



ROYAL
OPERA

8 OCTOBER 2013

CHANGE OF CONDUCTOR ANNOUNCEMENT

ELEKTRA (Richard Strauss)

9, 12 October 2013

It is with great regret that Latvian conductor **Andris Nelsons** has had to withdraw from conducting the performances of *Elektra* with The Royal Opera on 9 and 12 October due to a strong viral flu. On orders from his doctor he has had to make this decision, and both he and The Royal Opera deeply apologize.

We are happy to announce that assistant conductor **Christopher Willis**, who has been working closely with Andris Nelsons and the cast and orchestra on *Elektra*, will take over the two performances.

Christopher joined the Music Staff at Glyndebourne in 1978 and since 1985 has been a member of the Music Staff of The Royal Opera. He has been closely involved in the preparation of new works with both companies, by composers including Luciano Berio, Michael Tippett, Harrison Birtwistle, Oliver Knussen, Thomas Adès, Nigel Osborne and Alexander Goehr. He was Musical Director for City of Birmingham Touring Opera's production of Smetana's *The Two Widows*, creating a chamber reduction of the orchestral parts for piano and string quartet. He has conducted *Paul Bunyan*, *Stiffelio*, *Eugene Onegin*, *The Tsarina's Slippers*, *Rigoletto*, *Don Giovanni* and *Simon Boccanegra* for The Royal Opera.

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