



ROYAL  
OPERA  
HOUSE

## OPERA AND MUSIC 2014/15 SEASON

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## THE ROYAL OPERA 2014/15 SEASON

- This Season The Royal Opera celebrates Music Director Antonio Pappano.
- His tenure as Music Director is extended until at least the end of 2017.
- Antonio Pappano conducts four new productions, two revivals and one symphonic concert in the 2014/15 Season. At the start of the 2014/15 Season, he will have conducted over 400 performances at the Royal Opera House as Music Director of The Royal Opera.
- The First night of the Season, the first revival of Mark-Anthony Turnage's *Anna Nicole* sees the entire auditorium for *Anna Nicole* handed over to students with tickets priced from £1 to £25.
- Kasper Holten and Antonio Pappano work together for the first time, on a new production of a work never before seen at the Royal Opera House, Szymanowski's *Król Roger*.
- The Season includes four world premieres and four London premieres including the commission of a new work from German/Danish composer Søren Nils Eichberg (*Glare*) for the Linbury Studio Theatre.
- Productions in the Linbury Studio Theatre also include the world premiere of Philip Glass's *The Trial*, a co-commission and co-production between Music Theatre Wales, Theater Magdeburg, Scottish Opera and The Royal Opera.
- On the main stage, there are seven new productions, with four directors new to Covent Garden – Damiano Michieletto (UK debut), Katharina Thoma, Martin Kušej (UK debut), and Thaddeus Strassberger (UK debut)– as well as new productions from Kasper Holten, John Fulljames and David McVicar.
- Seven operas will be screened in the Royal Opera House Live Cinema Season.
- Antonio Pappano will present *The Golden Age of Singing* for the BBC.

- **Antonio Pappano leads The Royal Opera on their second tour to Japan in September 2015, conducting *Don Giovanni* and *Macbeth*.**
- **BBC Radio 3 to broadcast 15 productions during the 2014/15 Season.**
- **The London premiere of Richard Ayres's *Peter Pan* directed by Keith Warner, performed by WNO at the end of the 2014/15 Season.**

The Royal Opera is delighted to announce that Antonio Pappano will continue working with The Royal Opera in his role as Music Director, until at least the end of 2017.

The range and breadth of Antonio Pappano's repertory has been highlighted over his tenure (12 Seasons to date). The productions that he has conducted reflect his commitment to new music, his in-depth exploration of Wagner, and his passion for the Italian repertory from Rossini to Verdi to Puccini.

This season, his 13th at the helm as Music Director of The Royal Opera, Antonio Pappano will conduct six productions: two revivals and four new productions. He will also conduct the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House in a concert of orchestral music featuring Italian soprano **Anna Caterina Antonacci**.

Pappano opens the Season by returning to the work he championed in 2011, *Anna Nicole* by **Mark-Anthony Turnage**, with libretto by **Richard Thomas**, directed by **Richard Jones**. **Eva-Maria Westbroek**, who has also worked with Antonio Pappano at Covent Garden in *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, *La fanciulla del West*, *Il trittico* and *Les Troyens*, reprises her hugely successful portrayal of the title character. New to the cast is **Rod Gilfry** singing the role of the Lawyer Stern, with **Alan Oke**, **Susan Bickley** and **Peter Hoare** reprising their original roles as Old Man Marshall, Virgie and Larry King.

The opening night of the Season will be dedicated to the next generation with the entire auditorium for *Anna Nicole* handed over to students with tickets from £1 to £25 (generously made possible by The Bunting Family and Simon Robey).

There will be an opportunity to hear Antonio Pappano 'In Conversation' in September at the Royal Opera House where he discusses his passions, challenges and goals for The Royal Opera as part of the programme of Insight events.

Antonio Pappano turns to Verdi, one of his favourite composers, for his first new production of the Season, *I due Foscari* directed by American director **Thaddeus Strassberger**. For this production, Pappano is reunited with **Plácido Domingo**, who adds another major Verdi baritone role, Doge Francesco Foscari, to his repertory with The Royal Opera. Pappano and Domingo last worked together on *Simon Boccanegra* in July 2010, when Domingo sang his first baritone role for The Royal Opera. Italian tenor **Francesco Meli** is Francesco's son Jacopo, a role he sang in 2012 at the premiere of this production in Los Angeles, and Italian soprano **Maria Agresta** makes her Royal Opera debut in the role of Jacopo's wife Lucrezia.

Another major hallmark of Antonio Pappano's tenure as Music Director has been his exploration of Wagner, and he returns to conduct *Tristan und Isolde* in **Christof Loy's** taut and intense award-winning production, which he first conducted in 2009. **Nina Stemme**, who sang Isolde at this production's 2009 premiere, returns to reprise her hugely acclaimed performance of this role. She is joined by American tenor and Wagner specialist **Stephen Gould** as Tristan. Renowned Wagnerian **John Tomlinson** sings the role of King Marke, which he sang to acclaim in this production in 2009, with **Sarah Connolly** as Brangäne, a role she sang in 2009 for Glyndebourne Festival and in Paris in 2012.

For his next new production of the Season, Antonio Pappano conducts *Andrea Chénier*, Umberto Giordano's best-known opera. Giordano was, for a while, seen as a serious rival to Puccini, and listening to this score it's easy to understand why. The opera was last seen at the Royal Opera House in 1985. Famous interpreters of the great title role have included José Carreras and

Plácido Domingo. **Jonas Kaufmann** makes a role debut as the poet-hero Chénier in his fifth collaboration with Antonio Pappano at the Royal Opera House (following acclaimed appearances in *Carmen*, *Tosca*, *Don Carlo* and, in June 2014, *Manon Lescaut*). **Eva-Maria Westbroek** returns for her second role of the Season, singing Chénier's beloved Maddalena di Coigny, and **Zeljko Lučić** sings Chénier's rival in love, revolutionary Carlo Gérard.

