*Don Carlo*). Her recent performances include Guttrune (*Götterdämmerung*) for Berlin State Opera, Violetta Valéry (*La traviata*) in Amsterdam and Marguerite (*Faust*) at the Metropolitan Opera in New York.

American tenor **Bryan Hymel** will make his role debut as Henri. His most recent appearances with The Royal Opera, for which he was nominated for an Olivier Award in the category of Outstanding Achievement in Opera, include the title role in *Robert le diable*, Eneé (*Les Troyens*) and Prince (*Rusalka*). He has also just received the Beverly Sills Artists Award from the Metropolitan Opera following his debut performances as Eneé (*Les Troyens*) in January. Other recent performances include Lieutenant B.F. Pinkerton (*Madama Butterfly*) in Pittsburgh.

German baritone **Michael Volle** will make his role debut as Guy de Montfort. His most recent roles with The Royal Opera have included Scarpia (*Tosca*) and Kurwenal (*Tristan und Isolde*). Recent performances elsewhere include the title role in *Der fliegende Holländer* for Berlin State Opera, the title role in *Don Giovanni* for Deutsche Oper Berlin and Amfortas (*Parsifal*) for the Bavarian State Opera, where he is a member of the company.

Uruguayan bass **Erwin Schrott** will make his role debut as Jean Procida. His most recent roles with The Royal Opera include the title role in *Don Giovanni* and Figaro in *Le nozze di Figaro*. His recent performances elsewhere include Dulcamara (*L'elisir d'amore*) in Munich and Leporello (*Don Giovanni*) at the Metropolitan Opera in New York and for Vienna State Opera.

Making his debut with The Royal Opera is French bass **Jean Teitgen** in the role of Le Sire de Béthune. Recent performances include Don Basilio (*Il barbiere di*

*Siviglia*) in Tours and Gubetta (*Lucrezia Borgia*) for La Monnaie in Brussels. British tenor **Neal Cooper** will make his debut with The Royal Opera as Thibault. His appearances include Matteo Borsa (*Rigoletto*) and Gherardo (Gianni Schicchi) for Opera Holland Park. He returns to Opera Holland Park this summer to sing Ciccillo (*I gioielli della Madonna*).

South Korean tenor **Jung Soo Yun** will make his debut with The Royal Opera in the role of Mainfroid. Recent performances include Rinuccio (*Gianni Schicchi*) for Opera Holland Park in 2012. He returns to Opera Holland Park this summer to sing Nadir (*Les Pêcheurs de perles*). Jette Parker Principal and South Korean bass **Jihoon Kim** will make his role debut as Robert. His recent roles with The Royal Opera include Priest (*Robert le diable*), Colline (*La bohème*), Sciarrone (*Tosca*) and Second Man in Armour (*Die Zauberflöte*). He sings Pietro (*Simon Boccanegra*) with The Royal Opera in June and July 2013.

British mezzo-soprano **Michelle Daly** makes her debut with The Royal Opera in the role of Ninetta. She has previously sung with Opera Holland Park and Buxton Festival Opera. Principal Company British bass **Jeremy White** will sing the role of Le Comte de Vaudémont and Maltese tenor **Nicolas Darmanin** will make his debut with The Royal Opera in the role of Danieli.

**Insights: *Les Vêpres siciliennes*, Friday 11 October at 7.30pm**

Join the cast and production team of this Verdian epic as they prepare for the Covent Garden Stage.

*Linbury Studio Theatre- Tickets £17 Students £7*

## **MUSIC THEATRE WALES**

Music Theatre Wales, acknowledged as one of the UK's leading contemporary opera companies, was founded in 1988 by Director **Michael McCarthy** and Music Director **Michael Rafferty**, the company's Joint Artistic Directors. Since its inception, MTW has continued to break new ground in opera, creating 30 productions and presenting 14 world premieres, bringing new composers to the form and reviving classic works of late 20th century music theatre.

MTW has an established programme to nurture new opera composers and has created productions with a wide range of partners including Opera National du

Rhin in Strasbourg, the Berlin Festival, Opera Vest in Norway, Banff Centre in Canada, Theatr Brycheiniog in Brecon, Haarlem Theatre in The Netherlands, Treffpunkt in Stuttgart, and the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden where, in 2002 it became the first Associate Company. This year it celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

## **GREEK**

**Linbury Studio Theatre**

**Mark-Anthony Turnage**

**21, 22, 25, 26 October**

By overwhelming popular demand, Music Theatre Wales will bring back its visceral production of **Mark-Anthony Turnage's** precocious first opera, *Greek*, with all of its original cast from 2011, including **Marcus Farnsworth** who received critical acclaim as Eddy, the opera's anti-hero.

