



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

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Press Release

#OurHouseToYourHouse

The Royal Opera House to broadcast series of ballet and opera live performances over November Lockdown

The **Royal Opera House** is excited to announce a series of live performance broadcasts, together with some much-loved repertory favourites from both **The Royal Ballet** and **The Royal Opera**, throughout the November lockdown period.

The Royal Opera are delighted to present a livestreamed concert performance of ***Ariodante*** on **Friday 20 November** at 7.30pm GMT. This rarely performed work, which will be available via the Royal Opera House streaming platform, opened **Handel's** first season at Covent Garden in 1735 and has not been performed at the Royal Opera House since. This new, live staging offers audiences a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a performance that celebrates the full span of our history.

Mezzo-soprano **Paula Murrihy** will perform in the title role with soprano **Chen Reiss** as Ginevra, bass-baritone **Gerald Finley** as the King of Scotland, soprano **Sophie Bevan** as Dalinda, tenor **Ed Lyon** as Lurcanio, countertenor **Iestyn Davies** as Polinesso, and South African tenor and former Jette Parker Young Artist **Thando Mjandana** as Odoardo. They will be joined by Baroque music specialist **Christian Curnyn**, who conducts the **Orchestra of the Royal Opera House**.

Following the success of ***The Royal Ballet: Back on Stage*** and welcoming an audience back into the building with ***The Royal Ballet: Live***, we look forward to a special live-streamed performance this **Friday, 13 November** at 7.30pm GMT. This programme completes the celebration of the Company's return to the stage following its long absence during the pandemic. Don't miss the last instalment of this special series of ballet highlights that present

the dancers of the Company at their dazzling best. **Jonathan Lo** conducts the **Orchestra of the Royal Opera House** in cherished works and modern classics from the Company's repertory, a programme that is sure to enthrall and delight.

The programme includes the world premiere of *Scherzo*, a joyous new work featuring the young members of the Company choreographed by First Soloist **Valentino Zucchetti**, his first work for the main stage and seen in rehearsal during World Ballet Day. Celebrated *pas de deux* from the repertory from the serene to the electric will also feature, including *Swan Lake* with **Francesca Hayward** and **Cesar Corrales**, **Frederick Ashton's** *Rhapsody* with **Akane Takada** and **Alexander Campbell**, **Kenneth MacMillan's** *Manon* with **Laura Morera** and **Federico Bonelli** and *Concerto* with **Yasmine Naghdi** and **Nicol Edmonds**, **Cathy Marston's** *In Our Wishes* with **Romany Pajdak** and **Calvin Richardson** plus **George Balanchine's** *Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux*, with Royal Opera House debuts by **Marcelino Sambé** and **Anna Rose O'Sullivan**, and *Le Corsaire* with **Marianela Nuñez** and **Vadim Muntagirov**. The programme also includes **Natalia Osipova** in the haunting *Dying Swan* solo by **Mikhail Fokine** plus the serenity of Ashton's *Dance of the Blessed Spirits* with **William Bracewell** and *Monotones II* with **Melissa Hamilton**, **Reece Clarke** and **Nicol Edmonds**. The evening closes with a full performance of **Christopher Wheeldon's** ballet of shimmering beauty *Within the Golden Hour* featuring **Sarah Lamb**, **Ryoichi Hirano**, **Fumi Kaneko**, **Reece Clarke**, **Anna Rose O'Sullivan** and **James Hay** with artists of The Royal Ballet.

ROH Friday Premieres continue throughout the month. Priced at £3.00, each will be available for 30 days streaming via stream.roh.org.uk. Our next ROH Friday premiere will be **Frederick Ashton's** *Enigma Variations*, to be streamed on **Friday 4 December** at 7pm GMT. Ashton's quintessentially British ballet was created in 1968 and last performed at Covent Garden in 2019. With period designs by **Julia Trevelyan Oman** and **Edward Elgar's** eponymous score, it stands as an enduring and evocative portrait of the composer and his companions. This streaming from the 2019 revival features performances from Royal Ballet Principals **Laura Morera**, **Francesca Hayward** and **Matthew Ball** alongside Principal Character Artist **Christopher Saunders** as Edward Elgar.

The next of these, on **Friday 27 November**, will be the Royal Opera's 2019 production of **Mozart's** dazzling tragicomedy *Don Giovanni*. Conducted by **Hartmut Haenchen**, the magnificent cast includes **Erwin Schrott**, **Roberto Tagliavini**, **Malin Byström**, **Daniel Behle**, **Myrtò Papatnasiu**, **Louise Alder** and **Leon Košavić**.

