



ROYAL  
OPERA  
HOUSE

Tuesday 1 June 2021

## The Royal Opera House announces full details of the 2021/22 Season

- 11 new productions, including 5 world premieres, and 20 revivals.
- An exciting roster of UK and international talent with many debuts

The Royal Opera House today confirms details for its **2021/22 Season**, the first full Season since 2019. Opening on **Monday 13 September**, the Season includes five world premieres from The Royal Ballet and The Royal Opera, classic revivals and an exciting roster of international and UK talent performing across the two stages of the Royal Opera House.

In its 90th anniversary year, The Royal Ballet presents a Season that respects the past and heralds the future. Three world premieres, including Wayne McGregor's ***The Dante Project***, Christopher Wheeldon's ***Like Water for Chocolate*** and a new work by American choreographer **Kyle Abraham**, are performed alongside much-loved 19th-century classics and heritage ballets by **Frederick Ashton** and **Kenneth MacMillan**. The **Linbury Theatre** hosts a raft of partnerships and co-productions including with **Ballet Black**, **Alessandra Ferri**, **Yorke Dance Project** and a world premiere from **Company WayneMcGregor**. Creative opportunities for emerging talent will also feature with ***Draft Works*** and the ***Next Generation Festival***. The Season culminates in July 2022 with The Royal Ballet

making a welcome return to international touring with a three-week tour of Japan where the Company will perform Kenneth MacMillan's *Manon* and Peter Wright's *Giselle*.

The Royal Opera Season will open with a new production of **Verdi's *Rigoletto***, directed by **Oliver Mears** – his first production since becoming The Royal Opera's Director of Opera in 2017. This new production will receive its premiere in September 2021, with Royal Opera Music Director **Antonio Pappano** conducting the **Orchestra of the Royal Opera House**. In its 75th year, The Royal Opera strengthens its commitment to the works of **Benjamin Britten, George Frideric Handel** and **Leoš Janáček** with new productions of *Peter Grimes*, *Theodora* and the long-awaited premiere of *Jenůfa*. Also given its premiere this Season is a new production of **Camille Saint-Saëns's** grand-opera *Samson et Dalila*, while international and British talent are cast in repertory favourites including *Tosca*, *La traviata* and *Così fan tutte*.

The **Linbury Theatre** presents two opera world premieres: **Laura Bowler's *The Blue Woman***, directed by Katie Mitchell, and *Wolf Witch Giant Fairy* – a magical new family show in collaboration with **Little Bulb** opening in time for Christmas. Spring 2022 will see director **Adele Thomas** bring **Vivaldi's *Bajazet*** to life in a new production – the first Vivaldi opera to be staged at the Royal Opera House. In June 2022 **Tom Coult's *Violet*** will be presented off site at the Hackney Empire with co-producers Music Theatre Wales and Britten Pears Arts.

## **Opera and Ballet for the 2021/22 Season**

### **Rigoletto**

**13–29 September 2021 / 18 February–12 March 2022**

### **The Royal Opera**

Main Stage

Music Giuseppe Verdi

Sung in Italian with English surtitles

Position of Music Director Maestro Antonio Pappano generously supported by Mrs Susan A. Olde OBE. Generous philanthropic support from Sandra and Anthony Gutman, Charles Holloway, Melinda and Donald Quintin, Simon and Virginia Robertson and the Royal Opera House Endowment Fund.

Supported by Rolex.

The Season opens with a new production of Verdi's *Rigoletto*, directed by Oliver Mears – his first as Director of The Royal Opera. This production sees Verdi's masterpiece as a modern morality play that pits power against innocence, beauty against ugliness, in a pitiless world of luxurious decadence, corruption and social decay. Antonio Pappano and Paul Wynne Griffiths conduct in the Autumn, with Carlos Álvarez in the title role alongside Lisette Oropesa and Liparit Avetisyan. In February, Stefano Montanari conducts a cast that includes Luca Salsi, Rosa Feola and Javier Camarena.

#### Creative Team

Conductors ANTONIO PAPPANO/PAUL WYNNE GRIFFITHS/STEFANO MONTANARI

Director OLIVER MEARS

Set designer SIMON LIMA HOLDSWORTH

Costume designer ILONA KARAS

Lighting designer FABIANA PICCIOLI

Movement director ANNA MORRISSEY

#### Cast

Rigoletto CARLOS ÁLVAREZ/LUCA SALSÍ

Duke of Mantua LIPARIT AVETISYAN/JAVIER CAMARENA

Gilda LISETTE OROPESA/ROSA FEOLA

Sparafucile ANDREA MASTRONI/EVGENY STAVINSKY

Maddalena RAMONA ZAHARIA/AIGUL AKHMETSHINA

Count Monterone ERIC GREENE/PHILLIP RHODES

Giovanna KSENIYA NIKOLAIEVA

Marullo DOMINIC SEDGWICK/GERMÁN E. ALCÁNTARA

Borsa EGOR ZHURAVSKII

Count Ceprano BLAISE MALABA

ROYAL OPERA CHORUS

ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

**The Magic Flute**  
**15 September–7 October 2021**  
**The Royal Opera**

Main Stage  
Music Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
Sung in German with English surtitles

