



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

THE ROYAL OPERA: AUTUMN SEASON 2012/13

L'ELISIR D'AMORE

Gaetano Donizetti

CO-PRODUCTION WITH THE OPÉRA NATIONAL DE PARIS

13, 16, 20, 23, 28 November, 1, 4, 7 December at 7.30pm

Laurent Pelly's lively and colourful production of Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore* returns to The Royal Opera, conducted by Italian conductor **Bruno Campanella**. Set by Pelly against a backdrop of rural Italy in the 1950s, Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore* tells the story of the penniless peasant Nemorino, duped into buying a love potion to win over the feisty and spirited Adina. Returning to the role of Adina is Polish soprano **Aleksandra Kurzak**, while Nemorino is sung by Sicilian tenor **Roberto Alagna** (excluding 7 December) in his first performance of the role for the Royal Opera, with Romanian tenor **Stefan Pop** singing the role on 7 December. Italian baritone **Fabio Capitanucci** is the swaggering Sergeant Belcore, also trying to win over Adina's heart, and Italian baritone **Ambrogio Maestri** the cunning Doctor Dulcamara. **Susana Gaspar** sings the role of Gianetta.

For more information please visit www.roh.org.uk/elisir

ROBERT LE DIABLE

Giacomo Meyerbeer

NEW PRODUCTION

6, 12, 15, 18, 21 December at 6pm, 9 December at 2 pm

Giacomo Meyerbeer's Romantic gothic opera *Robert le diable*, which had its premiere in 1831 at the Paris Opéra, is presented for the first time since 1890 at Covent Garden in a new production by **Laurent Pelly**. The production pays tribute to French medieval art and architecture, and promises to be full of Pelly's usual stunning theatrical effects deployed with his well-known wit and playful humour. The original Paris audiences were left reeling by Meyerbeer's Gothic tale *Robert le diable*, in which the hero Robert, exiled Duke of Normandy, resorts to the supernatural in his desperate struggle to regain his fortune and the hand of his

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betrothed Isabelle, unaware that his mysterious helper Bertram is in fact his own father – and a devil. Hailed by Chopin as a ‘masterpiece’ at its premiere, this operatic rarity is conducted by French and Italian opera specialist **Daniel Oren**, with a stellar cast which includes **Bryan Hymel** in the title role and **John Relyea** as Bertram, alongside former Jette Parker Young Artist **Marina Poplavskaya** as Alice. American soprano **Jennifer Rowley** makes her Royal Opera debut as Isabelle.

For more information please visit www.roh.org.uk/robert

INSIGHTS: ROBERT LE DIABLE 15 November 2012 at 7.30pm

An opportunity to hear from director Laurent Pelly and members of the cast and production team about the creative process that took the opera from conception to the stage.

Clare Studio Upstairs - Tickets £17, Students £7

PRE-PERFORMANCE TALKS: ROBERT LE DIABLE 9 December at 1pm, 12 December at 5pm

Half-hour talks allow enthusiasts and newcomers alike to discover *Robert le diable* in detail.

Clare Studio Upstairs - Tickets £4

LA BOHÈME

Giacomo Puccini

Cast A: 17, 20, 22 December, 3, 5, 7, 10, 18 January at 7.30 pm

Cast B: 18, 27 February, 5, 9, 12 March at 7.30 pm, 16 February, 2 March at 12.30pm

La bohème will be relayed live into cinemas worldwide on 10 January. Please visit <http://cinema.roh.org.uk/> for full screening information.

John Copley’s realistic and romantic 1974 production of *La bohème* returns for its 26th revival. This much-loved opera tells the tragic love story of the impoverished poet Rodolfo and the fragile seamstress Mimì. From a shabby garret to the bustling Café Momus and a frosty street at dawn, this minutely observed panorama of 1830s Parisian life, beautifully designed by **Julia Trevelyan Oman**, conjures emotions and atmosphere ranging from joy to despair, large-scale to intimate. Sharing the baton are British conductor **Mark Elder** (Dec, Jan) and Austrian conductor **Alexander Joel** (Feb, March). Across the run Rodolfo is sung by **Rolando Villazón**, **Dmytro Popov**, **Teodor Ilincai** and **Vittorio Grigolo**, and Mimì is sung by **Maija Kovalevska**, **Anita Hartig** and **Hibla Gerzmava**. **Stefania Dovhan** and **Sonya Yoncheva** share the role of feisty Musetta, and **Auden Iversen** and **Gabriele Viviani** share the role of Marcello.

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For a list of full casting, dates and further information please visit www.roh.org.uk/boheme.

INSIGHTS: LA BOHÈME 6 December at 7.30 pm

Conductor Mark Elder and members of the cast and production team reveal behind-the-scenes information about realising Puccini's opera score.

Clare Studio Upstairs - Tickets £17 Students £7

THE MINOTAUR

Harrison Birtwistle

Libretto by David Harsent

17, 21, 24, 28 January at 7.30 pm, 26 January at 7 pm

With inspiration taken from the Greek myth, **Stephen Langridge's** production of **Harrison Birtwistle's** *The Minotaur* designed by **Alison Chitty** explores Theseus's journey into the legendary labyrinth to destroy the violent Minotaur, with poet **David Harsent** providing a libretto of lyrical intensity. Birtwistle's reading of this ancient Greek myth focuses on the troubled inner world of the Minotaur, and his longing to discover his true identity and voice against the violent ritual of the ancient world. The Royal Opera's Music Director **Antonio Pappano** leads the **Orchestra of the Royal Opera House**, with **John Tomlinson** returning to take up the role of Asterios the Minotaur (created for him in the original production), celebrating his 35th Anniversary at the ROH. **Christine Rice** and **Johan Reuter** return to sing their original roles of Ariadne and Theseus, **Andrew Watts** sings the role of the Snake Priestess, **Elisabeth Meister** sings the role of Ker and Hierus is sung by **Alan Oke**. This revival promises to once again captivate its audience in a compelling display of fear, desire and yearning against a backdrop of tragedy and ancient ritual.

INSIGHTS: THE MINOTAUR 4 January at 7.30 pm

Join conductor Antonio Pappano and members of the cast and creative team to gain an in-depth understanding of staging this legendary opera.

Clare Studio Upstairs - Tickets £17 Students £7

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PRODUCTION PHOTOGRAPHS

For production photographs, we have an FTP service available. Please contact Ruth Greenwood for further details:

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