



ROYAL
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OPERA & MUSIC | SPRING 2014

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DIE FRAU OHNE SCHATTEN

NEW PRODUCTION

Richard Strauss

14, 17, 20, 26, 29 March at 6pm; 23 March at 3pm

2 April at 6pm

- **Co-production with La Scala, Milan.**
- **Generously supported by Sir Simon and Lady Robertson, Hamish and Sophie Forsyth, The Friends of Covent Garden and an anonymous donor.**
- ***Die Frau ohne Schatten* will be broadcast live on BBC Radio 3 on 29 March 2014 at 5.45pm.**

The Royal Opera celebrates the 150th anniversary of Strauss's birth with a new production of *Die Frau ohne Schatten*, one of three Strauss operas being presented at the Royal Opera House this Season, all with librettos by Hugo von Hofmannsthal on mythical themes. *Elektra* was revived in October 2013 and *Ariadne auf Naxos* will be revived in June 2014.

This production of *Die Frau ohne Schatten* is new to the Royal Opera House, and is a co-production with La Scala, Milan, where it was first seen in 2012. German director **Claus Guth** makes his UK and Royal Opera debut with this production, which explores themes of the search for identity and the psychological power of dreams, and vividly illustrates the plight of the central character of the Empress, a woman trapped between two repressive worlds. Guth presents the opera in psychoanalytical terms giving a cool lucid reading that goes straight to the core of Strauss's exotic fable.

Also making their Royal Opera debuts are German designer **Christian Schmidt** and video designer **Andi A. Müller**, both regular collaborators with Guth. Lighting designer **Olaf Winter** who previously worked on the Royal Opera's production of *Tristan und Isolde* in 2009, completes the creative team, along with dramaturg **Ronny Dietrich**.

Russian conductor **Semyon Bychkov** will conduct Strauss's sumptuous and complex score. He made his debut at the Royal House in 2003 conducting *Elektra*,

and has since conducted *Boris Godunov*, *The Queen of Spades*, *Lohengrin*, *Don Carlo*, *Tannhäuser* and *La bohème* for The Royal Opera.

Taking on the roles of the Empress, the Nurse and Barak's wife respectively are American soprano **Emily Magee**, German mezzo-soprano **Michaela Schuster** and Russian soprano **Elena Pankratova**, all of whom sang these roles in the premiere of this production at La Scala, Milan. Elena Pankratova makes her Royal Opera debut, while Emily Magee returns to The Royal Opera for the first time since singing Freia and Guttrune (*Der Ring des Nibelungen*) here in 2007, and Michaela Schuster returns to take up her second Strauss role this Season, following performances as Klytämnestra (*Elektra*) here in September and October 2013. The other principal cast members include South African tenor **Johan Botha** (who most recently sang the title role in *Tannhäuser* for The Royal Opera) as the Emperor, and Danish baritone **Johan Reuter** (who recently sang Theseus in *The Minotaur* and Grigory Gryaznoy in *The Tsar's Bride* for The Royal Opera) as Barak.

Die Frau ohne Schatten was completed during World War I and had its premiere in 1919.

Conductor	Semyon Bychkov
Director	Claus Guth
Dramaturg	Ronny Dietrich
Designs	Christian Schmidt
Lighting design	Olaf Winter
Video Designs	Andi A. Müller

Royal Opera Chorus

Orchestra of the Royal Opera House

CASTING

The Emperor	Johan Botha
The Empress	Emily Magee
The Nurse	Michaela Schuster
Barak	Johan Reuter

Barak's Wife	Elena Pankratova
One-Armed Brother	Jeremy White
Hunchback Brother	Hubert Francis
One-Eyed Brother	Adrian Clarke
Spirit Messenger	Ashley Holland
Voice of the Falcon	Anush Hovhannisyan*
Guardian of the Threshold	Dušica Bijelić*
Voice from Above	Catherine Carby
Apparition of a Youth	Andrew Rees
First Nightwatchman	Michel de Souza*
Second Nightwatchman	Jihoon Kim**
Voice of Unborn Child	Ana James
Voice of Unborn Child	Kiandra Howarth*
Voice of Unborn Child	Nadezhda Karyazina*

****Jette Parker Principal**

*** Jette Parker Young Artist**

Insights: Die Frau ohne Schatten, Tuesday 25 February at 7.30pm

Come and hear from the cast and creative team as they tackle Strauss's exotic fairytale in this striking new production by Claus Guth.

