



ROYAL  
OPERA

9 OCTOBER 2013

## CASTING ANNOUNCEMENT

### *LES VÊPRES SICILIENNES*

17, 21, 24, 29 October; 1, 4, 7, 11 November 2013 at 6pm

Russian soprano **Marina Poplavskaya** has fallen ill and unfortunately has had to withdraw from singing the role of Héléne in *Les Vêpres siciliennes* in the final rehearsals and the first three performances in October. Marina Poplavskaya hopes to be able to sing the remaining five performances as scheduled.

The role of Héléne will now be sung on 17, 21 and 24 October by Armenian soprano **Lianna Haroutounian**, who made her debut with The Royal Opera in May 2013 singing Elizabeth of Valois (*Don Carlo*). Her recent roles have included Desdemona (*Otello*) for the Opéra-Bastille in Paris, Leonora (*Il trovatore*) in Marseilles, Leonora (*La forza del destino*) for Paris Opéra, Amelia (*Simon Boccanegra*) in Lille, Mimì (*La bohème*) for the Grand Théâtre in Tours and Amelia (*Un ballo in maschera*) at the Stadttheater in Bern and the Grand Théâtre in Tours. Her roles during the 2012–13 season included Elena (*I vespri siciliani*) at the Megaron Concert Hall, Athens, and in Bilbao (in the original French version of the opera), and Cio-Cio-San (*Madama Butterfly*) for Festival de Sanxay. Upcoming engagements include Desdemona for the Teatro di San Carlo, Naples.

The rest of the cast remains unchanged with American tenor **Bryan Hymel** as Henri, German baritone **Michael Volle** as Guy de Montfort, Uruguayan bass **Erwin Schrott** as Jean Procida, **Jean Teitgen** as Le Sire de Béthune, British tenor **Neal Cooper** as Thibault, South Korean tenor **Jung Soo Yun** as Mainfroid, Jette Parker Principal and South Korean bass **Jihoon Kim** as Robert, British mezzo-soprano **Michelle Daly** as Ninetta, Company Principal British bass **Jeremy White** as Le Comte de Vaudémont and Maltese tenor

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**Nicolas Darmanin** as Daniéli. Music Director of The Royal Opera **Antonio Pappano** conducts all performances.

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