The 2014/15 Season also sees Antonio Pappano working together with **Kasper Holten** for the first time, on a new production of Szymanowski's *Król Roger* – the first time this masterpiece of 20th-century opera has been performed at the Royal Opera House. The richly opulent and dramatic score illustrates man's inner battle between his primitive instincts and his intellect, as the enlightened King Roger struggles to rebuild his identity, following the arrival of the mysterious Shepherd, who establishes a strange pagan cult at Roger's court. Working for The Royal Opera for the first time is Danish designer **Steffen Aarfing**, who has worked together with Kasper Holten on a number of productions, including an acclaimed *Der Ring des Nibelungen* in Copenhagen, and also on the film *Juan*. Leading the cast in the title role is Polish baritone **Mariusz Kwiecień**, whose recent roles for The Royal Opera include the title role in *Don Giovanni* and Posa (*Don Carlo*) He is joined by American soprano **Georgia Jarman**, making her Royal Opera debut as Roger's queen Roxana, and Albanian tenor **Saimir Pirgu** as the Shepherd.

This Season Antonio Pappano also showcases the Orchestra of the Royal Opera, taking them out of the pit onto the stage in a performance of concert works. This new initiative is the first in a series of annual concerts. For this opening concert the Orchestra will be joined by soprano **Anna Caterina Antonacci** in a programme including Chausson's evocative *Poème de l'amour et de la mer*.

For his final performances of the Season, Antonio Pappano re-introduces Rossini's last and grandest opera, *Guillaume Tell*, to Covent Garden after an absence of over twenty-two years (it was last performed here in 1992). Having garnered international acclaim and many plaudits for his recording

of *Guillaume Tell* with the Orchestra of the Accademia di Santa Cecilia, Pappano will demonstrate his passion for this wonderful opera in a new production for The Royal Opera, directed by Italian director **Damiano Michieletto**, working with The Royal Opera for the first time. The theme of liberty at the heart of the opera is illustrated in the Swiss patriot and marksman Tell's leadership of the heroic struggle against Austrian occupation. Joining Antonio Pappano for this new production are a number of artists who recorded the opera with him: Canadian bass-baritone **Gerald Finley** as Guillaume Tell, American tenor **John Osborn** in the challenging role of Tell's fellow-patriot Arnold, and Swedish soprano **Malin Byström** as Arnold's beloved, the Austrian noblewoman Mathilde. *Guillaume Tell* was a massive hit when it was first performed, and had a huge influence on the next generation of operatic masters, including Verdi and Wagner.

There are three further new productions being presented during the 2014/15 Season on the main stage: Weill's *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny*, Verdi's *Un ballo in maschera* and Mozart's *Idomeneo*. Italian opera is strongly represented with three Verdi revivals – *Rigoletto*, *La traviata* and *Falstaff* – and two Rossini revivals – *Il turco in Italia* and *Il barbiere di Siviglia* – in addition to revivals of our classic and popular productions of *Madama Butterfly* and *Die Zauberflöte* and the first revival of Kasper Holten's *Don Giovanni*.

Associate Director of Opera **John Fulljames** explores Weill and Brecht's masterpiece *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny*, another work new to The Royal Opera repertory, and which illustrates our ongoing commitment to major 20th century operas. **Es Devlin** (set designs) and **Christina Cunningham** (costume designs), who worked together on *Chimerica* at the Almeida Theatre, and **Finn Ross** (video design) collaborate with John Fulljames on this production. This opera, a satire on a world driven by consumption, where sin is 'in' and love is always for sale, was first performed in 1930 but was banned by the Nazis from 1933. Weill's infectious score melds a number of styles from epic operatic lyricism to cabaret, while

Brecht's text (in a new translation by **Jeremy Sams**) offers a classic operatic narrative as well as a critique of opera itself. **Mark Wigglesworth** (ENO's new Music Director) conducts. **Christine Rice** sings the role of the prostitute Jenny (performed by Weill's wife Lotte Lenya in 1931 in Berlin), **Kurt Streit** takes the role of the heroic and reckless lumberjack Jimmy, **Anne Sofie von Otter** makes a welcome return to The Royal Opera as the criminal Leokadja Begbick and **Willard W. White** and **Peter Hoare** are her fellow-criminals Trinity Moses and Fatty.

Working at Covent Garden for the first time is German director **Katharina Thoma**, one of her generation's most exciting talents, directing a new production of Verdi's *Un ballo in maschera*. Together with set designer **Soutra Gilmour** (who is working on *Quartett* for The Royal Opera in summer 2014), Thoma locates the opera in the troubled world of central Europe directly before World War I. **Daniel Oren** conducts a starry cast who include Maltese tenor **Joseph Calleja** as the ill-fated ruler Riccardo, with Russian baritone **Dmitri Hvorostovsky** as his minister Renato, Ukrainian soprano **Liudmyla Monastyrskya** and Austrian soprano **Martina Serafin** sharing the role of Renato's wife Amelia and American mezzo-soprano **Marianne Cornetti** as Ulrica.

*Idomeneo*, last seen at Covent Garden in 1989, returns to The Royal Opera's repertory in a new production by Austrian director **Martin Kušej**, working at Covent Garden and in the UK for the first time. Kušej is Artistic Director of the Residenz Theatre in Munich, where his recent theatre productions include *Hedda Gabler*, *The Bitter Tears of Petra von Kant* and *The Vast Domain*. This is his first production of *Idomeneo*, following acclaimed productions of Mozart's *La clemenza di Tito*, *Don Giovanni* and *Die Zauberflöte*. His recent opera productions include *Rusalka* in Munich and *Der fliegende Holländer* in Amsterdam. Also working at Covent Garden for the first time is French conductor **Marc Minkowski**, Music Director of Les Musiciens de Louvre and Artistic Director of Salzburg Mozartwoche. Leading the cast in the title role is American tenor **Matthew Polenzani**, who recently sang Des Grieux (*Manon*) for The Royal Opera to acclaim. Joining him is British soprano

**Sophie Bevan** singing Ilia and Swedish soprano **Malin Byström** as Elettra. Making their debuts with The Royal Opera are Argentinian counter-tenor **Franco Fagioli** as Idamante and French tenor **Stanislas de Barbeyrac** as Arbace.

