

29 DECEMBER 2015

CAST AMENDMENT

CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA (Pietro Mascagni)

PAGLIACCI (Ruggero Leoncavallo)

Tuesday 29 December 2015 at 7.30pm; Friday 1 January 2016 at 3pm

Due to illness, Latvian tenor **Aleksandrs Antonenko** has withdrawn from singing the roles of Turiddu in *Cavalleria rusticana* and Canio in *Pagliacci* on Tuesday 29 December 2015 and Friday 1 January 2016.

The role of Turiddu in *Cavalleria rusticana* will be sung by South Korean tenor **Yonghoon Lee**, who sang the role with The Royal Opera earlier this Season on Sunday 13 December 2015.

The role of Canio in *Pagliacci* will be sung by Lithuanian tenor **Kristian Benedikt**, in his Royal Opera debut.

South Korean tenor **Yonghoon Lee** studied at the Seoul National University and at Mannes College, The New School for Music, New York. After performing widely in South Korea he made his international debut in 2007 as the title role in *Don Carlo* at the Teatro Municipal in Santiago. His repertory includes Rodolfo (*La bohème*), Don José (*Carmen*), Turiddu, Calaf (*Turandot*) and Manrico (*Il trovatore*), performing for such companies as the Metropolitan Opera, New York, La Scala, Milan, Deutsche Oper Berlin and the Lyric Opera of Chicago. He made his Royal Opera debut in the 2012/13 Season as Cavaradossi (*Tosca*) and has since returned to sing Don José. This Season he reprised the role of Don José, in addition to his performance as Turiddu.

Lithuanian tenor **Kristian Benedikt** began his career at the National Opera of Vilnius, Lithuania, where his repertory included more than twenty roles. In April 2013 he made his debut with Bavarian State Opera as Otello, a role he has since performed with the Mariinsky

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Theatre, among other companies. His other repertory includes Don José, Cavaradossi (*Tosca*), Samson (*Samson et Dalila*), Calaf (*Turandot*), Pinkerton (*Madama Butterfly*) and the title roles in *Andrea Chénier*, *Ermani*, *Rienzi*, *Lohengrin* and *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*. In 2016 he will perform Otello at Montreal Opera, Beirut's Al Bustan festival, the Mariinsky Theatre and the Savonlinna Opera Festival.

The rest of the casts remain unchanged: in *Cavalleria rusticana* Dutch soprano **Eva-Maria Westbroek** sings Santuzza, Italian mezzo-soprano **Elena Zilio** sings Mamma Lucia, Greek baritone **Dimitri Platanius** sings Alfio and Italian mezzo-soprano **Martina Belli** sings Lola. In *Pagliacci* Greek baritone **Dimitri Platanius** sings the role of Tonio; the role of Nedda will be sung by Romanian-born British soprano **Simona Mihai** on 29 December and by Italian soprano **Carmen Giannattasio** on 1 January; British tenor **Benjamin Hulett** sings Beppe and Greek baritone **Dionysios Sourbis** sings Silvio. **Antonio Pappano**, Music Director of The Royal Opera, conducts both performances.

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