Generous philanthropic support from Bertrand and Elisabeth Meunier

David McVicar's spectacular production of Mozart's comic opera returns for its tenth revival on the Royal Opera House Main Stage, transporting you to a fantastical world of dancing animals, flying machines and starry skies. This spellbinding setting provides a wonderful backdrop for Mozart's kaleidoscopic score. McVicar's production embraces both the seriousness and the comedy of Mozart's opera, telling a timeless story of one man's search for wisdom and virtue. With an enduring love story at its heart, complex villains and an unforgettable comic sidekick in Papageno, *The Magic Flute* weaves an enchanting tale from start to finish.

Creative Team

Conductors: HARTMUT HAENCHEN/RICHARD HETHERINGTON  
Director DAVID MCVICAR  
Designer JOHN MACFARLANE  
Lighting designer PAULE CONSTABLE  
Movement director LEAH HAUSMAN

Cast

Tamino DANIEL BEHLE/BERNARD RICHTER  
Pamina SALOME JICIA/CHRISTINA GANSCH  
Papageno HUW MONTAGUE RENDALL/PETER KELLNER  
Queen of the Night BRENDA RAE/KATHRYN LEWEK  
Sarastro KRZYSZTOF BĄCZYK/JAMESPLATT  
Monostatos MICHAEL COLVIN/PETERHOARE  
Papagena HAEGEE LEE/ALEXANDRALOWE  
Speaker of the Temple JOCHEN SCHMECKENBECHER/DAVID SOAR  
First Lady ALEXANDRA LOWE/ANITAWATSON  
Second Lady HANNA HIPPI/RACHELKELLY  
Third Lady STEPHANIE WAKE-EDWARDS/GAYNOR KEEBLE  
First Priest HARRY NICOLL  
Second Priest DONALD MAXWELL  
First Man in Armour ALAN PINGARRÓN

Second Man in Armour JAMES PLATT

ROYAL OPERA CHORUS  
ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

## **Jenůfa**

**28 September–12 October 2021**

### **The Royal Opera**

Main Stage

Music Leoš Janáček

Sung in Czech with English surtitles

Generous philanthropic support from Hamish and Sophie Forsyth and Simon and Virginia Robertson

The Royal Opera continues its series of Janáček operas with the first production of *Jenůfa* at Covent Garden since 2001, by award-winning director Claus Guth. Janáček movingly captures Jenůfa's progression from hope to despair to eventual radiant happiness, while her stepmother, the Kostelnička, is one of opera's most complex maternal figures. The two courageous women struggle for fulfilment against the backdrop of a claustrophobic rural community.

Asmik Grigorian as Jenůfa and Karita Mattila as the Kostelnička lead a star cast with Hungarian conductor Henrik Nánási conducting a stunning score infused with traditional folk melodies of Janáček's native Moravia.

### Creative Team

Conductor HENRIK NÁNÁSI

Director CLAUD GUTH

Set designer MICHAEL LEVINE

Costume designer GESINE VÖLLM

Lighting designer JAMES FARNCOMBE

Choreographer TERESA ROTEMBERG

Video designer ROCAFILM

Dramaturg YVONNE GEBAUER

### Cast

Jenůfa ASMIK GRIGORIAN

Kostelnička KARITA MATTILA

Laca Klemeň NICKY SPENCE

Števa Buryja ANDREW STAPLES

Grandmother Buryjovka ELENA ZILIO

Foreman DAVID STOUT  
Mayor JEREMY WHITE  
Mayor's wife HELENE SCHNEIDERMAN/CLARISSA MEEK  
Karolka JACQUELYN STUCKER  
Herdsman ANGELA SIMKIN  
Barena APRIL KOYEJO-AUDIGER  
Jano YARITZA VÉLIZ

ROYAL OPERA CHORUS  
ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

### **Jette Parker Young Artists 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**27 September 2021–23 July 2022**

**The Royal Opera**

**Jette Parker Young Artists**

The Jette Parker Young Artists Programme this Season celebrates its 20th anniversary. In October, *Meet The Young Artists Week* offers a chance to hear live many of the artists who joined last year and whose performances you may only have seen on screen. The wonderful acoustic of the Linbury Theatre offers the perfect environment for a rich programme of song, piano music, operatic arias and ensembles, curated by the Programme's founder and Artistic Director David Gowland.

In the Linbury in May, they mark the centenary of Stravinsky's one-act opera *Mavra*, in a mixed programme with Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire*. And throughout the year you can catch returning JPYA alumni and graduates of the Link Artist programme joining the Anniversary Company for roles on both stages and recital performances.