**John Copley's** production of *La bohème*, the oldest production currently in The Royal Opera's repertory, will be seen for the last time on the Covent Garden stage in 2015. The production has hosted an array of operatic stars during the course of its history, from its first performances in 1974 with Plácido Domingo and Katia Ricciarelli as the lovers Mimì and Rodolfo. The final performances will feature **Joseph Calleja** and Polish tenor **Piotr Beczala** as Rodolfo and Russian soprano **Anna Netrebko** and Armenian soprano **Lianna Haroutounian** as Mimì, with conducting honours shared between **Dan Ettinger** and **Alexander Joel**.

Other great singers returning to The Royal Opera in the 2014/15 Season include Welsh bass-baritone **Bryn Terfel**, who reprises his role as the Dutchman in Tim Albery's production of *Der fliegende Holländer* (conducted by **Andris Nelsons**) and also sings the role of Dulcamara (*L'elisir d'amore*) for the first time at Covent Garden, Spanish tenor **Plácido Domingo**, who, in addition to performances of *I due Foscari* adds another Verdi baritone role to his repertory at Covent Garden, singing Giorgio Germont (*La traviata*), British baritone **Simon Keenlyside**, who sings Rigoletto for the first time for The Royal Opera, Italian tenor **Vittorio Grigolo** who sings the role of Nemorino (*L'elisir d'amore*) for the first time with The Royal Opera, British baritone **Christopher Maltman**, who sings the title role of *Don Giovanni* in the first revival of Kasper Holten's production, Mexican tenor **Rolando Villazón**, who sings his first Don Ottavio (*Don Giovanni*) at Covent Garden and **Toby Spence** singing his first Tamino (*Die Zauberflöte*) for The Royal Opera. German soprano **Dorothea Röschmann** sings her first Don Elvira (*Don Giovanni*) for The Royal Opera, Polish soprano **Aleksandra Kurzak** sings Gilda (*Rigoletto*) for the first time with the Company and Canadian soprano **Adrienne Pieczonka** sings Senta (*Der fliegende Holländer*) for the first time at Covent Garden.



Artists reprising their roles include Latvian soprano **Kristine Opolais** as Cio-Cio-San (*Madama Butterfly*), Italian baritone **Ambrogio Maestri** in the title role of *Falstaff*, Italian bass-baritone **Alex Esposito** as Leporello (*Don Giovanni*), and **Aleksandra Kurzak** as Fiorilla, Italian bass-baritone **Ildebrando D’Arcangelo** as Selim, British baritone **Thomas Allen** as Prosdocimo and Italian baritone **Alessandro Corbelli** as Don Geronio (*Il turco in Italia*).

Other artists making a welcome return include British mezzo-soprano **Rosalind Plowright** and American mezzo-soprano **Denyce Graves**, appearing as La Contessa di Coigny and Bersi (*Andrea Chénier*), American baritone **Lucas Meachem**, who sings Figaro (*Il barbiere di Siviglia*) and Marcello (*La bohème*) for the first time at Covent Garden, British soprano **Lucy Crowe**, who sings Adina (*L’elisir d’amore*) for the first time with The Royal Opera, and Bulgarian soprano **Sonya Yoncheva** and Latvian soprano **Marina Rebeka**, who share the role of Violetta (*La traviata*).

Among the artists making their debuts with The Royal Opera during the 2014/15 Season are German bass **Georg Zeppenfeld** singing Sarastro (*Die Zauberflöte*), a role he has previously sung in Paris, New York and Vienna, German-Canadian tenor **Michael König** as Erik (*Der fliegende Holländer*), a role he has previously sung for La Scala, Milan, Bayreuth Festival and in Munich, and 23-year-old award-winning Russian soprano **Julia Lezhneva** as Zerlina (*Don Giovanni*). Italian mezzo-soprano **Serena Malfi** sings Rosina (*Il barbiere di Siviglia*), the role in which she made her debut with Zürich Opera, and Italian bel canto specialist tenor **Michele Angelini** sings Count Almaviva (*Il barbiere di Siviglia*) and Don Ottavio (*Don Giovanni*). Parisian-born **Alain Altinoglu** makes his Covent Garden debut conducting the first revival of Kasper Holten’s production of *Don Giovanni*.

Meet the Young Artists Week will run 20–25 October 2014 and will feature the **Jette Parker Young Artists** in a staged production of Rossini’s *La scala di seta*, performed at the Royal Opera House for the first time. The

production is directed by Jette Parker Young Artist **Greg Eldridge** and designed by **Holly Pigott**, accompanied by Southbank Sinfonia and conducted by Italian conductor **Jonathan Santagada**, a member of the Jette Parker Young Artist Programme.

The summer performance, on 18 July 2015, sees the **Jette Parker Young Artists** take part in a selection of opera scenes staged on the main stage and chosen specially to show off their talent, directed by Jette Parker Young Artist **Greg Eldridge**.

The 2014/15 Season also sees the return of many former Young Artists to the Royal Opera House to perform with The Royal Opera. They include **Grant Doyle** reprising his role of Billy (*Anna Nicole*), **Eri Nakamura** as Gilda and **Justina Gringyte** as Maddalena in *Rigoletto*, **Darren Jeffery** as Bank Account Billy and **Hubert Francis** as Toby Higgins in *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny*, and **Marina Poplavskaya** as Alice Ford, **Anna Devin** as Nannetta, **Kai Rüütel** as Meg Page and **Lukas Jakobski** as Pistol (*Falstaff*). Former Young Artist South Korean bass **Jihoon Kim** will become a Company Principal with The Royal Opera for the 2014/15 Season.

## **NEW COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE ROYAL OPERA AND THE ROUNDHOUSE**

The **Royal Opera** and the **Roundhouse** collaborate on a new production of **Monteverdi's Orfeo**, which will receive eight performances at the Roundhouse in Camden in January 2015, the first time that The Royal Opera has performed this opera and the first time this unique north London venue has produced an opera since the building was refurbished in 1996. *Orfeo* is directed by **Michael Boyd**, in his opera directing debut and conducted by early music specialist **Christian Curnyn**, in a newly commissioned English translation by Scottish poet **Don Paterson**. The

production will be designed by **Tom Piper** and **Jean Kalman** is the lighting designer.