Clare Studio Upstairs - Tickets £17 Students £7

THE COMMISSION/ CAFÉ KAFKA

NEW PRODUCTION

Linbury Studio Theatre

Elspeth Brooke | Libretto by Jack Underwood

Francisco Coll | Libretto by Meredith Oakes

17, 18, 19 March at 7.45pm

- **Supported by Arts Council England's Britten Centenary Fund**
- **Co-production with Aldeburgh Music, Opera North, The Royal Opera**

This Season we look forward to welcoming the debut operas of **Elspeth Brooke** and **Francisco Coll**, in an inspired collaboration between Aldeburgh Music, Opera North and The Royal Opera.

The double-bill is supported by the Jerwood Opera writing programme, which aims to develop the best emerging composers in the UK. The operas will receive their premieres in the **Britten Studio** at Snape Maltings before performances at the **Linbury Studio Theatre**.

Conductor	Richard Baker
Director	Annabel Arden
Designs	Joanna Parker
Lighting design	Matt Haskins
Video design	Dick Straker
Sound design	Peter Malkin

CHROMA ensemble

Set to a text by **Jack Underwood**, *The Commission* is a dark tale of murder and brutal revenge. Working closely with artist **Ellie Rees** and director **Annabel Arden**, co-founder of the renowned Théâtre de Complicité, Elspeth Brooke explores a fragmented fictional world in this one-act opera. **Brooke's** previous projects include a multi-media installation on Verdi's 'Va, pensiero' chorus from *Nabucco* as part of the **Deloitte Ignite Festival 2013**. Brooke has received commissions from leading ensembles including London Sinfonietta, Britten Sinfonia and Rambert Dance Company.

CASTING

The Craftsman	Andri Björn Róbertsson
The Silversmith	Daniel Norman
Daughter	Anna Dennis
Pope/Surgeon	William Purefoy

In *Café Kafka*, Spanish composer **Francisco Coll** constructs an unsettling world, inspired by some of Kafka's most unusual texts. Set in a modern bar, this production seeks to examine human nature, as a group of five singers search for intimacy, connection and meaning. Working closely with Francisco Coll is librettist **Meredith Oakes**, who has previously worked as a playwright and librettist for the Royal National Theatre, The Royal Court and The Royal Opera (as librettist

for Thomas Adès's *The Tempest*). Francisco Coll is currently studying with Thomas Adès, who has said of his student that 'his music displays an original and powerful sense of drama, and his ideas about music proceed from a strikingly individual and unusual mind.'

CASTING

Girl	Suzanne Shakespeare
First Man	Daniel Norman
Woman	Anna Dennis
Second Man	William Purefoy
Third Man	Andri Björn Róbertsson
The Hunter Gracchus	Andri Björn Róbertsson
Policeman	Andri Björn Róbertsson

L'ORMINDO

Francesco Cavalli

SAM WANAMAKER PLAYHOUSE

25, 26, 28, 29 March, 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12 April at 7.30pm

- Co-production between The Royal Opera and Shakespeare's Globe
- BBC Radio 3 will broadcast *L'Ormino* on 5 April at 7.15pm

The Royal Opera and Shakespeare's Globe present Francesco Cavalli's opera *L'Ormino*, first staged in Venice in 1644 at the Teatro San Cassiano, as part of the inaugural season of the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse.

The intimate nature of the work performed by nine singers and eight musicians in the intimacy of the theatre will provide a rare experience of Baroque opera, and a level of authenticity that promises to be richly revealing as well as rewarding.

Kasper Holten, Director of The Royal Opera, directs a production that draws on the theatrical conventions in London at the time of the opera's composition, with music under the direction of **Christian Curnyn**, founder and director of The Early Opera Group and one of the UK's leading conductors specializing in Baroque and Classical repertory.

The audience will sit extremely close to the singers and musicians, in an environment lit by candles; this will offer a rare experience of Baroque opera, and provide insight into what attending opera in the 17th century might have been like. The opera itself is a romantic, comic tale of mistaken identity, disguise, illicit love and reconciliation – with some surprising plot twists. The predominantly young cast includes two members of The Royal Opera’s Jette Parker Young Artists Programme.

