



ROYAL
OPERA

3 FEBRUARY 2015

JETTE PARKER YOUNG ARTISTS 2015

The Royal Opera House is delighted to announce the five singers and the stage director who will join the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme in September 2015:

Russian soprano **Vlada Borovko**

Irish soprano **Jennifer Davis**

Australian mezzo-soprano **Emily Edmonds**

Korean tenor **David Junghoon Kim**

British bass **David Shipley**

British stage director **Richard Gerard Jones**

The singers were selected from more than 370 applicants from 59 countries. The audition process began in August 2014. For the first time, preliminary auditions were held in London and Vienna in early October for singers who preferred singing live to sending a recording with their application. Sixty-six artists were selected to sing in the first of three further rounds with 28 progressing to the second round involving a one-to-one coaching session with **David Gowland**, Artistic Director of the Programme. A final shortlist of 12 singers auditioned on the main stage in front of a panel comprising **Antonio Pappano**, Music Director of The Royal Opera, **Kasper Holten**, Director of Opera, **Peter Mario Katona**, Director of Casting, **David Syrus**, Head of Music, **David Gowland**, Artistic Director of the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme, **Siri Fischer Hansen**, Administrator of the Programme and international soprano **Yvonne Kenny**.

The six new Young Artists will join the seven who continue on the Programme into their second year next Season: Australian soprano **Lauren Fagan**, Australian tenor **Samuel Sakker**, Australian baritone **Samuel Dale Johnson**, Ukrainian bass-baritone **Yuriy Yurchuk**, British

For all Royal Opera House press releases visit: <http://www.roh.org.uk/for/press-and-media>



LOTTERY FUNDED

bass **James Platt**, Italian conductor/répétiteur **Jonathan Santagada** and British ballet pianist **Colin J. Scott**.

Almost 40 candidates from 20 countries applied for the stage director interviews in January. Six were interviewed by a panel comprising **Kasper Holten**, **John Fulljames**, Associate Director of Opera, and **David Gowland**. Following a second round of two shortlisted candidates, **Richard Gerard Jones** was offered the position.

Full biographical information for the new members of the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme is below:

Jette Parker Young Artists Programme – Biographies 2015 Intake

Vlada Borovko: soprano

Russian soprano Vlada Borovko studied foreign languages at the Linguistics University of Nizhny Novgorod and operatic singing under Galina Lastovka at the Kazan State Conservatoire. While a student, she participated in the world premieres of two contemporary operas and sang Stéphanie (*Roméo et Juliette*) in Kazan. She made her professional opera debut as Mercédès (*Carmen*) at Tatar State Opera and Ballet Theatre and sang Annie and Strawberry Woman (*Porgy and Bess*) with Marco Boemi at the International Shalyapin Opera Festival. Following participation in the 1st Russian Festival for Young Musicians in Sviyazhsk, she received support from the charity Sforzando. She was a finalist in the 1st International Eva Marton Singing Competition, winning a special prize from the Bartók Plus Opera Festival.

Jennifer Davis: soprano

Jennifer Davis studied at DIT's Conservatory of Music and Drama, graduating with first class honours, and at the National Opera Studio. She studies with Colette McGahon-Tosh. She has received support from the Arts Council of Ireland and English National Opera and is the recipient of a Sybil Tutton Award administered by Help Musicians UK. Competition successes include being a semi-finalist in the International Hans Gabor Belvedere Competition, the Gervase Elwes Cup for best overall singer in the Feis Ceoil competition, the Gerard Arnhold Prize at Wexford Festival Opera and the Bernadette Greevy Bursary awarded by the National Concert Hall, Dublin. This prize included a solo recital featuring the premiere of a specially commissioned work by Bernadette Marmion. Her operatic appearances include Susanna (*Le nozze di Figaro*) for Glashule Opera, High Priestess (*Aida*) and Countess Almaviva (*Le nozze di Figaro*) for Lyric Opera Productions, Female Chorus (*The Rape of*

For all Royal Opera House press releases visit www.roh.org.uk/for/press-and-media.



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Lucretia for Irish Youth Opera and Adina (*L'elisir d'amore*) and Agata (*Don Bucefalo*) for Wexford Festival Opera. She has performed extensively throughout the UK and Ireland in concert, oratorio and opera, with highlights including a concert with the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra, broadcast live on RTÉ Lyric FM.