The young and dynamic cast is led by Hungarian-Romanian baritone **Gyula Orendt** as **Orfeo**, British soprano **Susanna Hurrell** as Euridice and British soprano **Mary Bevan** as Music/Nymph.

**Kasper Holten**, Director of Opera for The Royal Opera said: 'I am thrilled that we have the opportunity to expand The Royal Opera's exploration of early music repertory in collaboration with such an exciting partner. I am delighted that after *L'Ormindo* with Shakespeare's Globe this year, Christian Curnyn will once again be working with us on this collaboration with the Roundhouse.'

**Marcus Davey**, Chief Executive and Artistic Director of The Camden Roundhouse said: 'We are really delighted to be fusing the expertise of the Roundhouse and the Royal Opera House to create an important new version of this great opera. Developing *Orfeo* together is an opportunity to think of our building in a new way and introduce our audiences – many of whom are under 25 - to opera. The Roundhouse is however more than just a legendary venue it's a creative centre used by over 3,000 11-25 year olds each year. *Orfeo* will also give these young people a chance to contribute to a new and exciting production as film makers, technicians and performers.'

*Orfeo* reflects the commitment of both venues to offer opportunities to young people. Young student singers will form an ensemble as part of the production, and musicians from various youth ensembles will work with a composer to create and perform a series of introductory fanfares to be played before each performance.

## **THE ROYAL OPERA IN JAPAN**

The Royal Opera will return to Japan in September 2015, following its successful visit in 2010, when the Company presented *Manon*, *La traviata*

and a concert performance of *Messiah*. The Royal Opera will present performances of Phyllida Lloyd's production of *Macbeth*, Kasper Holten's production of *Don Giovanni* and a concert performance of Mozart's *Requiem* and a selection of Mozart concert arias. **Antonio Pappano** will conduct all performances of both productions in Japan. The following singers will join the Company for the tour to Japan; **Simon Keenlyside**, **Liudmyla Monastyrska**, **Ildebrando D'Arcangelo**, **Alex Exposito**, **Rolando Villazón** and **Joyce DiDonato**.

## WELSH NATIONAL OPERA AT THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

Welsh National Opera brings a new opera to London in 2015 as part of its summer tour. This is part of a three-year agreement with The Royal Opera which sees WNO bring one opera to the Royal Opera House each season. In the first season, in July 2014, WNO brings Schoenberg's *Moses und Aron*. In 2015 WNO presents the London premiere of a magical contemporary piece written by British composer **Richard Ayres** with a libretto by poet and novelist **Lavinia Greenlaw**, *Peter Pan*, in a new production by **Keith Warner**, which opens in Cardiff in May 2015 and is a co-production with the Komische Oper Berlin (KOB). *Peter Pan* is supported in part by the Getty Family as part of British Firsts. This production sees the return of **Marie Arnet** to WNO in the role of Wendy following her critically acclaimed performance as the title role of *Lulu* with WNO in 2013, with **Iestyn Morris** taking the role of Peter.

In 2016, WNO will bring a new commission, which marks their 70th anniversary, to London for performance at the Royal Opera House. WNO's last visit to the Royal Opera House was in 1996 when they performed *The Rake's Progress* in concert, conducted by Mark Wigglesworth. Previous performances by WNO at the Royal Opera House have included *Tristan und Isolde*, *La favorita*, *Pagliacci/Cavalleria rusticana*, *Falstaff*, and Wagner's *Ring*.

## **OPERALIA AT THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE**

The Royal Opera House will host Plácido Domingo's Operalia for the first time, on 19 July 2015. This major international singing competition was founded by Plácido Domingo in 1993 and has been supervised by him ever since. Some 1,000 contestants regularly apply to take part and around forty are selected to participate in the final rounds held in front of an expert jury of leading opera professionals. Over the years Operalia has discovered and promoted the talents of artists such as Joseph Calleja, Erwin Schrott, Joyce DiDonato and Rolando Villazón.

## **BBC AT THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE**

Antonio Pappano will be continuing his relationship with the BBC which has so far seen him present *Opera Italia*, a series tracing the history of Italian Opera on BBC television, Pappano's *Essential Tosca* (an in-depth look at one of the most famous and dramatic of all operas), and Pappano's *Essential Ring Cycle* (telling the story of Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen* and guiding viewers through the epic composition that changed opera and theatre for ever). Antonio Pappano will present a series on the classical voice. *The Golden Age of Singing* will see Antonio Pappano explore the story of the classical voice across the last 500 years as part of a wider year of Song and Dance on the BBC.

## **BBC RADIO 3 AT THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE**

BBC Radio 3 will relay the following operas during the course of the 2014/15 Season and will feature Antonio Pappano in a special edition of 'Music Matters' in the autumn of 2014.

Verdi I DUE FOSCARI

New Production

Plácido Domingo / Francesco Meli / Maria Agresta / Conductor: Antonio Pappano

Philip Glass THE TRIAL (for 'Hear and Now' on BBC Radio 3)

Amanda Forbes / Paul Curievici / Gwion Thomas / Conductor: Michael Rafferty

Donizetti L'ELISIR D'AMORE

Vittorio Grigolo / Lucy Crowe / Bryn Terfel / Conductor: Daniele Rustioni

Mozart IDOMENEO

Matthew Polenzani / Franco Fagioli / Sophie Bevan / Malin Byström / Conductor: Marc Minkowski

Wagner TRISTAN UND ISOLDE

Stephen Gould / Nina Stemme / John Tomlinson / Sarah Connolly / Conductor: Antonio Pappano

Verdi UN BALLO IN MASCHERA

Joseph Calleja / Liudmyla Monastyrskaya / Dmitri Hvorostovsky / Marianne Cornetti / Conductor: Daniel Oren

Monteverdi ORFEO

Gyula Orendt / Susanna Hurrell / Mary Bevan / Rachel Kelly / Conductor: Christian Curnyn

