



26 February 2013

## The Guildhall School of Music & Drama announces major collaboration with the Royal Opera House

The Guildhall School of Music & Drama in association with the Royal Opera House today announces a range of training opportunities for emerging opera-makers including composers and writers.

### **Guildhall School of Music & Drama and Royal Opera House Doctoral Composer-in-Residence beginning in September 2013**

The collaboration between the Royal Opera House and the Guildhall School is one of the first examples of an opera company and conservatoire joining forces to offer a 'Composer-in-Residence' studentship which leads to a doctoral degree. The notion of 'Composer-in-Residence' has long been established as a successful model for the development of orchestral music, but this model has been far less explored in opera. It was first tested by Glyndebourne Festival Opera, where Julian Philips was Composer-in-Residence from 2006-2009, and together they established an AHRC funded doctorate with Sussex University. Philips has further developed this model for the School's new doctoral studentship starting in September 2013.

The Doctoral Composer-in-Residence studentship will be part of the Guildhall School's existing doctoral programme (validated by City University London). Fully funded by both the Guildhall School and the Royal Opera House, this studentship offers one composer every two years the opportunity to be 'Doctoral Composer-in-Residence' over a three year period. During this time, the composer will research and write a major work for the Linbury Studio Theatre which will be staged in the final term of Year 3.

The studentship aims to offer an enriching model of opera development that allows a composer substantial creative research experience in the development of operatic practice, within the setting of a unique collaboration between an opera company and conservatoire. It allows for both critical reflection and creative research, in both professional and academic contexts.

The studentship will be targeted at composers who have some experience in composing for opera. The principal supervisor will be the Guildhall School's Head of Composition, **Dr Julian Philips**, who was the first ever Composer-in-Residence at Glyndebourne. Philips' new opera receives its world premiere at the Royal Opera House in December 2013. The rehearsal period for this work will offer the opportunity for the first Doctoral Composer-in-Residence to shadow Philips in the process of staging his new opera. Philips will be partnered by Associate Director of Opera at the Royal Opera House, **John Fulljames**, as well as a second supervisor from the Guildhall School's distinguished composition department.

Applications close on **31 May 2013**.

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## PRESS RELEASE

### **ResearchWorks conference on writing opera**

The Guildhall School and Royal Opera House's new relationship begins on **29 April 2013** with a Guildhall ResearchWorks conference about the role of the writer in opera at The Pit Theatre, Barbican Centre. Speakers at the conference will include the Royal Opera's Director of Opera **Kasper Holten**, Director of RADA **Edward Kemp**, poet and librettist **Lavinia Greenlaw** and the Guildhall School's Head of Composition **Dr Julian Philips**.

### **New Masters Programme– delivered in association with the ROH**

The School also plans to launch a new MA in Opera Making (subject to validation by City University London), to commence in September 2014, allowing composers and writers to focus exclusively on how new opera is created, developed and performed. Recruitment for the programme will open in June 2013. It is a one-year course targeted at composers and writers whose main focus is operatic composition and the theatre. The core programme will centre on the completion of one chamber operatic work of around twenty-five minutes in length, which will be rehearsed, produced and given its premiere by the Guildhall School's award-winning opera department at the new Milton Court Studio Theatre.

Dr Julian Philips, Head of Composition, Guildhall School commented, 'I am thrilled we have such a unique and exciting opportunity to work with the Royal Opera House and to combine the expertise of a conservatoire and opera house to help support composers in the creation of new operatic work. This Composer-in-Residence scheme gives the composer a secure, fully funded period of three years to develop a major chamber opera for the Royal Opera House within the framework of the Guildhall School's dynamic doctoral programme. Additionally, the new Masters Programme will offer young composers and writers their first immersive experience in the creation of contemporary opera and I am immensely excited to be able to search out and support new creative talent in such an innovative way.'

Kasper Holten, Director of Opera, The Royal Opera said, 'We are extremely keen to collaborate as widely as possible with others in order to develop the future of opera. And we cannot imagine a more exciting partner to work with – on several levels – than the Guildhall School. It is important that we take risks, when we try to create the opera of tomorrow. But it is equally important that we discuss, analyse and continue to understand better how the magic of opera works and how we can offer the best possible tools to the composers, librettists, directors and other opera makers of the future.'

The Guildhall School of Music & Drama is provided by the City of London Corporation.

[www.gsmd.ac.uk](http://www.gsmd.ac.uk)

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