Emily Edmonds: mezzo-soprano

Australian mezzo-soprano Emily Edmonds studied at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, graduating with first class honours. She was a scholar with the Dame Nellie Melba Opera Trust, holding the Dame Nellie Melba Scholarship and Patrick & Vivian Gordon Award. She also completed the Young Artists Programme with Pacific Opera Company. She has received an Australia Council for the Arts ArtStart grant allowing her to continue her studies abroad. Opera performances include Kate Julian (*Owen Wingrave*) and roles in *Through the Gates* and the Australian premiere of George Benjamin's *Into the Little Hill* for Sydney Chamber Opera, Cherubino (*Le nozze di Figaro*) for Opera New England and Second Lady (*Die Zauberflöte*) for Pacific Opera Company. Concerts include Elgar's *Sea Pictures* and *Third Maid (Elektra)* with Sydney Symphony Orchestra. Plans include Asteria in Vivaldi's *Bajazet* for Pinchgut Opera.

David Junghoon Kim: tenor

Korean tenor David Junghoon Kim studied at the Seoul National University, graduating with a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance. Competition successes include First Prize in the Voci Verdiane competition in Busseto, third prize in the International Singing Competition in Seoul, First Prize and Plácido Domingo Prize in the Francisco Viñas Competition in Barcelona, semi-finalist in the Concours Reine Elisabeth in Brussels, Prince Rainier III Voice Master Prize in the Concours Monte-Carlo and First Prize and Audience Prize in the Toulouse International Singing Competition. Professional experience includes Rodolfo (*La bohème*) in Seoul and an Independence Commemoration Concert with Myung-Whun Chung at Sejong Art Centre.

David Shipley: bass

British bass David Shipley studied at the Royal Academy of Music, graduating with first class honours, and is currently a scholar on the opera course at Guildhall School of Music & Drama, studying with Janice Chapman. He has won the Kathleen Ferrier Bursary for Young Singers and is a Classical Opera Company Associate Artist. Opera appearances include *Billy Budd* for Glyndebourne Festival, at the BBC Proms and in New York, Drum-maker (*Pinocchio*) at GSMD and Sarastro (*Die Zauberflöte*) at RAM. He has performed as a soloist in venues including Kings Place, Cadogan Hall, Barbican Hall, Christ Church Spitalfields, Royal Albert Hall, Salle

Pleyel Paris, L'auditori Barcelona and Cologne Philharmonie, with orchestras and ensembles including the LSO, Monteverdi Choir and the Orchestra of Classical Opera Company. He has featured in several live broadcasts for BBC Radio 3.

Richard Gerard Jones: stage director

British stage director Richard Gerard Jones studied Italian and German at UCL. Since graduating, he has assisted opera directors including Richard Jones, Antony McDonald, John Fulljames, David Alden, John Copley and Moshe Leiser and Patrice Caurier. His recent work as an assistant director to Richard Jones includes *Rodelinda* at ENO, *Peter Grimes* at La Scala, Milan, *Anna Nicole* for The Royal Opera and New York City Opera, *Macbeth*, *Falstaff* and *Der Rosenkavalier* for Glyndebourne Festival and *Gloriana* for Hamburg State Opera and The Royal Opera. Other recent assisting work includes *Der Ring des Nibelungen* at Nationale Reisopera for Antony McDonald and *Quartett* in the Linbury Studio Theatre for John Fulljames. He recently revived John Copley's *La bohème* at Istanbul State Opera and *Anna Nicole* for The Royal Opera and will act as Associate Director for The Royal Opera's revival of *Il turco in Italia* and Revival Director of *Les Troyens* for San Francisco Opera. Directing work includes a set of scenes for the National Opera Studio.

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE JETTE PARKER YOUNG ARTISTS PROGRAMME

The Jette Parker Young Artists Programme supports the artistic development of young professional singers, conductors, directors and répétiteurs. The Young Artists are an international group of outstanding professionals at the start of their careers who have undertaken formal training and have already worked with professional companies. They are not students, but contracted, salaried employees of the Royal Opera House, who work here full-time over two years.

There is no age limit for those on the Programme, but when choosing the Young Artists the audition panel take into consideration the stage individuals have reached in their careers and where they will be in terms of career development and age after working for two years on the Programme.

The Young Artists work on productions for The Royal Opera, singing small roles, covering larger roles or joining the music or directing staff. They also receive coaching in all opera disciplines. They work with Royal Opera music staff, a wide range of freelance music and language coaches and visiting singers, directors and conductors. Every facility of the Company is made available

to them so that their talents are nurtured through total immersion in the life of the Royal Opera House. The Jette Parker Young Artists Programme is generously supported by Oak Foundation

For further information, visit www.roh.org.uk/about/jette-parker-young-artists-programme

PRESS OFFICE CONTACTS

Ann Richards/David Brownlie-Marshall/Celia Moran/ Emily Meredith

Press Office, The Royal Opera

Tel: (020) 7212 9132 / 9504 / 9149

E-mail: ann.richards@roh.org.uk / david.brownlie-marshall@roh.org.uk

celia.moran@roh.org.uk / emily.meredith@roh.org.uk