Giordano ANDREA CHÉNIER

New Production

Jonas Kaufmann / Eva-Maria Westbroek / Zeljko Lučić / Conductor: Antonio Pappano

Wagner DER FLIEGENDE HOLLÄNDER

Bryn Terfel / Adrienne Pieczonka / Conductor: Andris Nelsons

Mozart DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE

Toby Spence / Janai Brugger / Anna Siminska / Markus Werba / Georg Zeppenfeld / Conductor: Cornelius Meister

Weill RISE AND FALL OF THE CITY OF MAHAGONNY  
Kurt Streit / Christine Rice / Anne Sofie von Otter / Willard W. White /  
Peter Hoare / Conductor: Mark Wigglesworth

Szymanowski KRÓL ROGER  
Mariusz Kwiecień / Saimir Pirgu / Georgia Jarman /  
Conductor: Antonio Pappano

Puccini LA BOHÈME  
Anna Netrebko / Joseph Calleja / Conductor: Dan Ettinger

Mozart DON GIOVANNI  
Christopher Maltman / Alex Esposito / Albina Shagimuratova / Dorothea  
Röschmann / Julia Lezhneva / Conductor: Alain Altinoglu

Rossini GUILLAUME TELL  
Gerald Finley / John Osborn / Malin Byström  
Conductor: Antonio Pappano

## ROYAL OPERA HOUSE LIVE CINEMA SEASON

Seven operas are part of the Royal Opera House Live Cinema Season:

Monday 27 October 2014 [7.15pm]

The Royal Opera

Verdi I DUE FOSCARI (live)

New Production

Plácido Domingo / Francesco Meli / Maria Agresta

Conductor: Antonio Pappano

Wednesday 26 November 2014 [7.15pm]

The Royal Opera

Donizetti L'ELISIR D'AMORE (live)

Vittorio Grigolo / Lucy Crowe / Bryn Terfel / Conductor: Daniele Rustioni

Thursday 29 January 2015 [7.15pm]

The Royal Opera

Giordano ANDREA CHÉNIER (live)

New Production

Jonas Kaufmann / Eva-Maria Westbroek / Zeljko Lučić

Conductor: Antonio Pappano

Tuesday 24 February 2015 [7.15pm]

The Royal Opera

Wagner DER FLIEGENDE HOLLÄNDER (live)

Bryn Terfel / Adrienne Pieczonka / Conductor: Andris Nelsons

Wednesday 1 April 2015 [7.15pm]

The Royal Opera

Weill RISE AND FALL OF THE CITY OF MAHAGONNY (live)

Kurt Streit / Christine Rice / Anne Sofie von Otter / Willard W. White /

Peter Hoare / Conductor: Mark Wigglesworth

Wednesday 10 June 2015 [7.15pm]

The Royal Opera

Puccini LA BOHÈME (live)

Anna Netrebko / Joseph Calleja / Conductor: Dan Ettinger

Sunday 5 July 2015 [2.45pm]

The Royal Opera

Rossini GUILLAUME TELL (live)

Gerald Finley / John Osborn / Malin Byström

Conductor: Antonio Pappano

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## LINBURY STUDIO THEATRE/CLORE STUDIO UPSTAIRS SEASON OVERVIEW

- Three world premieres will be presented in the Linbury Studio Theatre during the 2014/15 Season (*Glare*, *The Trial*, *The Virtues of Things*) and one in the Clore Studio Upstairs (*Dot*, *Squiggle and Rest*).
- There will be four London premieres *The Lighthouse Keepers*, *Rumpelstiltskin*, *Swanhunter*, *The Cure*.
- The Royal Opera commissions a new work from German/Danish composer Søren Nils Eichberg (*Glare*) for the Linbury Studio Theatre.
- World premiere of *The Trial* by Philip Glass, a co-commission and co-production with Music Theatre Wales, Theater Magdeburg and Scottish Opera.
- Continuing collaboration between Aldeburgh Festival and Opera North and The Royal Opera with the world premiere of *The Virtues of Things* by British composer Matt Rogers.
- A co-commission and co production with Aldeburgh Music with additional support from the London Sinfonietta. The world premiere of Harrison Birtwistle's *The Cure*, will take place in Aldeburgh with further performances in the Linbury Studio Theatre, presented in a double bill with Birtwistle's *The Corridor*.
- Opera North presents a new production of Jonathan Dove's *Swanhunter*.
- Co-commission and co-production with Polka Theatre (*Dot*, *Squiggle and Rest* composed by Elspeth Brooke).

- **Mad boy/clever girl - double bill of David Sawer's *The Lighthouse Keepers/Rumpelstiltskin*, presented by Birmingham Contemporary Music Group.**

In a varied and inspiring Season, the Royal Opera House unveils a mix of Royal Opera-generated productions, co-productions, collaborations and new material. The Royal Opera House works with opera companies and ensembles including **Opera North** and **Music Theatre Wales**, **Aldeburgh Music**, **Birmingham Contemporary Music Group**, **London Sinfonietta** and **CHROMA** to provide a vibrant London showcase for new dramatic music, to create innovative platforms for emerging composers and to develop new work.

The Royal Opera has commissioned a new opera by German/Danish composer **Søren Nils Eichberg** with librettist **Hannah Dübgen** for the Linbury Studio Theatre. The production is staged by **Thaddeus Strassberger**, who is also directing *I due Foscari* for The Royal Opera on the main stage. *Glare* will be conducted by **Geoffrey Paterson**, a former member of the Jette Parker Young Artist Programme. The opera is a taut thriller, which focuses on the relationships between four protagonists and questions what we can really trust. Leading the cast in the main role of Lea is rising star Australian soprano **Sky Ingram**.

Following productions of Philip Glass's *Orphée* in 2005 and *In the Penal Colony* in 2010 in the Linbury Studio Theatre, The Royal Opera and Music Theatre Wales stage the world premiere of *The Trial*, a co-commission and co-production between The Royal Opera, Music Theatre Wales, Theater Magdeburg and Scottish Opera. Playwright, lyricist and screenwriter **Christopher Hampton** has created the libretto, based on Kafka's classic novel in which Josef K, an innocent bank employee, finds himself under arrest and forced to defend himself against charges that are never explained to him. **Michael Rafferty** conducts a cast that includes British baritone **Johnny Herford** as Josef K and Australian soprano **Amanda Forbes** as

Fräulein Bürstner. Following six performances in the Linbury Studio Theatre, the production will then tour with Music Theatre Wales to Manchester, Aberystwyth, Mold, Oxford, Basingstoke, Cardiff and Birmingham. The production will be performed at Theater Magdeburg in April 2015.

