

PRESS RELEASE

24 November 2016

JETTE PARKER YOUNG ARTIST PROGRAMME TO BE FUNDED FOR A FURTHER TEN YEARS

The Royal Opera House is delighted to announce that Oak Foundation, supporter of the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme since 2005, has generously agreed to fund fully a further ten years of the Programme with an expansion to increase its reach and the diversity of the artists participating.

Antonio Pappano, Music Director of the Royal Opera House, said, 'We are hugely grateful to Oak Foundation both for their vision and their extraordinary generosity in supporting the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme for a further ten years. As the international appetite for opera grows, the Programme continues to ensure that tomorrow's singers, conductors, directors and répétiteurs have the skills needed to make opera of the very highest quality. As the Programme expands to work with more artists than ever before, we aim to develop performers from the widest range of backgrounds possible, making sure we are training the very best artists of the future, who will connect strongly with audiences across the UK and the world.'

Alex Beard, Chief Executive, Royal Opera House, added, 'Nurturing and developing emerging artists is absolutely central to our work at the Royal Opera House. Oak Foundation's decision to extend their remarkable philanthropic support of the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme for a further decade is an inspiring example of arts patronage, particularly so as it comes at a time of great economic uncertainty. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to them for their commitment and vision. We are delighted to be able to expand our reach and to help discover and nourish gifted individuals regardless of background to achieve greatness, and inspire the widest possible public.'

Jette Parker, Trustee of Oak Foundation, added, 'I am inspired by the young professional singers, conductors, répétiteurs and directors who join the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme. I feel incredibly privileged to be able to support them on their career paths and I look forward to seeing how the Programme develops over the next ten years.'

Daniele Rustioni, alumnus conductor, added, 'The Jette Parker Young Artists Programme has been a unique and incredible experience. I met many talented young artists, I worked

with renowned, world-class conductors, I received Tony Pappano's personal guidance on operatic repertoire and I had the opportunity to join the music staff of one of the leading opera houses in the world across three seasons. It changed me deeply and I will be forever grateful.'

Eri Nakamura, alumna soprano, added, 'Six years have passed since I left the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme. The ROH has become my spiritual home and such warmth and gratefulness come up when I think of Mrs Jette Parker. I am so appreciative of her support and understanding. This Programme can change someone's life. It certainly changed mine.'

NOTES FOR EDITORS

The Jette Parker Young Artists Programme

The two-year Programme includes up to ten singers, three music staff and a stage director. Jette Parker Young Artists are salaried company members and work at the Royal Opera House on a full-time basis. They receive daily coaching in all opera disciplines, including musical style and interpretation, languages, movement, acting and stage technique, as well as guidance in related issues and career development. The work of the Programme is tailored to meet the individual needs and development rates of the artists.

Each singer studies major roles with the Programme's Artistic Director David Gowland, and with the music staff of The Royal Opera. Each artist works on productions for the Royal Opera, whether singing small roles, covering larger roles or joining the music or directing staff. They also have the opportunity to observe every phase of the rehearsal and production of operas for the main stage. Every facility of the company is made available to them so that their talents can be nurtured through total immersion in the life of the Royal Opera House. Workshops and individual coaching with leading international artists are also organized.

Concert work is another important part of their training. This includes regular performance opportunities such as lunchtime recitals, a chamber opera in a small-scale venue and a performance each year with orchestra on the main stage of the Royal Opera House.

The expanded Programme will not only seek to work with a wider range of UK based artists, but also include an international network of hubs searching for and providing professional support to talent with outstanding potential around the world. The Programme will moreover proactively seek to support an increase in the number of female répétiteurs and conductors entering the talent pool.

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PRESS CONTACTS

Christopher Millard

Director of Press & Communications

0207 212 9458

0754 550 2226

Christopher.Millard@roh.org.uk

Elizabeth Bell

Head of Press & Communications

0207 212 9717

0790 038 8512

Elizabeth.Bell@roh.org.uk

David Brownlie-Marshall

Opera Press Officer

020 7272 9504

07941188976

David.Brownlie-Marshall@roh.org.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS**Oak Foundation**

Since 1998, Oak Foundation has made 728 grants to not-for-profit organisations throughout the world. This grant falls into the sector Special Interest Grants.

www.oakfnd.org