



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

Monday 7 December

ROH Winter Programme to open with *Tosca* in January 2021 featuring a stellar cast led by operatic superstar Anna Netrebko

Today the Royal Opera House is delighted to announce that **The Royal Opera's** Winter 2020/21 Programme will open with 12 performances of **Puccini's *Tosca***. The revival of **Jonathan Kent's** 2006 production will see one of the most captivating opera singers of our time, **Anna Netrebko**, return to the stage at Covent Garden.

Puccini's operatic thriller – one of the great opera experiences – will be the first fully staged production of an opera at Covent Garden since lockdown in March 2020. Running from **Wednesday 13 January** to **Saturday 13 March**, the production will also be live streamed for audiences across the globe on **Friday 22 January**.

Opening on 13 January, **Dan Ettinger** will conduct the star cast including Anna Netrebko, leading tenor **Yusif Eyvazov** and world-renowned bass-baritone **Gerald Finley**.

On 15, 18, 21, 23 January, Spanish soprano **Saïoa Hernández** will sing the title role, with South Korean tenor **Yonghoon Lee** reviving the role of Cavaradossi in which he made his Royal Opera debut in the 2012/13 Season. Lithuanian bass-baritone **Kostas Smoriginas**, a former member of the **Jette Parker Young Artists Programme**, will perform the role of Baron Scarpia.

As *Tosca* returns to Covent Garden in March, British conductor **Alexander Soddy** will make his ROH debut conducting Swedish soprano **Malin Byström**, British-Italian tenor **Freddie De Tommaso** - who makes his role debut as Mario Cavaradossi - and German baritone **Michael Volle**.

The three casts are joined by the **Royal Opera Chorus**, former and current members of the Jette Parker Young Artist Programme and the **Orchestra of the Royal Opera House**.

First performed in 2006, Jonathan Kent's production, with **Paul Brown**'s stunning designs, perfectly evokes the troubled atmosphere of Rome in 1800 and Tosca's combination of sensuality and religious sincerity.

To comply with Covid-safe working and social distancing guidance, in this production of *Tosca* the orchestra will be smaller than usual, and Act I features some changes to the original staging. In order to ensure the safety of artists and creative teams and to prevent the spread of Covid-19, mitigations have included strict socially distancing in the rehearsal studio alongside testing, for those in physical contact during rehearsal, administered privately at no expense to the NHS.

Oliver Mears, Director of Opera of the Royal Opera House, said: "What better way for the Royal Opera House and our beloved audience to return to full-scale opera than with Puccini's masterpiece? Gripping theatre from beginning to end, *Tosca* also features some of the most passionate music in the repertory, performed here by a dazzling collection of local and international stars. Classic opera at Covent Garden is back."

General booking is open from Tuesday 22 December at 10am.

Further details of the Winter Programme will be announced in due course.

ENDS

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Notes to Editors:

- 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.
- All livestreams are available via: stream.roh.org.uk, available for 30 days on demand.
- Please find imagery here: <https://we.tl/t-fzLdomSYpt>

Tosca

13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23 January 2021

4, 8, 10, 13 March 2021

Pricing: £10 - £220

Livestream Friday 22 January 2021 - £16

Music - Giacomo Puccini

Libretto - Giuseppe Giacosa and Luigi Illica

Director - Jonathan Kent

Revival director - Dan Dooner

Designer - Paul Brown

Lighting designer - Mark Henderson

Conductor – Dan Ettinger (Jan 13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23), Alexander Soddy (March 4, 8, 10, 13).

Cast

Floria Tosca – Anna Netrebko (Jan 13, 16, 19, 22), Saioa Hernández (Jan 15, 18, 21, 23), Malin Byström (March 4, 8, 10, 13).

Mario Cavaradossi – Yusif Eyvazov (Jan 13, 16, 19, 22), Yonghoon Lee (Jan 15, 18, 21, 23), Freddie De Tommaso (March 4, 8, 10, 13).

Baron Scarpia – Gerald Finley (Jan 13, 16, 19, 22), Kostas Smoriginas** (Jan 15, 18, 21, 23), Michael Volle (March 4, 8, 10, 13).

Spoletta - Aled Hall (Jan 13, 16, 19, 22), Alasdair Elliott (Jan 15, 18, 21, 23), Alexander Kravets (March 4, 8, 10, 13).

Cesare Angelotti - Hansung Yoo* (Jan 13, 16, 19, 22), Germán E. Alcántara** (Jan 15, 18, 21, 23), Christian Federici* (March 4, 8, 10, 13).

Sacristan - Jeremy White (Jan 13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 22, 21 and 23, March 4, 8, 10, 13).

Sciarrone - Simon Wilding (Jan 13, 16, 19, 22), Jihoon Kim** (Jan 15/ 18/ 21/ 23), Blaise Malaba** (March 4, 8, 10, 13).

Gaoler - John Morrissey (Jan 13, 16, 19, 22 and March 4, 8, 10, 13), Olle Zetterström (Jan 15, 18, 21, 23).

Royal Opera Chorus

Orchestra of the The Royal Opera House

*Royal Opera debut

**Jette Parker Young Artist/Former JPYA

#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 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