Opera North and The Wrong Crowd present a new production of Jonathan Dove's family chamber opera *Swanhunter* in the Linbury Studio Theatre in 2015. Commissioned by Opera North, Dove wrote *Swanhunter* in 2009 in collaboration with librettist Alasdair Middleton, who has also worked with him on operas and dramatic works including *The Adventures of Pinocchio*. This is an ideal introduction to opera for younger audience members. The opera is based on the section of the Finnish folk epic *The Kalevala* that tells the story of the heroic Lemminkäinen, whose exploits have inspired numerous artists and composers, including Sibelius. The opera tells the story of the heroic Lemminkäinen who, in search of a bride, and against his mother's wishes, is determined to travel to the icy north. But impossible tasks await him there. He must face the Devil's elk, the swan on Death's river and little does he know that an unseen danger is lurking in the shadows. Dove's *Swanhunter* celebrates the power of song in the magic spells sung by the hero and the stratospheric writing for the Swan.

*The Virtues of Things* is the next production in the Royal Opera's annual collaboration with Opera North and Aldeburgh Music, and has its premiere in the Linbury Studio Theatre in May 2015, with further performances at **Opera North** and **Aldeburgh Music**. Conceived by British composer **Matt Rogers** and writer **Sally O'Reilly**, *The Virtues of Things* is a witty dissection of how objects carry meaning and operas unfold their fictions. When a long-established family prop-making business, struggling to adapt to modern pressures, reaches crisis when workers are struck by a mysterious illness, a slick outsider steps in to help, but this attempt to modernize the business's methods places the family in peril.

**Harrison Birtwistle's *The Cure*** is a co-commission from The Royal Opera and Aldeburgh Music, with additional support from the London Sinfonietta, which will open in Aldeburgh with further performances in the Linbury Studio Theatre. *The Cure* is based on an episode from Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, and is set to a libretto by Birtwistle's regular collaborator **David Harsent**. **Martin Duncan** will direct the production, and **Alison Chitty** who previously designed Birtwistle's *Gawain* and *The Minotaur* for The Royal Opera and *The Corridor* for Aldeburgh Music, creates the designs. *The Cure* will be presented as a double bill together with Birtwistle's *The Corridor*, also set to a libretto by David Harsent, and was first performed at the 2009 Aldeburgh Festival. *The Corridor* explores the fatal moment when Orpheus, leading Eurydice out of the Underworld, turns around to look at her, and so loses her forever. Eurydice stands on the fault-line between life and death, and though the space she occupies is featureless – corridor, hallway, pathway – it will return her to the Underworld, leaving Orpheus on earth, endlessly repeating her name in song.

The Royal Opera will also continue to provide interesting experiences for younger audiences this season following on from the success of *BabyO* and *SensoryO* this Season. *Listen to the Silence* is a musical experience for young people based on John Cage's open and innovative approach to music, recommended as suitable for children aged six and upwards. The production by **Zonzo Compagnie** is an interactive concert in which the audience participates in an adventurous voyage through John Cage's musical universe, examining such questions as: When do sounds become music? Can trees sing? Is silence music too? The performers in this YAMA and YEAH award-winning production include pianist **Jeroen Malaise** and actor **Tjyying Liu** and the production is directed by **Letizia Renzini** and **Wouter Van Looy**.

In addition, The Royal Opera has co-commissioned a new production with **Polka Theatre**, one of the few theatres in the UK dedicated to children. The production, *Dot, Squiggle and Rest*, is a collaboration between director **Joy Haynes** and composer **Elsbeth Brooke**, and suitable for children aged two

to five. The production will include live music, dance, puppetry and digital animation.

The Royal Opera also presents the UK premiere of *King Size* by Swiss director and musician **Christoph Marthaler**. The work had its premiere in Basel in 2013 and is ironically described by Marthaler as an ‘enharmonic mistake’. *King Size* is set in a hotel room where a couple are trying to sleep, only to find that both their dreams and their bed are too big. The bitter-sweet music references songs ranging from Dowland to pop songs, Schumann to German Schlager, from serial music to Michel Polnareff, by way of Bach and the Jackson Five, in languages including German, English, French, Swedish and Swiss German. In this comedy, the characters co-exist without really perceiving each other and dreams take precedence over reality.

**Birmingham Contemporary Music Group** presents a double bill by British composer **David Sawer**. One is an opera with no singing (*Rumpelstiltskin*) and one is a radio opera for stage performance, without traditional acting (*The Lighthouse Keepers*). Both works will be realized by **Richard Jones**, who has previously worked with David Sawer as director for *From Morning to Midnight* at ENO and *Skin Deep* for Opera North. *The Lighthouse Keepers*, based on the 1905 French *Grand Guignol* play *Gardiens de Phare*, is a claustrophobic tale of two lighthouse keepers, a father and a son. The son reveals that he has been bitten by a rabid dog and begs his father to kill him. As the light in the lighthouse goes out, a ship approaches the rocks. *Rumpelstiltskin* was first performed in 2009 by the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group. The work is based on the popular fairytale in which a miller’s daughter is forced to spin straw into gold, and is helped by a mysterious little man – but at a heavy price. Sawer’s score richly blends Depression-era dance music and carnival-like tunes, with storytelling conveyed through music and movement. Richard Jones created the production for BCMG in 2009 with designer **Stewart Laing**.

## LEARNING AND PARTICIPATION AT THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

The Learning and Engagement programme is becoming more integrated into the artistic programming of the Royal Opera House, and The Royal Opera continues to run a range of Learning and Participation projects that offer both new and existing audiences an opportunity to engage and participate with the art form in enjoyable, accessible ways.