*Greek* is a raunchy re-write of the Oedipus myth set in London's East End. **Michael McCarthy's** production received the UK Theatre Award in 2011 for Outstanding Achievement in Opera.

It was with *Greek*, commissioned by **Hans Werner Henze** for the Munich Biennale in 1988 and based on a play by **Steven Berkoff**, that **Mark-Anthony Turnage** first burst on to the international scene. The composer's wide frame of stylistic reference – ranging from rock and jazz to high-art, (seen at the Royal Opera House most recently in his latest work *Anna Nicole* for The Royal Opera) and his vivid dramatic gift have turned *Greek* into a contemporary classic.

## **THE KILLING FLOWER**

**Linbury Studio Theatre**

**Salvatore Sciarrino**

**24 October**

The highlight of MTW's 25th anniversary season is the UK premiere production of *The Killing Flower*, a gripping musical drama by the Italian composer **Salvatore Sciarrino**.

*The Killing Flower (Luci mie traditrici)* is inspired by the life of the Italian Renaissance composer **Carlo Gesualdo** and his murder of his wife and her lover, creating a wonderfully intense music drama in eight, tight-packed scenes.

In Western Europe, Salvatore Sciarrino's importance is widely recognised, and his most significant works are regularly staged. Yet the vast majority of the pieces that have established his reputation as one of the leading music-theatre composers of the present day remain unseen and hardly heard in Britain. It is therefore particularly thrilling that MTW has chosen to introduce British audiences to Sciarrino's music-theatre work with this gripping opera.

The piece will be presented in an atmospheric, site-specific context within the intimate surrounds of the Linbury Studio Theatre, intensifying the physical immediacy of Sciarrino's score, with its changing perspectives and whispered vocal confidences.

## **WOZZECK**

**Alban Berg**

**31 October, 5, 8, 12, 15 November at 7.30pm**

- ***Wozzeck* will be broadcast on BBC Radio 3, date to be announced.**

**Keith Warner's** production of Alban Berg's psychological drama *Wozzeck* – winner of the Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Opera Production in 2002 – returns for its second revival at Covent Garden. Set designs are by **Stefanos Lazaridis**, costume designs are by **Marie-Jeanne Lecca** and lighting design is by **Rick Fisher**.

British conductor **Mark Elder** will conduct all performances; the first time that he has conducted *Wozzeck* for The Royal Opera. His most recent appearance with The Royal Opera was conducting *La bohème* in the 2012/13 Season.

Singing the role of *Wozzeck* for the first time with The Royal Opera is British baritone **Simon Keenlyside**. He has previously sung the role of *Wozzeck* in Munich and Madrid. He made his debut with The Royal Opera as Silvio (*Il*

*Pagliacci*) in 1989 and his recent roles with the Company have included the title roles in *Eugene Onegin* and *Macbeth*, and Giorgio Germont (*La traviata*).

Finish soprano **Karita Mattila** returns to The Royal Opera to make her role debut as Marie. Her most recent performances with the Company were in 2007 as Leonore (*Fidelio*). Her recent roles include the title role in *Jenůfa* in Munich, Emilia Marty (*The Makropulos Case*) in Helsinki and Leonore (*Fidelio*) in Houston.

Making his Royal Opera role debut as the Drum Major is German tenor **Endrik Wottrich**. He has previously sung the role in Munich, Tokyo and Milan. His recent performances with the company have included Erik (*Der fliegende Holländer*) and Florestan (*Fidelio*).

Making his role debut as Doctor with The Royal Opera is British bass **John Tomlinson**. He made his debut with the Company as Fifth Jew (*Salome*) in 1977. His most recent roles with the Company were Hunding (*Die Walküre*), Hagen (*Götterdämmerung*) and the title role in *The Minotaur*, which saw him celebrate 35 years performing with The Royal Opera.

Making his Royal Opera role debut in the role of Captain is German tenor **Gerhard Siegel**. He has previously sung this role in Madrid, Stuttgart and for the Metropolitan Opera in New York. Recent performances with the Company include Mime (*Das Rheingold* and *Siegfried*) and Herod (*Salome*).

