



ROYAL  
OPERA  
HOUSE

**Wednesday 10 March 2021**

## **Royal Opera House to open its doors on 17 May**

Today the Royal Opera House is excited to announce that it will once again open its doors to audiences on **17 May 2021**, with a packed schedule of in-person performances from both The Royal Ballet and The Royal Opera, brand new work available to stream online, and the world's first opera in hyper-reality.

This suite of activity will take place on our beautiful and historic Main Stage, in our state-of-the-art Linbury Theatre, or streamed online as part of our hugely popular **#OurHouseToYourHouse** programme. More details, including casting and booking dates, will be announced on **13 April 2021**.

The Royal Ballet is thrilled to return to live performances with three programmes of works ranging from **Crystal Pite** to **Marius Petipa**. Opening in May with a programme of 21<sup>st</sup> Century works, including **Christopher Wheeldon's** shimmering ballet ***Within the Golden Hour*** and two works new to The Royal Ballet by **Crystal Pite**. Pite's extraordinary ability to speak meaningfully about the human condition through dance was captured in The Royal Ballet's 2017 Olivier-award-winning commission ***Flight Pattern***, and the opportunity for audiences and performers to engage with her work again comes at no better time after this enforced period of absence from the stage. The Company also presents a series of digital content, including ***Meet the Young Dancers*** on 19 March, a streamed Insight event introducing this Season's **Aud Jepsen Young Dancers** and the 2020/21 **Prix de Lausanne Dancer**. Rising choreographic talent will also be featured with an online premiere in early May of ***Draft Works***, The Royal Ballet's showcase of new ideas and creativity in dance from within the Company.

The Royal Opera will bring together an international group of distinguished singers to perform **Mozart's** opera seria, *La clemenza di Tito*, in a new production directed by **Richard Jones**, beautifully designed by Olivier-award winning **Ultz** to meet the requirements of staging a show in the current public health environment, and performed under the baton of conductor **Mark Wigglesworth**.

**Alex Beard, Chief Executive of the Royal Opera House, said:**

“It is incredibly exciting that we will soon be opening our doors and welcoming audiences back to our beautiful Covent Garden home. We can't wait to bring life back to our stages and the joy of live performance back to our audiences, and I am delighted that we can go back to doing what we do best: performing the world's best ballet and opera to audiences at home and around the globe.”

The ROH also announces the re-opening of the world's first opera in hyper reality: ***Current, Rising***, a unique collaboration between the Royal Opera House's innovation programme, Audience Labs, award-winning Figment Productions and Royal Holloway, University of London. Developed by a female-led creative team, the 15-minute hyper-reality opera experience combines virtual reality with a multisensory set, inviting audiences to step into a bespoke 'Opera Tardis' and experience a dream-like journey carried musically by a poem layered in song.

Before booking opens for these exciting works on **13 April**, The Royal Opera is delighted to reveal that on **Friday 9 April** it will be live streaming its first fully staged production since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic with a brand-new double bill of **Bertolt Brecht's** and **Kurt Weill's**, ***The Seven Deadly Sins*** and ***Mahagonny Songspiel***. Directed by British director **Isabelle Kettle**, soloists of the **Jette Parker Young Artists Programme** will perform Weill's satirical double bill under the baton of British-Cypriot conductor **Michael Papadopoulos** and with choreography from **Julia Cheng**. This production will be available to online audiences only.

We look forward to announcing more details, including casting and booking dates, for *La clemenza de Tito*; *Current, Rising* and The Royal Ballet's Spring and Summer mixed programmes on **13 April**. For both *La clemenza de Tito* and The Royal Ballet's mixed programmes, audiences will be able to buy tickets for a socially-distanced live experience, or buy an online ticket to watch online wherever they are in the world. More details on The Royal Opera's *The Seven Deadly Sins* and *Mahagonny Songspiel* double bill will be announced on **29 March**.

**ENDS**

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## **IMAGES**

Please find images [here](#).

## **PRESS CONTACT**

Ben Oliver: [ben.oliver@roh.org.uk](mailto:ben.oliver@roh.org.uk) | Communications Manager

Chloe Westwood: [chloe.westwood@roh.org.uk](mailto:chloe.westwood@roh.org.uk) | Senior Press Officer (Opera)

Ashley Woodfield: [ashley.woodfield@roh.org.uk](mailto:ashley.woodfield@roh.org.uk) | Head of Ballet Press

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## **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**

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 George Benjamin, Harrison Birtwistle, Mark- Anthony Turnage and Thomas Adès.

## **About the Royal Opera House**

Home to The Royal Ballet, The Royal Opera and the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, the Royal Opera House brings together the world’s most extraordinary artists in live, streamed and broadcast events and performances that thrill, move and excite; that transport people to other worlds. Our theatres are in London’s Covent Garden but our work is accessed and experienced across the UK and globally through touring partnerships, cinema programmes, free outdoor screenings, radio, TV and live-streaming.

Since closing our doors due to the global pandemic in March 2020, the Royal Opera House continued to bring together the world's most extraordinary artists and curated the #OurHouseToYourHouse programme, made up of nine live concerts (six for opera, two for ballet and two galas), 38 streamed productions and a suite of online content that has been viewed over 15 million times in 183 countries, together with a suite of cultural highlights in partnership with the BBC, Sky Arts and Netflix and a host of online home learning opportunities wherever you are in the country.

We are hugely excited to welcome people back to our theatres as soon as possible, showcasing the very best of our art forms and bringing the joy of live performance back to our audiences. We would like to thank everyone who continues to support our creative community as we get closer to re-opening our doors once again.

### **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 our loan from Government takes us only part of the way. We need your help with our Recovery Campaign to bring our artists back to our stages. [roh.org.uk/donate](https://roh.org.uk/donate)