The elaborate period costume designs are by Danish designer **Anja Vang Kragh**, who has worked with Stella McCartney and Christian Dior, and who is also working with Kasper Holten to provide the costume designs for his new production of *Don Giovanni* for The Royal Opera. The choreography is by **Signe Fabricius**, who is also currently working with Holten on *Don Giovanni* for The Royal Opera.

Conductor	Christian Curnyn
Director	Kasper Holten
Costume designs	Anja Vang Kragh
Choreography	Signe Fabricius

CASTING

Ormindo	Samuel Boden
Amida	Ed Lyon
Nerillo	James Laing
Sicle	Joëlle Harvey
Erice	Harry Nicoll
Erisbe	Susanna Hurrell
Mirinda	Rachel Kelly*
Hariadeno	Graeme Broadbent
Osmano	Ashley Riches*

* **Jette Parker Young Artist**

THROUGH HIS TEETH

WORLD PREMIERE

Linbury Studio Theatre

Luke Bedford | Libretto by David Harrower

3, 7, 9, 11 April at 7.45pm

To complement The Royal Opera's revival of Gounod's *Faust*, The Royal Opera has commissioned two leading contemporary composers to respond to the *Faust* legend.

Rising star **Luke Bedford** is widely recognized as one of the finest composers of his generation, and one of a group of young composers at the forefront of contemporary opera. Scottish playwright **David Harrower**, acclaimed for his translations of Gogol's *The Government Inspector* (Young Vic) and Chekhov's *Ivanov*, provides the libretto in this exciting new collaboration.

Through His Teeth depicts a woman lured into a passionate affair by a ruthlessly charming car salesman, and reveals the fragility of human trust through the salesman's powerful sexual magnetism. As her lover's other life terrifyingly unfolds, the woman becomes trapped and controlled in his shadowy other world, where someone is always watching.

Conductor	Sian Edwards
Director	Bijan Sheibani
Designs	Becs Andrews
Lighting design	Paul Knott
Video design	Sam Meech

CHROMA ensemble

CASTING

A	Anna Devin
Her sister/interviewer	Victoria Simmonds
R	Owen Gilhooly

THE CRACKLE

WORLD PREMIERE

Linbury Studio Theatre

Matthew Herbert | Libretto by Matthew Herbert

5, 8, 10 April at 7.45pm, 12 April at 2.30pm

The Royal Opera's *Faust* theme continues with British electronic pioneer, composer and sound artist **Matthew Herbert**'s new work *The Crackle*; a new opera which blends live instrumentation with bespoke electronics and new technologies.

A music teacher and frustrated academic longs for recognition, and to be at the cutting edge of his art. When a mysterious stranger offers him technology that unlocks a hidden power in music, including sending hard data and controlling machines, he is quick to accept. But there are, he discovers, unintended and dangerous consequences in leaping first and asking questions afterwards.

Conductor	Tim Murray
Directors	Matthew Herbert, Sasha Milavic Davies
Designs	Becs Andrews
Video design	Sam Meech
Lighting design	Paul Knott

Royal Opera House Youth Opera Company

FAUST

Charles-François Gounod

4, 7, 11, 14, 17, 22 and 25 April at 6.45pm

- **Generous philanthropic support from David Hancock, Spindrift Al Swaidi, Martin and Jane Houston, Mr and Mrs Christopher W.T. Johnston, The Tsukanov Family Foundation, The Connoisseurs' Series and The Friends of Covent Garden**
- **A co-production with Opéra de Monte Carlo, Opéra de Lille and Fondazione Teatro Lirico Giuseppe Verdi, Trieste**
- ***Faust* will be broadcast live on BBC Radio 3 on 14 April 2014 at 7pm.**

David McVicar's vivid, large-scale production of Gounod's *Faust* sets the action in Gounod's Paris in the 1850s, and revels in the opera's dark gothic elements. This drama of love, betrayal and the battle of good and evil is brought to life through the spectacular set designs of **Charles Edwards**, costume designs by **Brigitte**

Reiffenstuel and lighting designs by **Paule Constable**. The original choreography is by **Michael Keegan-Dolan** and the revival choreographer is **Daphne Strothmann**.

French and Italian opera specialist **Maurizio Benini** returns to conduct all performances, having conducted the production when it was new in 2004 and again in 2006. He most recently conducted *La traviata* for The Royal Opera.

The story of the opera centres on the eponymous character of Faust, who, after attempting suicide, sells his soul to the devil Méphistophélès in exchange for youth and the love of the beautiful Marguerite.

