



ROYAL  
OPERA

28 OCTOBER 2013

## CASTING ANNOUNCEMENT

### *LES VÊPRES SICILIENNES*

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

The role of Hélène will now be sung by Armenian soprano **Lianna Haroutounian** for all remaining performances of *Les Vêpres siciliennes*.

Unfortunately the illness that prevented **Marina Poplavskaya** from singing the role of Hélène in the premiere of our new production of *Les Vêpres siciliennes* has persisted longer than expected, and has made it impossible for her to sing the remaining performances. We look forward to welcoming her back to The Royal Opera for further engagements.

**Lianna Haroutounian** also sang the role of Hélène at the premiere of this production on 17 October. She 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 other roles during the 2012–13 season included Elena (*I vespri siciliani*) at the Megaron Concert Hall, Athens, and in Bilbao and Frankfurt (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, Company Principal British bass **Jeremy White** as Le Comte de Vaudemont, British tenor **Neal Cooper** as Thibault, Jette Parker Principal and South Korean bass **Jihoon Kim** as Robert, South Korean tenor **Jung Soo Yun** as Mainfroid,

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British mezzo-soprano **Michelle Daly** as Ninetta and Maltese tenor **Nicolas Darmanin** as Daniéli. Music Director of The Royal Opera **Antonio Pappano** conducts all performances.

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