American tenor **John Easterlin** will make his role debut as Andres with The Royal Opera. He has previously sung the role of Prince Nilsky (*The Gambler*) with The Royal Opera. Recent performances include Andy Warhol (*The Perfect American*) and Misail (*Boris Godunov*) in Madrid.

Making her role debut as Margret is British mezzo-soprano **Allison Cook**. She made her debut with the Company as Babette (*Babette's Feast*) in 2004, returning as Kate (*Owen Wingrave*) in 2007. She most recently performed Blossom (*Anna Nicole*) with the Company.

Returning to sing the role of First Apprentice is Company Principal bass **Jeremy White**. The role of Second Apprentice will be sung by Australian baritone **Grant**

**Doyle**, whose most recent performance with The Royal Opera was as Billy (*Anna Nicole*). Making his debut with The Royal Opera in the role of the Half-wit is British tenor **Robin Tritschler**. His recent performances include Ferrando (*Così fan tutte*) and Bénédict (*Béatrice et Bénédict*) with Welsh National Opera.

**Insights: Mark Elder introduces *Wozzeck*, Wednesday 23 October at 7.30pm**

Join conductor Mark Elder as he introduces you to the disturbing and harrowing score to Alban Berg's *Wozzeck*.

*Clore Studio Upstairs - Tickets £17 Students £7*

## ***PARSIFAL***

**Richard Wagner**

**30 November, 2, 5, 11, 18 December at 5pm**

**15 December at 3pm**

- **Generous philanthropic support from Lindsay and Sarah Tomlinson, Dr and Mrs Michael West, Peter and Fiona Espenhahn, The Wagner Circle and The *Parsifal* Production Syndicate**
- ***Parsifal* will be broadcast on BBC Radio 3, date to be announced.**

Wagner's final opera, *Parsifal*, was first performed at Bayreuth in 1882. For many years, at the insistence of Wagner and then his widow Cosima, performances outside the Bayreuth Festival were banned. This embargo was lifted in January 1914; by August of the same year *Parsifal* had been performed at more than fifty opera houses throughout Europe.

This new production for The Royal Opera will see director **Stephen Langridge** reunited with the same production team that he worked with on Harrison Birtwistle's *The Minotaur*: designer **Alison Chitty**, lighting designer **Paul Pyant** and choreographer **Philippe Giraudeau**. The production focuses on the concept of *Parsifal* as the catalyst for the transformation of a society strangled by *schadenfreude* to a position of compassion.

Music Director for The Royal Opera **Antonio Pappano** will conduct all performances. He previously conducted the opera in Brussels in 1998 while he was Music Director of La Monnaie.

New Zealand tenor **Simon O'Neill** sings the title role for the first time for The Royal Opera having recently sung Parsifal for Bayreuth Festival and in Vienna. His roles for The Royal Opera have included Siegmund (*Die Walküre*), Walther von Stolzing (*Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*), Florestan (*Fidelio*) and the title role in *Lohengrin*. Recent performances include Siegmund for the Metropolitan Opera, New York and Vienna State Opera.

Canadian baritone **Gerald Finley** will make his role debut as Amfortas. He made his debut with The Royal Opera as Flemish Deputy (*Don Carlo*) in 1989, and has performed many times with the Company. His recent Royal Opera appearances include the title role in *Don Giovanni*, the Lawyer Stern (*Anna Nicole*) and Zurga (*Les Pêcheurs de perles*). He will also sing Count Almaviva (*Le nozze di Figaro*) for The Royal Opera in the 2013–14 Season.

German bass **René Pape** will sing the role of Gurnemanz for the first time for The Royal Opera having sung the role many times before with Berlin State Opera and, most recently, with the Metropolitan Opera in New York in March 2013. Other recent roles include Wotan (*Die Walküre*) in Berlin, Philip II (*Don Carlo*) in Vienna and King Marke (*Tristan und Isolde*) in Munich.

Jamaican bass **Willard White** returns to the role of Klingsor, which he last sang for The Royal Opera in 2007. He made his debut with The Royal Opera as Don Diégo (*L'Africaine*) in 1978 and most recently for The Royal Opera sang Don Fernando (*Fidelio*) in 2011. Recent performances elsewhere include Vodník (*Rusalka*) for La Monnaie, Brussels, Wotan (*Die Walküre*) in Rennes and Priesterkönig (Widmann's *Babylon*) in Berlin.