Singing the title role of Faust is Maltese tenor **Joseph Calleja**, who recently performed the role to wide critical acclaim at the Metropolitan Opera, New York. The role of Marguerite will be sung by Russian soprano **Anna Netrebko**, in her role debut. Netrebko's most recent role for The Royal Opera was the title role in *Manon* (2010). Welsh bass-baritone **Bryn Terfel** and British baritone **Simon Keenlyside**, who both sang in the premiere of this production in 2004, will return to the roles of Méphistophélès and Valentin.

Conductor	Maurizio Benini
Director	David McVicar
Revival director	Bruno Ravella
Set designs	Charles Edwards
Costume designs	Brigitte Reiffenstuel
Lighting design	Paule Constable
Choreography	Michael Keegan-Dolan
Revival choreographer	Daphne Strothmann

Royal Opera Chorus

Orchestra of the Royal Opera House

CASTING

Faust	Joseph Calleja
Marguerite	Anna Netrebko
Méphistophélès	Bryn Terfel

Valentin	Simon Keenlyside
Siébel	Renata Pokupić
Marthe Schwertlein	Diana Montague
Wagner	Jihoon Kim**

****Jette Parker Principal**

Insights: Joseph Calleja, Tuesday 8 April at 7.30pm

Maltese tenor Joseph Calleja is one of the most sought after singers of his generation. Come and hear him talk about his meteoric rise and plans for the future.

Clare Studio Upstairs - Tickets £13 Students £7

JONAS KAUFMANN – WINTERREISSE

Franz Schubert

Main Stage Recital | Accompanied by Helmut Deutsch

6 April at 7.00pm

German tenor **Jonas Kaufmann** gives his first recital at the Royal Opera House, a performance of **Franz Schubert's** song cycle *Winterreise*, a setting of 24 poems by Wilhelm Müller. Schubert's music evokes the journey and shifting emotions of a jilted poet as he wanders heartbroken and lonely in a winter landscape that seems only to echo his grief.

Kaufmann has performed several roles for The Royal Opera to great acclaim including the title role of *Don Carlo*, Don José (*Carmen*), Alfredo Germont (*La traviata*), Mario Cavaradossi (*Tosca*) and Maurizio (*Adriana Lecouvreur*). He appears later this season as the Chevalier des Grieux in The Royal Opera's new production of Puccini's *Manon Lescaut*.

Kaufmann is joined by his regular recital partner, German pianist **Helmut Deutsch**, with whom he has recorded Schubert's *Die schöne Müllerin* (Decca, 2009) and Strauss Lieder (Harmonia Mundi, 2006). His latest recording with **Helmut Deutsch**, of *Winterreise*, is released in February 2014.

LA TRAVIATA

Giuseppe Verdi

19, 21, 24, 26 and 30 April at 7pm

3, 6, 9, 12, 17 and 20 May at 7pm

- **Generous philanthropic support from an anonymous donor**

Conductor	Dan Ettinger (April; 3, 6, 9, 12, 17 May) Paul Wynne Griffiths (20 May)
Director	Richard Eyre
Designs	Bob Crowley
Lighting design	Jean Kalman
Director of movement	Jane Gibson

Royal Opera Chorus

Orchestra of the Royal Opera House

One of The Royal Opera's most popular productions, *La traviata*, will return to Covent Garden this Season with two separate casts. *La traviata* is based on the novel and play *La Dame aux camélias* by the French writer Alexandre Dumas fils, and has a libretto by Verdi's regular collaborator Francesco Maria Piave. Dumas based his novel and play on the short and tragic life of Marie Duplessis, a beautiful French courtesan and mistress to many prominent men. **Richard Eyre's** classic production of Verdi's most famous opera has achieved an enduring popularity with Royal Opera House audiences since it had its premiere in 1994. The production is set in the hedonistic social whirl of 19th-century Paris, with opulent period sets and striking costumes designed by **Bob Crowley**. The score is one of Verdi's most moving and tuneful.

