



ROYAL  
OPERA  
HOUSE

## THE ROYAL OPERA

### *La scala di seta*

Gioachino Rossini

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

### ROSSINI'S *LA SCALA DI SETA* TO BE PERFORMED FOR THE FIRST TIME AT THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE AS PART OF MEET THE YOUNG ARTISTS WEEK

- Meet the Young Artists Week will run from 20–25 October 2014
- Generously supported by Oak Foundation

This October, The Royal Opera's Jette Parker Young Artists will present Rossini's sixth opera and masterpiece of comic timing *La scala di seta* for the first time at the Royal Opera House. This new production is staged by Australian director and Jette Parker Young Artist **Greg Eldridge**, in what will be his first staging of a full-length work for The Royal Opera. He is joined by designer **Holly Pigott** and lighting designer **Warren Letton**. **Greg Eldridge's** production will bring this early Rossini masterpiece to life in an elegant, classic production, which highlights the power of love at the centre of the piece.

This production marks the Royal Opera House debuts of Australian soprano **Lauren Fagan** who will sing the role of Giulia, Australian baritone **Samuel Dale Johnson** as Dormont, British bass **James Platt** who will sing the role of Blansac, Ukrainian bass-baritone **Yuriy Yurchuk** as Germano and Scottish pianist **Colin J. Scott**. They are joined by Armenian soprano **Anush Hovhannisyan** as Lucilla and Portuguese tenor **Luis Gomes** as Dorvil. The orchestra is Southbank Sinfonia, conducted by Italian conductor and Jette Parker Young Artist **Jonathan Santagada**.

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This opera was first performed in Venice in 1812 when the composer was just 20, with **Giuseppe Maria Foppa** providing a libretto adapted from **Pierre Gaveaux's** 1808 opera *L'Échelle de soie*. The opera is a classic example of Rossini's gift for comedy and rhythmic flair, with the many tuneful highlights including Lucilla's aria 'Sento talor nell'anima'. Named after the silken ladder that Giulia lowers from her window every night to let in Dorvil (whom she has secretly married), the opera features typical characters and situations from the *commedia dell'arte* that perfectly match the ebullience typical of Rossini's early works.

Director **Greg Eldridge** is delighted to bring this Rossini masterpiece to the Royal Opera House for the first time and said of his production: 'The action of the piece will be presented in classic *farsa comica* style, with a vibrant set blending influences from Perrault's fairytales and French non-naturalism. We are going to re-imagine life in inner Paris as a place of frantic love and raucous misunderstanding.'

The production is a highlight of Meet the Young Artists Week at the Royal Opera House, which provides a chance to see the future faces of opera in the intimate setting of the Linbury Studio Theatre. The week's activities also include a diverse programme of free recitals and a chance to meet the Young Artists in person.

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