



ROYAL
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HOUSE

12 November 2020

Press Release

#OurHouseToYourHouse

The Royal Opera House announces festive highlights for live audiences

The **Royal Opera House** is excited to announce a packed schedule of Christmas treats that includes festive highlights from both **The Royal Ballet** and **The Royal Opera**.

The Royal Ballet's much-loved production of ***The Nutcracker*** returns to our stage, in a COVID-safe restaging of **Peter Wright's** celebrated two-act production. Opening on **Friday 11 December** and running until **Sunday 3 January** there will be 17 magical performances, with tickets available to purchase from **Tuesday 1 December**. Enjoy the much-loved elements of this cherished classic, from the magical growing Christmas tree, to the enchanting Dance of the Snowflakes and spectacular duet with the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Prince in the Kingdom of Sweets.

New for The Royal Ballet's 2020 production is a battle scene between the Nutcracker, the Mouse King and their armies, choreographed by **Will Tuckett**. Combined with **Tchaikovsky's** sumptuous score, performed live by the **Orchestra of the Royal Opera House**, and charming designs by **Julia Trevelyan Oman**, this classic ballet is not to be missed.

Leading up to this festive treat, The Royal Ballet invites audiences to watch the dancers in a special filmed Insight of ***The Nutcracker in Rehearsal*** via the Royal Opera House YouTube channel on **Tuesday 1 December at 7pm GMT**. This streamed event is part of the Royal Opera House digital Insights programme.

In addition, The Royal Opera presents four performances of a sparkling Christmas Concert on **18, 19 and 20 December**. The festive staging will include extracts from fairy-tale opera favourites including **Rossini's *La Cenerentola* (Cinderella)** and **Humperdinck's *Hansel and***

Gretel, as well as rousing tunes from Royal Opera repertory classics including **Puccini's *La bohème***, **Mozart's *The Magic Flute*** and **Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on Christmas Carols*** to bring out the full seasonal spirit.

Conducted by **Mark Wigglesworth**, soloists **Jennifer Davis**, **Hanna Hipp**, **Jeremy White**, **Ross Ramgobin** and **Roderick Williams** perform, as well as **Gyula Nagy**, **Germán E. Alcántara** and **Dominic Sedgwick**, with the combined forces of the **Royal Opera Chorus**, **Jette Parker Young Artists** and Orchestra of the Royal Opera House in this wonderful Yuletide celebration.

Alex Beard, Chief Executive of the Royal Opera House, said: 'After such a challenging year, I am immensely proud to be unveiling this roster of uplifting Christmas highlights for the whole family. As we continue to navigate uncertain times, we look forward once again to welcoming audiences back to our auditorium, and to showcasing some of the world's greatest artists on our stages. Whatever the challenges before us, we are thrilled to offer some much-needed relief and delight to our audiences.'

Oliver Mears, Director of The Royal Opera said: '2020 has been a year of frustration and sadness for so many, but Christmas gives The Royal Opera the opportunity to offer our beloved audience and artists some real cheer. Our Christmas concerts, featuring the Orchestra and Chorus of the Royal Opera House conducted by Mark Wigglesworth, together with our Jette Parker Young Artists and many special guests, will showcase many much-loved opera and festive favourites that will enthuse and enchant us as we hope for better times ahead.'

Kevin O'Hare, Director of The Royal Ballet, said: 'The sprinkling of glitter that *The Nutcracker* brings into our lives seems especially welcome this year and we can't wait for audiences to join us for an unforgettable festive treat. Peter Wright's production is a joy and having our artistic staff and Will Tuckett shape the fun new additions is testament to how we can all pull together during challenging times to keep our important art forms flourishing.'

Ends

Christmas at a glance:

The Royal Opera: Christmas Concerts

Friday 18 and Saturday 19 December 7pm GMT

Sunday 20 December 2pm and 5:30pm

Tickets: £4 to £75

Livestream Friday 18 December 7pm GMT, £10

Please find images [here](#)

The Royal Ballet, The Nutcracker

11, 12, 13, 19, 21, 22, 23, 29, 30, 31 December, 1, 2, 3 January 2pm GMT

15, 16, 17 December 7pm GMT

24 December 12pm GMT

Casting to be announced in due course.

Tickets: £5 - £100

Please find images [here](#)

Royal Opera House Insight - The Nutcracker in Rehearsal

streamed event

Tuesday 1 December 7pm GMT

Free to watch online via www.youtube.com/royaloperahouse

Notes to Editors

For further information or interview requests please contact:

Opera – Chloe Westwood - chloe.westwood@roh.org.uk

Ballet – Ashley Woodfield – ashley.woodfield@roh.org.uk

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 Campaign to bring artists back to our stages. roh.org.uk/donate