Sharing the role of Violetta (the 'fallen woman' of the title) are German soprano **Diana Damrau** and American soprano **Ailyn Pérez**. Singing Alfredo, Violetta's devoted lover, are **Francesco Demuro** and **Stephen Costello** (who is Pérez's husband). Two of today's greatest baritones will sing the role of Germont: **Simon Keenlyside**, who also sings Valentin in *Faust* and also sang the title role in *Wozzeck* this Season at Covent Garden, and Russian baritone **Dmitri Hvorostovsky**, whose recent roles for The Royal Opera have included Rigoletto, Valentin and Count di Luna (*Il trovatore*). Israeli conductor **Dan Ettinger**, who made his Royal Opera

debut with *Rigoletto* in 2010, will conduct. The remainder of the cast include many of The Royal Opera's Jette Parker Young Artists.

CASTING

Violetta Valéry	Diana Damrau (April; 3, 9 May) Ailyn Pérez (6, 12, 17, 20 May)
Alfredo Germont	Francesco Demuro (April; 3, 9 May) Stephen Costello (6, 12, 17, 20 May)
Giorgio Germont	Dmitri Hvorostovsky (April; 3 May) Simon Keenlyside (6, 9, 12, 17, 20 May)
Baron Douphol	Michel de Souza* (April; 3, 9 May) Ashley Riches* (6, 12, 17, 20 May)
Doctor Grenvil	Jihoon Kim**
Flora Bervoix	Nadezhda Karyazina*
Marquis D'Obigny	Jeremy White (April; 3, 9 May) Charbel Mattar (6, 12, 17, 20 May)
Gastone de Letorières	Luis Gomes* (April; 3, 9 May) David Butt Philip* (6, 12, 17, 20 May)
Annina	Sarah Pring (April; 3, 9 May) Gaynor Keeble (6, 12, 17, 20 May)

****Jette Parker Principal**

*** Jette Parker Young Artist**

Insights: *La traviata* Singalong, Friday 13th March at 7.30pm

Come and make your operatic debut with the Royal Opera Chorus, learning and singing extracts from one of Verdi's best loved scores. No previous singing experience necessary!

Linbury Studio Theatre - Tickets £13 Students £7

LE NOZZE DI FIGARO

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

2, 5, 7, 15 May at 7pm / 10 May at 12 noon

Conductor	David Syrus
Director	David McVicar
Designs	Tanya McCallin
Lighting design	Paule Constable
Movement Director	Leah Hausman

Royal Opera Chorus

Orchestra of the Royal Opera House

David McVicar's acclaimed 2006 production of *Le nozze di Figaro* returns for its fifth revival. The setting of the production, around 1830, with ornate and realistic designs by **Tanya McCallin**, emphasizes the undercurrents of unresolved class tensions in Europe after the French Revolution, and prior to the ascension of Louis-Philippe to the French throne in July 1830. Lighting design is by **Paule Constable** and movement by **Leah Hausman**. The revival director is **Bárbara Lluch**.

David Syrus, Head of Music for The Royal Opera, will conduct all performances, having previously conducted David McVicar's production of *Le nozze di Figaro* for The Royal Opera in 2010, 2008 and 2006. He has also recently conducted *Die Zauberflöte*, *Fidelio* and *Così fan tutte* for The Royal Opera.

Singing the role of Figaro for the first time for The Royal Opera is Italian bass **Alex Esposito**, who also sings Leporello (*Don Giovanni*) for The Royal Opera this Season. He has previously sung the role at La Fenice, Venice, and for Paris Opéra. Swedish soprano **Camilla Tilling** returns to the role of Susanna, which she recently sang with Paris Opéra in 2012. Her last appearance with The Royal Opera was as Gretel (*Hänsel and Gretel*). 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. Following his performances as Amfortas in *Parsifal* for The Royal Opera earlier this Season, 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. Welsh soprano **Rebecca Evans** sings the role of Countess Almaviva, a role she has previously sung with Welsh National Opera. Her

recent roles with The Royal Opera include Nella (*Gianni Schicchi*) and Mimì (*La bohème*).