Following her acclaimed performances as Salome for The Royal Opera in 2010 and 2012, **Angela Denoke** sings the role of Kundry for the first time at Covent Garden. She recently performed the role in Zürich and Madrid. Other roles for The Royal Opera include Paulina (*The Gambler*) and The Woman (*Erwartung*). Her other recent appearances include Elisabeth and Venus in *Tannhäuser* (Hamburg State Opera) and Chrysothemis (*Elektra*) for Vienna State Opera.

Making his role debut as Titorel is British bass **Robert Lloyd**. His recent roles for The Royal Opera include High Priest of Baal (*Nabucco*), Priam (*Les Troyens*), Doctor Grenvil (*La traviata*) and Nightwatchman (*Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*).

Jette Parker Young Artist and British tenor **David Butt Philip** will make his role debut as First Knight. His roles for the Company in the 2012–13 Season have included First Chevalier/Master of Ceremonies (*Robert le diable*), Abdallo (*Nabucco*) and First Man in Armour (*Die Zauberflöte*). He sings Master of Ceremonies (*Gloriana*) later in the Season. The role of Second Knight is sung by a former member of The Royal Opera Chorus, **Charbel Mattar**. His previous roles with the Company include Messenger (*La traviata*) and Town Crier (*La Juive*).

The four Esquires will be sung by three of the Jette Parker Young Artists, Serbian soprano **Dušica Bijelić**, Irish mezzo-soprano **Rachel Kelly** and Portuguese tenor **Luis Gomes** together with South African tenor **Sipho Fubesi**, making his debut with The Royal Opera.

The roles of the five Flower Maidens will be sung by Irish soprano **Celine Byrne**, Jette Parker Young Artist Australian soprano **Kiandra Howarth**, British soprano **Anna Patalong**, and three singers previously on the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme: Irish soprano **Anna Devin**, New Zealand soprano **Madeleine Pierard** and Lithuanian mezzo-soprano **Justina Gringyte**.

#### **Insights: *Parsifal*, Friday 8 November at 7.30pm**

Join Antonio Pappano and other members of the cast and production team as they explore Wagner's last great spiritual masterpiece.

*Linbury Studio Theatre*- Tickets £17 Students £7

#### **Insights: John Tomlinson Wagner Masterclass, Monday 25 November at 7.30pm**

Continuing our celebration of his bicentenary, join opera icon and Wagnerian legend Sir John Tomlinson as he works in masterclass with singers at the start of their career. In collaboration with Wagner 200.



Linbury Studio Theatre- Tickets £17 Students £7

## **HOW THE WHALE BECAME**

Linbury Studio Theatre

Julian Philips

10, 13, 16, 17 December at 7pm

12, 14, 18, 20, 21, 28 December at 2pm and 7pm

31 December at 12.30pm and 5pm

2 January at 2pm and 7pm; 4 January at 12.30pm and 5pm

- **Generous philanthropic support from The Royal Opera House Endowment Fund**

*How the Whale Became*, a new family-friendly opera by Welsh composer **Julian Philips**, with libretto by **Edward Kemp**, comes to the Linbury Studio Theatre this Season. Inspired by Ted's Hughes's collection of stories *The Dreamfighter and Other Creation Tales*, about the creation of man and the animals, this production will excite and delight everyone from the age of five to 105.

British director **Natalie Abrahami** will turn the Linbury Studio Theatre into a magical world with the help of critically acclaimed designer **Tom Scutt**. Tom is to make his debut with The Royal Opera in this production, having previously designed for a range of productions including *Hamlet* at Sheffield Crucible and *Metropolis* at Theatre Royal, Bath. Lighting designer **James Farncombe** also makes his Covent Garden debut in *How the Whale Became*.

## FREE RECITALS AND CONCERTS

### **MONDAY LUNCHTIME RECITALS**

Free Monday lunchtime concerts continue to offer the opportunity to get to know the performers of the ROH through a range of classical song and chamber repertoire. Recitalists include the rising stars of the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme, members of the Royal Opera Chorus and the Orchestra of the Royal

Opera House, as well as guest associate training orchestra Southbank Sinfonia and the soprano winner of the Maggie Teyte Prize.

Full programme details will be posted on the recital page of the website.

**9 23 30 September | 7 14 21 28 October | 4 11 25 November | 2 9 16 December  
| 6 13 20 27 January | 3 17 24 February | 3 10 17 31 March | 7 14 28  
April | 12 19 May | 2 9 16 30 June | 7 14 July**

**Crush Room | Paul Hamlyn Hall | Linbury Studio Theatre**

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