Alex Beard, Chief Executive of the Royal Opera House, said: 'We are pleased to continue our programme of live and pre-recorded streamed and broadcast activity throughout lockdown. Whatever the challenges before us, we are determined to showcase the extraordinary talents of our remarkable community of artists and craftspeople, offering some much-needed relief and delight to audiences across the country. We very much look forward to the day we can welcome audiences back through our doors, but in the meantime I want to thank everyone for their support and encouragement.'

Oliver Mears, Director of The Royal Opera said: 'We are thrilled to be presenting two first-class titles as part of our November lockdown offering – *Ariodante*, one of Handel's greatest operas, featuring a cast of outstanding British and international singers – and *Don Giovanni*, one of the most popular titles in the repertoire. The combination of glorious music and exceptional singers will be a joyful expression of everything the Royal Opera does best - at a time when we need it most.'

Kevin O'Hare, Director of The Royal Ballet, comments, 'Despite the challenges of a second lockdown, we are thrilled to be continuing to share the extraordinary artistry of our world-class dancers and musicians through these digital live streams. We hope that ballet lovers around the world will join us on Friday evening as our dancers gather again on the Covent Garden stage. At a time when our connections are paramount, we also hope that Ashton's affectionate character study of friendship in *Enigma Variations* will be life affirming.'

Ends

November at a glance:

The Royal Ballet: Live – Within the Golden Hour

13 November at 7.30pm GMT

Ticket prices: £10

Please find images here:

[Within the Golden Hour](#)

Ariodante

Friday 20 November at 7:30pm GMT

Ticket price: £10

Please find imagery [here](#)

Don Giovanni

Friday 27 November at 7:00pm GMT

Streaming price: £3

Please find imagery [here](#)

Enigma Variations

Friday 4 December at 7.00pm GMT

Streaming price: £3

Please find imagery [here](#)

Notes to Editors

For further information or interview requests please contact:

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Please note that all ROH performances and participating artists are subject to change due to Covid-19 restrictions. In order to ensure the safety of artists and creative teams and to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus, mitigations have included strict social distancing in the rehearsal studio alongside testing for those in physical contact during rehearsal, administered privately at no expense to the NHS.

With the safety of audiences and our community of staff and artists at their heart, significant mitigations have been put in place across the organisation to ensure we can bring audiences the best of our art forms while preventing any further spread of Covid-19.

All livestreams are available via: stream.roh.org.uk, available for 30 days on demand.

#OurHouseToYourHouse

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About The Royal Opera

The Royal Opera, under the artistic direction of Antonio Pappano, Music Director, and Oliver Mears, Director of Opera, is one of the world's leading opera companies. Based in the iconic Covent Garden theatre, it is renowned both for its outstanding performances of traditional

opera and for commissioning new works by today's leading opera composers, such as Harrison Birtwistle, Mark- Anthony Turnage and Thomas Adès.

About The Royal Ballet

Under the directorship of Kevin O'Hare, The Royal Ballet unites tradition and innovation in world-class performances and is a driving force in the development of ballet as an art form. Based at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, it brings together today's most dynamic and versatile dancers with a world-class orchestra and leading choreographers, composers, conductors, directors and creative teams to share awe-inspiring theatrical experiences with diverse audiences worldwide. The Company's extensive repertory embraces 19th-century classics, the singular legacy of works by Founder Choreographer Frederick Ashton and Principal Choreographer Kenneth MacMillan, the compelling new canon of work by choreographers today including Resident Choreographer Wayne McGregor and Artistic Associate Christopher Wheeldon, and the bold and complementary programming in the Linbury Theatre.

About the Royal Opera House

Home to The Royal Ballet, The Royal Opera and the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House our vision is to give everyone access to exceptional ballet and opera.

Since closing our doors due to the global pandemic in March 2020, the Royal Opera House has continued to bring together the world's most extraordinary artists and curated the #OurHouseToYourHouse programme of 19 streams, 4 socially distanced live concerts and a suite of online content that has been viewed over 315 million times in 183 countries.

The Royal Opera House continues its #OurHouseToYourHouse programme this autumn, bringing audiences the best of the ROH through a new series of live performances, cinema screenings, Friday Premieres and cultural highlights in partnership with the BBC and Sky Arts.

The Royal Opera House is committed to widening participation and deepening learning for all ages. This summer we launched Create and Learn, offering free online home-learning opportunities for children and young people. In addition, The Royal Ballet partnered with Cast and Doncaster Council to support Doncaster residents with online resources and remote direction to create a unique community dance film, Doncaster Dances.

Royal Opera House Recovery Campaign

Live performance is a shared experience, and our audiences are at the heart of what we do on our stages, backstage, online, in cinemas and in our communities. This year's global pandemic has affected all arts organisations across the world. We have lost £3 in every £5 of our income, and any Government loan will take us only part of the way. We need your help with our Recovery Fund to bring artists back to our stages. roh.org.uk/donate