CASTING

Figaro	Alex Esposito
Susanna	Camilla Tilling
Cherubino	Anna Bonitatibus
Count Almaviva	Gerald Finley
Countess Almaviva	Rebecca Evans
Bartolo	Christophoros Stamboglis
Marcellina	Marie McLaughlin
Don Basilio	Guy de Mey
Don Curzio	Timothy Robinson
Antonio	Jeremy White
Barbarina	Dušica Bijelić*

* Jette Parker Young Artist

TOSCA

Giacomo Puccini

10, 13, 16, 19, 22, 27 and 30 May at 7.30pm

3, 16, 19, and 26 June at 7.30pm / 21 June at 7pm

- Generously sponsored by RLM Finsbury

Conductor	Oleg Caetani (May; 3 June) Plácido Domingo (16, 19, 21, 26 June)
Director	Jonathan Kent
Revival directors	Andrew Sinclair (May; 3 June) Amy Lane (16, 19, 21, 26 June)
Designs	Paul Brown
Lighting design	Mark Henderson

Royal Opera Chorus

Orchestra of the Royal Opera House

First performed in 1900, Giacomo Puccini's fifth opera, *Tosca*, was an instant hit with audiences and remains one of the most performed of all operas today, with its dramatic plot of love, political instability and revenge. Based on the French playwright Victorien Sardou's popular and lurid play *La Tosca*, the opera tells the story of the opera singer Floria Tosca and her lover, painter Mario Cavaradossi, whose happiness is threatened by the sadistic Scarpia, Chief of Police in Rome, who wants Tosca for himself. When Cavaradossi helps a fugitive escape, Scarpia sees his chance – but even he cannot imagine the dramatic consequences of his actions.

Director **Jonathan Kent** places the action in Rome in 1800. First seen at the Royal Opera House in 2006, this naturalistic production, now in its sixth revival, conveys both the complexity of the three central characters and the urgency of the drama as it hastens towards its fatal conclusion. **Paul Brown's** imposing designs and **Mark Henderson's** lighting designs include a shadowy crypt with beautiful frescoes, a dark study with its hidden torture chamber and the great battlements of the Castel Sant' Angelo in the eerie light of a Roman dawn.

Puccini's score demands consummate singer-actors. Sharing the role of Floria Tosca are Ukrainian soprano **Oksana Dyka**, who is high in demand for her Tosca in many Italian houses and is making her Royal Opera debut, and American soprano **Sondra Radvanovsky**, who recently performed the role of Tosca for Los Angeles Opera and the Vienna State Opera. The role of Mario Cavaradossi will be shared between Sicilian-French tenor **Roberto Alagna**, who most recently appeared as Don José in *Carmen* at Covent Garden earlier this Season, and Italian tenor **Riccardo Massi**, who makes his debut making his debut with The Royal Opera. The Chief of Police, Scarpia – one of the most malevolent villains in opera – will be sung by American baritone **Thomas Hampson**, who most recently appeared as Simon Boccanegra for The Royal Opera and **Sebastian Catana**, who makes his Royal Opera debut in the role.

Oleg Caetani makes his Royal Opera debut conducting this powerful operatic thriller. His recent performances have included *La bohème* for English National Opera and *Madama Butterfly* for ENO and in Berlin. He shares the baton with Plácido Domingo, who made his Royal Opera debut in 1971 in the role of Cavaradossi in *Tosca*, and previously conducted *Tosca* for The Royal Opera in 1996.

Domingo's last appearance as a conductor for The Royal Opera was in *Pagliacci* in 2003. Last Season, he sang the title role in *Nabucco* for The Royal Opera.

CASTING

Floria Tosca	Oksana Dyka (May; 3 June) Sondra Radvanovsky (16, 19, 21, 26 June)
Mario Cavaradossi	Roberto Alagna (May; 3 June) Riccardo Massi (16, 19, 21, 26 June)
Baron Scarpia	Thomas Hampson (May; 3 June) Sebastian Catana (16, 19, 21, 26 June)
Angelotti	Michel de Souza*
Spoletta	Martyn Hill (May; 3 June) Hubert Francis (16, 19, 21, 26 June)
Sacristan	Jeremy White (May; 3 June) Tiziano Bracci (16, 19, 21, 26 June)
Sciarrone	Jihoon Kim** (May; 3 June) Simon Wilding (16, 19, 21, 26 June)

****Jette Parker Principal**

*** Jette Parker Young Artist**

DIALOGUES DES CARMÉLITES

Francis Poulenc

29 May at 7.30pm

2, 4, 9, and 11 June at 7.30pm / 7 June at 6.45pm

- **Generous philanthropic support from Mrs Aline Foriel-Destezet, The Taylor Family Foundation and the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.**
- ***Dialogues des Carmélites* will be broadcast live on BBC Radio 3 on 7 June 2014 at 7pm.**