The first night of the Royal Opera House Season will be dedicated to the next generation with the entire auditorium for *Anna Nicole* handed over to students with prices from £1 to £25 (generously made possible by The Bunting Family and Simon Robey). Enabling students to have access to low cost tickets for opera and ballet is an important part of programming at the Royal Opera House and key to nurturing future audiences. The Royal Opera House Students Scheme now offers five dedicated Student Amphitheatre Performances with 700 tickets for each at a top price of £25 and a 10% discount at the Amphitheatre Bar and half-price programmes at these performances.

There is also a 40% discount for Students at every Linbury Studio Theatre performance as well as last minute £10 Student standbys and 20 tickets (ten Stalls Circle Standing and ten Slips) for every single main stage performance – all of which equates to over 10,000 tickets per Season for students.

The 2014/15 Season includes an exciting new collaboration between The Royal Opera and the Roundhouse, Camden, which will see the first ever staging of Monteverdi's *Orfeo* by The Royal Opera. Collaborations between The Royal Opera and other London performances spaces aim to reach new audiences by bringing opera to interesting and engaging new venues, and *Orfeo* is a follow-up to our production of *L'Ormindo* with Shakespeare's Globe this year.

Young singers will form an ensemble as part of the production, and musicians from various youth ensembles will work with a composer to create and perform a series of introductory fanfares to be played before each performance. The digital and new media teams from the Roundhouse and the Royal Opera House will work together to create an interactive element to the production.

Learning and Participation projects continuing at the Royal Opera House in the 2014/15 season include **Family Sundays**, where families can take part and discover more about opera, ballet and the Royal Opera House through a range of fun, engaging and creative activities on the last Sunday of every month, and get the chance to relax and enjoy live music in an informal setting. Each event is different. Example activities running throughout the day include the opportunity to join in interactive singing or dance activities, informal performances from Royal Ballet dancers, Jette Parker Young Artists and musicians, live make-up or stage combat demonstrations, a chance to enjoy a costume dressing up area and design activities and backstage tours. Tickets are £5 for adults and £3 for children. In addition **Welcome Performances** will continue. These give families who are entirely new to the Royal Opera House the chance to attend productions for a fraction of the usual cost.

The programme of Insight Events continues with a wide range of events and talks exploring new works and productions, such as *Anna Nicole*, *The Trial*, *I due Foscari*, *Idomeneo* and *Król Roger*, as well as some thematically themed evenings such as Mark Elder introducing Rossini, and Kasper Holten leading a discussion entitled ‘Leave Opera Alone!, which examines how operas are commissioned, and how operas from all eras may be staged.

We will also see the return of **Big Sing Fridays**, the popular, one-hour lunchtime taster sessions where members of the public sing alongside The Royal Opera’s music staff and guest artists in the Paul Hamlyn Hall; and **Fanfare**, which offers 11–16-year-olds the opportunity to have their music arranged, recorded and played to thousands every night before and in the intervals of main stage performances.

This season marks the fifth anniversary of the Royal Opera House's **Youth Opera Company**. With members drawn from across London and the South East, it offers young people with untapped potential from a wide variety of backgrounds the opportunity to discover and develop their musical and acting talents. The Youth Opera Company is generously supported by Bjarne and Yvonne Rieber.

Members were selected from an initial group of more than 400 schoolchildren through an extensive series of participatory workshops. There are also regular recruitment workshops to find a small number of new members. Recruitment has been through partner organizations such as Sing Up, Sound Connections, Music Services, Thurrock Community Chorus and schools that ROH Learning and Participation has worked with on other projects. The aim is to keep the recruitment base as broad as possible and to give opportunities to everyone, irrespective of whether they have previous experience of opera or not.

There will be a number of performances this Season from the **Royal Opera House Thurrock Community Chorus**, a choir for Thurrock residents aged eight and over, and also the **RM19** Youth singing group, which sees Thurrock residents aged 11–25 fuse pop, rock and hip-hop with classical and operatic styles using the human voice alone. Further details and dates will be confirmed through the year.

**Inspiration Days** allow students, groups, colleges and businesses a chance to discover the fascinating backstage world of set and scenery construction at the **Royal Opera House Bob and Tamar Manoukian Production Workshop** in Purfleet. The days include a tour of the workshop, use of our bespoke interactive virtual resources and a hands-on workshop ranging from costume to props, special effects make-up to model box. The Royal Opera House continues to work with local partners, especially Thurrock Borough Council, to reach out and engage the community.



## PROGRAMME OF INSIGHT EVENTS

Generously supported by the Paul Hamlyn Education Fund

(to include)

### *Anna Nicole*

**Monday 1 September 7.30-9pm**

The cast and production team look back at the world premiere of this opera and the attention it attracted.

### *Mark Elder introduces Rossini*

**Thursday 11 September 7.30-8.45pm**

Conductor Mark Elder explores Rossini writing for the voice using *Il barbiere di Siviglia* as a guide.

### *In Conversation with Antonio Pappano*

**Tuesday 30 September 7.30-8.45pm**

Music Director Antonio Pappano discusses his musical passions, the challenges he has faced in his role as Music Director and his plans for The Royal Opera.

### *I due Foscari*

**Tuesday 23 September 7.30-9pm**

The production team discuss Verdi's intense drama of betrayal and corruption.

### *Idomeneo*

**Tuesday 7 October 7.30-9pm**

Join the production team of this exciting new production of Mozart's early masterpiece as they present their ideas, just a few weeks before opening night.

### *The Trial*

**Thursday 9 October 7.30–9pm**

In association with Music Theatre Wales, composer Philip Glass and playwright Christopher Hampton talk about their exciting new collaboration to bring Kafka's terrifying novel *The Trial* to the stage.

### *Król Roger*

**Monday 13 October 7.30–9pm**

Kasper Holten and members of his production team discuss their ideas for the new production of Szymanowski's psychological masterpiece.

### *Leave Opera Alone!*

**Monday 20 October 7.30–8.45pm**

Why don't directors just do what the composer wanted? Can an opera scenario just be moved to another era – or our own time? What does *Regietheater* really mean? This is a unique opportunity to find out how opera houses commission directors and stage new productions. The event is led by Kasper Holten, Director of Opera and various guest speakers.

