

18 February 2021

The Royal Ballet's *The Cellist* / *Dances at a Gathering* available to pre-order on DVD and Blu-ray



This week marks the first anniversary of the world premiere of *The Cellist*, alongside *Dances at a Gathering*, and we are delighted to announce that a recording of this mixed programme is now available to [pre-order on DVD \(£24.99\) and Blu-ray \(£29.99\)](#), ahead of its release on **Friday 26 February**.

The Cellist is **Cathy Marston**'s first ballet for the Royal Opera House's Main Stage and is inspired by the momentous life and career of **Jacqueline du Pré**. The ballet explores du Pré's life from her discovery of the cello, through her celebrity as one of the most extraordinary cellists, to her frustration and struggle with multiple sclerosis. An exquisite score by **Philip Feeney** incorporates moving and powerful cello music by **Elgar, Beethoven, Fauré, Mendelssohn, Piatti, Rachmaninoff**

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and **Schubert**, performed by Solo Cellist **Hetty Snell**. **Lauren Cuthbertson** stars as The Cellist, alongside **Matthew Ball** as The Conductor, Daniel Barenboim, and **Marcelino Sambé** as The Instrument.

The Cellist is complimented by **Jerome Robbins'** elegant *Dances at a Gathering*. An exercise in pure dance for five couples set to music by **Chopin**, it was created for **New York City Ballet** in 1969 and first performed by The Royal Ballet the following year. The Company's 2020 performances marked the return of *Dances at a Gathering* to the repertory after an interval of ten years. This recording features an outstanding cast of Royal Ballet dancers, including **Marianela Nuñez, Francesca Hayward, Fumi Kaneko, Alexander Campbell and William Bracewell**, with **Robert Clark** as Solo Pianist.

Bonus features include ['Why The Royal Ballet love performing *The Cellist*'](#), ['Why The Royal Ballet love performing *Dances at a Gathering*'](#) and cast galleries.

Available to pre-order now: <https://shop.roh.org.uk/search?type=product&q=cellist%20gathering>

The Cellist

The Cellist: Lauren Cuthbertson

The Instrument: Marcelino Sambé

The Conductor: Matthew Ball

The Cellist (as a young girl): Emma Lucano

Her Sister (as a young girl): Lauren Godrey

Her Mother: Kristen McNally

Her Father: Thomas Whitehead

Her Sister: Anna Rose O'Sullivan

Her Cello Teachers: Gary Avis, Nicol Edmonds, Benjamin Ella

Her Musical Friends: Luca Acri, Paul Kay, Joseph Sissens

A Chorus of Narrators: Artists of The Royal Ballet

Choreography: Cathy Marston

Scenario: Cathy Marston and Edward Kemp

Music: Philip Feeney

Set designer: Hildegard Bechtler

Costume designer: Bregje van Balen

Lighting designer: Jon Clark

Dramaturgy: Edward Kemp

Choreographic collaborator: Jenny Tattersall

Conductor: Andrea Molino
Solo cello: Hetty Snell
Orchestra of the Royal Opera House

Dances at a Gathering

Luca Acri
Federico Bonelli
William Bracewell
Alexander Campbell
Francesca Hayward
Fumi Kaneko
Laura Morera
Yasmine Naghdi
Marianela Nuñez
Valentino Zucchetti

Choreography: Jerome Robbins
Music: Fryderyk Chopin
Costume designer: Joe Eula

Conductor: Andrea Molino
Solo piano: Robert Clark
Orchestra of the Royal Opera House

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NOTES TO EDITORS

- *The Cellist / Dances at a Gathering* is [available to pre-order on DVD \(£24.99\) and Blu-ray \(£29.99\)](#), ahead of its release on Friday 26 February.
- An image of *The Cellist / Dances at a Gathering* DVD is available to download [here](#)
- To browse our full range of products and Sale, please visit shop.roh.org.uk
- For more information please contact Katharine.Morgan@roh.org.uk

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, 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. Last 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. The 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