Dialogues des Carmélites, Poulenc's only full-length opera, will be seen at Covent Garden for the first time since 1983, conducted by **Simon Rattle**. Poulenc wrote some of his most haunting music for this opera, which is loosely based on the true

story of a group of Carmelite nuns whose faith was put to the ultimate test when they were caught up in the turmoil and terror of the French Revolution. In Poulenc's opera, following a decree dissolving all the religious houses, the Carmelite nuns take a vow of martyrdom and sing their way to the scaffold. Using a film script by French novelist Georges Bernanos as one of his major inspirations, Poulenc focussed in the opera on five nuns: the anxious young novice Blanche and her cheerful friend Soeur Constance, the ardent Madame Lidoine, the determined Mère Marie and the old and suffering Madame de Croissy.

Robert Carsen created this compelling and unconventional production, new to The Royal Opera, for Der Nederlandse Opera Amsterdam in 2001, working with set designer **Michael Levine** and costume designer **Falk Bauer** to create a simple clear staging. The play of light and darkness is an important organizing visual element in the production and **Jean Kalman** has created beautiful and subtle lighting effects to match the radiant transcendent moments in the music. The impressive mainly female cast is headed by British soprano **Sally Matthews** as the volatile yet visionary young novice and former aristocrat Blanche, with French mezzo-soprano **Sophie Koch** as Mère Marie, British soprano **Emma Bell** as Madame Lidoine, Austrian soprano **Anna Prohaska** as Soeur Constance and American soprano **Deborah Polaski** making a welcome return to Covent Garden to sing Madame de Croissy.

Conductor	Simon Rattle
Director	Robert Carsen
Set designs	Michael Levine
Costume designs	Falk Bauer
Lighting design	Jean Kalman
Movement	Philippe Giraudeau

Royal Opera Chorus

Orchestra of the Royal Opera House

CASTING

Blanche de la Force	Sally Matthews
Sister Constance	Anna Prohaska
Madame Lidone	Emma Bell

Mother Marie	Sophie Koch
Madame de Croissy	Deborah Polaski
Marquis de la Force	Thomas Allen
Chevalier de la Force	Yann Beuron
Mother Jeanne	Elizabeth Sikora
Sister Mathilde	Catherine Carby
Father Confessor	Alan Oke
First Commissary	David Butt Philip*
Second Commissary	Michel de Souza*
First Officer	Ashley Riches*
Gaoler	Craig Smith

*** Jette Parker Young Artist**

Insights: *Dialogues des Carmélites*, Friday 6 May at 7.30pm

Come and explore Poulenc's turbulent and gripping account of the French Revolution with members of the cast and creative team involved in Robert Carsen's production.

Linbury Studio Theatre - Tickets £17 Students £7

BABYO / SENSORYO

SCOTTISH OPERA

Clare Studio Upstairs

BABYO

3 March at 10.30am, 11.30am and 1.30pm / 5, 6, 7 March at 10.30am and 11.30am

SENSORYO

4 March at 10.30am and 1.30pm / 5, 6, 7 March at 1.30pm

Scottish Opera is set to prove that you are never too young to enjoy music – with two unique opera experiences especially created for babies and toddlers.

A fun way to give children their first live music experience, these ground-breaking productions offer a sensory experience of touch, texture, sight, sound and song,

featuring simple movements and music that will capture the imagination of babies and adults alike.

The music and soundscape, composed by **Rachel Drury**, will be brought to life through performance and percussion.

BabyO, the musical event for babies, creates an interactive environment for both babies and their carers: a secret garden full of ducks, fish and busy bees. Seamlessly combining recorded music with live singing, the simple sounds, words and movement help stimulate language development in a relaxed and intimate setting.

SensoryO introduces toddlers to live performance in a fun, engaging environment, featuring a magical night-time ride through the jungle and an encounter with a friendly lion. Percussive sounds and a tactile set make this an engaging experience for children, full of sound, rhythm and music.

Music	Rachel Drury
Director	Lissa Lorenzo (<i>SensoryO</i>)
Designs	Ali Maclaurin
Choreography	Linda Payne
Percussion	Michael Clark (<i>SensoryO</i>)
Performers	Shuna Sendall Sioned Gwen Davies (<i>BabyO</i>) Adam Magee (<i>SensoryO</i>) Steven Faughey

LUNCHTIME RECITALS AND EVENTS

BIG SING FRIDAYS

TICKETS £5

Paul Hamlyn Hall

28 March at 1pm

25 April at 1pm

20 June at 1pm

Big Sing Fridays are one hour lunchtime taster sessions, which give members of the public the opportunity to sing alongside The Royal Opera's music staff and guest artists in the Paul Hamlyn Hall at the Royal Opera House. Each session will be led by a different conductor – the most recent was led by the dynamic Dominic Peckham, Assistant Music Director of the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain.