# THE ROYAL OPERA 2014/15 SEASON AT A GLANCE

Mark-Anthony Turnage ANNA NICOLE

11, 16, 18, 20, 24 September at 7.30 pm; 13 September at 7pm

Verdi RIGOLETTO

12, 15, 17, 23, 30 September at 7.30pm; 20 September at 12.30pm; 21  
September at 2pm; 27 September at 7pm; 3, 6 October at 7.30pm

Rossini IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA

19, 22, 25, 29 September at 7pm; 2 October at 7pm; 5 October at 6.30pm

Philip Glass THE TRIAL

World Premiere

10, 11, 14, 15, 17 October at 7.45pm; 18 October at 6pm

Rossini LA SCALA DI SETA (Jette Parker Young Artists, Meet the Young  
Artists' Week)

Generously supported by Oak Foundation

23 October at 7pm; 24 October at 1pm and 7pm

Verdi I DUE FOSCARI

Production new to the Royal Opera House

Generous philanthropic support from Mrs Aline Foriel-Destezet and Mrs  
Susan A Olde OBE

14, 17, 20, 23, 27, 27, 30 October at 7.30pm; 2 November at 3pm

Donizetti L'ELISIR D'AMORE

Generous philanthropic support from Mrs Aline Foriel-Destezet

18, 26 November at 7.30 pm; 22 November at 3pm; 29 November at 7pm

4, 9 December at 7.30pm; 13 December at 7pm

Mozart IDOMENEO

New Production

Generously supported by The Friends of Covent Garden

3, 6, 10, 15, 19, 24 November at 6.30pm

Søren Nils Eichberg GLARE

World Premiere

Generously supported by The Friends of Covent Garden

12 November

Wagner TRISTAN UND ISOLDE

5, 8, 11, 17 December at 5pm; 14, 21 December at 3pm

Verdi UN BALLO IN MASCHERA

Generous philanthropic support from The Royal Opera House Endowment Fund

18, 22, 30 December at 7.30pm; 2, 6, 13 January at 7.30pm; 17 January at 7pm

Monteverdi ORFEO

New Production - Roundhouse

13, 14, 16, 17, 20, 21, 23, 24 January 2015

Giordano ANDREA CHÉNIER

New Production

Generous philanthropic support from Mrs Aline Foriel-Destezet and Mrs Susan A Olde OBE

20, 23, 26, 29, 31 January at 7.30pm; 3, 6 February at 7.30pm

John Cage – LISTEN TO THE SILENCE

Zonzo Compagnie - Linbury Studio Theatre

30 January at 7pm; 31 January at 2pm and 4pm; 1 February at 2pm and 4pm

Wagner DER FLIEGENDE HOLLÄNDER

5, 9, 12, 17, 20, 24 February at 7.30pm

Mozart DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE

Generous philanthropic support from the Jean Sainsbury Royal Opera House Fund

23, 26, 28 February at 7pm; 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11 March at 7pm

Weill RISE AND FALL OF THE CITY OF MAHAGONNY

New Production

10, 12, 14, 24 March at 7.30pm; 28 March at 12.30 pm; 1, 4, April at 7.30pm

Puccini MADAMA BUTTERFLY

Production sponsored by Coutts. Generous philanthropic support from The Royal Opera House Endowment Fund

20, 23, 28, 31 March at 7.30pm; 4 April at 2.30pm; 6 April at 7.30pm; 9 April at 12.30pm

Jonathan Dove SWANHUNTER

Linbury Studio Theatre – London Premiere

4–11 April 2015

Christoph Marthaler KING SIZE

Linbury Studio Theatre

14–18 April 2015

Rossini IL TURCO IN ITALIA

Generously supported by The Friends of Covent Garden

11, 15, 20, 27 April at 7.30pm; 18, 25 April at 7pm

Szymanowski KRÓL ROGER

New Production

Generously supported by the Monument Trust with additional philanthropic support from the Adam Mickiewicz Institute

1, 6, 12, 19 May at 7.30pm; 9, 16 May at 7pm

ANTONIO PAPPANO ORCHESTRAL CONCERT

4 May 2015 at 7.30pm

Matt Rogers THE VIRTUES OF THINGS

World Premiere – Linbury Studio Theatre

2, 5, 6 May 2015

Verdi LA TRAVIATA

Generously supported by Rolex

18, 22, 25, 28 May at 7pm; 3, 19, 24, 27, 30 June at 7pm; 4 July at 7pm

Puccini LA BOHÈME

Generous philanthropic support from The Royal Opera House Endowment Fund. Original Production (1974) supported by The Linbury Trust

23, 27, 30 May at 7.30pm; 2, 5, 8, 10 June at 7.30pm; 9 July at 12.30pm; 11, 13, 16 July at 7.30pm

Harrison Birtwistle THE CURE/THE CORRIDOR

New Production – London Premiere (*The Cure*)

June 2015

Elsbeth Brooke DOT, SQUIGGLE AND REST

World Premiere – Clore Studio Upstairs

12 June 2015

Mozart DON GIOVANNI

Generous philanthropic support from The Royal Opera House Endowment Fund

12, 16, 18, 20, 22, 25 June at 7pm; 1, 3 July at 7pm

Rossini GUILLAUME TELL

New Production

29 June at 6pm; 2, 8, 10, 14, 17 July at 6pm; 5 July at 3pm

Verdi FALSTAFF

6, 9, 15, 18 July at 7.30pm; 12 July at 7pm

JETTE PARKER YOUNG ARTISTS SUMMER PERFORMANCE

Generously supported by Oak Foundation

18 July at 1pm

Placido Domingo's OPERALIA

19 July at 6pm

Richard Ayres PETER PAN  
Welsh National Opera  
24, 25 July at 7.30pm

David Sawer THE LIGHTHOUSE KEEPERS/RUMPELSTILTSKIN (Mad  
boy, clever girl)  
Linbury Studio Theatre – London Premiere  
28 July 2015

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