

19 JULY 2015

JETTE PARKER YOUNG ARTIST KIANDRA HOWARTH WINS THE CULTURARTE PRIZE AT OPERALIA 2015

The Royal Opera is delighted to announce that Australian soprano and Jette Parker Young Artist **Kiandra Howarth** has been awarded The Culturarte Prize, chosen and offered by Bertita and Guillermo Martinez from CulturArte de Puerto Rico, at **Plácido Domingo**'s Operalia, the World Opera Competition 2015. The competition took place at the Royal Opera House for the first time this year.

Founded in 1993 by **Plácido Domingo**, Operalia has helped launch the careers of the best young opera singers in the world. It has become one of the most prestigious vocal competitions, with many past prize-winners and finalists going on to become major names in opera. Previous winners include **Nina Stemme**, **Joyce DiDonato**, **Rolando Villazón**, **Erwin Schrott** and **Sonya Yoncheva**. The competition – which is hosted by a different city every year - receives hundreds of applications from which only 40 are chosen to compete in front of a jury of leading industry professionals, including general managers and casting directors from the world's most prestigious opera houses. Kiandra's fellow Jette Parker Young Artists Irish mezzo-soprano **Rachel Kelly** and Australian soprano **Lauren Fagan** were successful this Season in reaching the semi-finals of the competition.

Kiandra Howarth has been a member of the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme since September 2013. Her roles since have included Flowermaiden (*Parsifal*), Voice of an Unborn Child (*Die Frau ohne Schatten*), Echo (*Ariadne auf Naxos*), Fiordiligi (*Così fan tutte* Act I, JPYAP Summer Performance 2014), Countess Ceprano (*Rigoletto*) and Adina and Giannetta (*L'elisir d'amore*) for The Royal Opera, and she has also sung the soprano solo in *Wolf Works* for The Royal Ballet. She returns to the Company next year to sing the role of Echo in *Ariadne auf Naxos*. Her other awards have included several prizes in the 2010 Australian

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Singing Competition and first prize in the 2012 Magda Olivero International Lyric Opera Competition, Milan.

Plácido Domingo congratulated Kiandra Howarth on her success: 'I was very impressed with Kiandra's incredible voice and beautiful stagecraft and presence during my previous visits to the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. I am thrilled that she has now been awarded this prize, and look forward to watching her take her next steps in the opera industry. I wish her every success for what I am sure will be a very exciting career.'

-ENDS-

NOTES TO EDITORS

JETTE PARKER YOUNG ARTISTS PROGRAMME

The Jette Parker Young Artists Programme is designed to support the artistic development of talented singers, conductors and répétiteurs and stage directors at the beginning of their career. Young Artists are employed as salaried members of The Royal Opera over a two-year period, during which time they are immersed in the life of the Royal Opera House to help them form their own artistic identity and give them guidance on their trajectory through the business.

ROLEX AND OPERALIA

Rolex is proud to present Operalia, the World Opera Competition, for the 14th consecutive year, perpetuating its commitment to the arts. Plácido Domingo has been a Rolex Testimonee since 1982 and Rolex is delighted to extend its support to the exceptionally gifted young performers that share its quest for excellence and perfection.

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