For more information: <http://www.roh.org.uk/functions/big-sing-fridays>

MONDAY LUNCHTIME RECITALS

FREE TICKETED EVENT

Crush Room and Paul Hamlyn Hall

3, 10, 17, 24 February at 1pm

3, 10, 17, 31 March at 1pm

7, 14, 28 April at 1pm

12, 19 May at 1pm

The popular series of free Monday lunchtime recitals continues. Members of the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, Royal Opera Chorus and the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme present a range of song recitals and chamber music.

For more information: www.roh.org.uk/recitals

Monday 3 February 2014 at 1pm – Paul Hamlyn Hall

Madeleine Pierard, soprano

Jean-Paul Pruna, piano

Programme to comprise Ravel's *Shéhérazade*, Richard Strauss's *Gesänge des Orients* and Debussy songs.

Monday 10 February 2014 at 1pm – Crush Room

Andriy Viytovych, viola

Stephen Bettaney, piano

Programme to be announced

Monday 17 February 2014 at 1pm – Crush Room

A programme of chamber music quintets to comprise Bernard Herrmann's *Souvenirs de Voyage* and Mussorgsky's (arr. Linckelmann) *Pictures at an Exhibition*.

Monday 24 February 2014 at 1pm – Crush Room

Simon Archer, piano

Melissa Forshaw, violin

Sophia Durrant, violin

Andriy Viytovych, viola

Andrew Dunn, cello

Programme to comprise Simon Archer's Suite for Piano and the world premiere of his String Quartet in F major.

Monday 3 March 2014 at 1pm – Crush Room

Philip Rowson, piccolo, flute, alto flute

Heather Glansford Rowson, soprano

Mark Packwood, piano

Members of the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House and Royal Opera music staff plus a guest artist perform a programme of works for voice, flute and piano.

Monday 10 March 2014 at 1pm – Crush Room

Rachel Kelly, mezzo-soprano

David Gowland, piano

Jette Parker Young Artists Programme recital: Programme to be announced

Monday 17 March 2014 at 1pm – Crush Room

Helen Nicholas, piano

Programme to include solo piano works by Chopin and Debussy

Monday 31 March 2014 at 1pm – Paul Hamlyn Hall

Matthew Rose, bass

Angell Trio

Programme to include a new commission by Martin Suckling, written especially for Matthew Rose and the Trio.

Monday 7 April 2014 at 1pm – Crush Room

Jan Schmolck, violin

Frances Angell, piano

Programme to be announced.

Monday 14 April 2014 at 1pm – Crush Room

Anush Hovhannisyan, soprano

David Gowland, piano

Jette Parker Young Artists Programme recital: programme to comprise Berg's *Sieben frühe Lieder*, Brahms's *Zigeunerlieder* op.103 and Armenian songs by Arno Babajanyan and Edward Mirzoyan.

Monday 28 April 2014 at 1pm – Crush Room

Nadezhda Karyazina, mezzo-soprano

David Gowland, piano

Jette Parker Young Artists Programme recital: programme to be announced

Monday 12 May 2014 at 1pm – Crush Room

Paul Wingfield, piano

Michele Gamba, piano

Jette Parker Young Artists Programme recital: programme to include works for piano solo and piano duo

Monday 19 May 2014 at 1pm – Crush Room

Greg Eldridge, stage director

Director's workshop: The Jette Parker Young Artist Stage Director explores the craft of the stage director, with singers from the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme.

PRESS OFFICE CONTACTS

Ann Richards

Head of Opera Press

Tel: 020 7212 9132

ann.richards@roh.org.uk

Ruth Greenwood

Opera Press and Communications Officer

Tel: 020 7212 9731

ruth.greenwood@roh.org.uk

David Brownlie-Marshall

Opera Press and Communications Officer

Tel: 020 7212 9504

david.brownlie-marshall@roh.org.uk

Celia Moran

Opera Press Assistant

Tel: 020 7212 9149

Fax: 020 7212 9725

celia.moran@roh.org.uk