The anniversary year culminates on 23 July in a special performance on the Main Stage marking the Programme and its artists' achievements across two decades with Antonio Pappano who also celebrates 20 years with The Royal Opera.

Generously supported by Oak Foundation

#### **Recitals at Lunch, Crush Room**

27 September 2021 ALEXANDRA LOWE  
8 November 2021 KSENIIA NIKOLAIEVA  
29 November 2021 NEW WORK RECITAL INCLUDING JPYA ALUMNI  
24 January 2022 EGOR ZHURAVSKII  
7 February 2022 NEW WORK RECITAL  
14 February 2022 MICHAEL PAPADOPOULOS and MICHAEL SIKICH

14 March 2022 BLAISE MALABA  
11 April 2022 ANDRÉS PRESNO  
25 April 2022 THANDO MJANDANA

**Meet the Young Artists Week, Linbury Theatre**  
**5–9 October 2021**

5 October, 7.45pm JUKE BOX 1  
6 October, 1pm LUNCHTIME RECITAL | 7.45pm INSIGHT: WAGNER AT THE PIANO  
7 October, 7.45pm BRITTEN SONG CYCLES  
8 October, 7.45pm JUKEBOX 2  
9 October, 7.45pm ALUMNI CONCERT

**Mavra and Pierrot Lunaire**  
**12–28 May 2022**  
**The Royal Opera**  
**Jette Parker Young Artists**  
**Linbury Theatre**

As part of their 20th anniversary celebrations, the Jette Parker Young Artists present a mixed programme in the Linbury Theatre, bringing together Igor Stravinsky's rarely performed *Mavra*, 100 years after its 1922 premiere, and Arnold Schoenberg's 1912 *Pierrot Lunaire*. Stravinsky's one-act opera is based on a narrative poem by Pushkin, in which a Hussar disguises himself as a cook in an attempt to spend more time with his lover. Schoenberg's formally wide-ranging, atonal score, pre-dating the 12-tone technique for which he is celebrated, transforms into Sprechstimme the texts of poems by Albert Giraud on subjects ranging from love, sex and religion to violence, crime and blasphemy.

Creative Teams and Casts

Conductor MICHAEL PAPADOPOULOS  
Director ANTHONY ALMEIDA  
Designer ROSANNA VIZE

**MAVRA**

Music Igor Stravinsky  
Performed in Russian with English surtitles

Orchestration PAUL PHILLIPS  
Libretto BORIS YEVGEN'YEVICH KOCHNO after the narrative poem *The Little House at Kolomna* by ALEXANDER PUSHKIN

Parasha APRIL KOYEJO-AUDIGER  
The Hussar/Mavra EGOR ZHURAVSKII  
The Mother KSENIIA NIKOLAIEVA

### **PIERROT LUNAIRE**

Music Arnold Schoenberg  
Performed in German with English surtitles

Libretto ALBERT GIRAUD Poems from Pierrot Lunaire  
Soprano ALEXANDRA LOWE  
Performed in German with English surtitles

### **20th Anniversary Summer Performance**

#### **Main Stage**

**23 July 2022**

Jette Parker Young Artists and guests  
Sopranos ALEXANDRA LOWE  
Mezzo-sopranos KSENIIA NIKOLAIEVA  
Tenors ALAN PINGARRÓN, ANDRÉS PRESNO, EGOR ZHURAVSKII  
Baritone CHUMA SIJEQA  
Bass BLAISE MALABA  
Conductors ANTONIO PAPPANO and MICHAEL PAPADOPOULOS

### **Romeo and Juliet**

**5–24 October 2021 / 10 January–25 February 2022**

#### **The Royal Ballet**

Main Stage  
Choreography KENNETH MACMILLAN  
Music SERGEY PROKOFIEV

Generous philanthropic support from SUSAN and JOHN BURNS, SIR LLOYD and LADY DORFMAN, KENNETH and SUSAN GREEN, SANDRA and ANTHONY GUTMAN, the JEAN SAINSBURY ROYAL OPERA HOUSE FUND and the ROYAL OPERA HOUSE ENDOWMENT FUND

Since its 1965 premiere with The Royal Ballet, Kenneth MacMillan's *Romeo and Juliet* has become a great modern ballet classic of the world repertory. The nuanced and detailed choreography gives dancers in the lead roles a wealth of opportunities for differing interpretations of the doomed lovers. Evocative designs by Nicholas Georgiadis bring the colour and action of Renaissance Verona, where a busy market all too quickly bursts into sword fighting and a family feud leads to tragedy for



both the Montagues and the Capulets. Prokofiev's ravishing score sweeps this dramatic ballet towards its inevitable, emotional end.

Creative Team

Designer NICHOLAS GEORGIADIS  
Lighting designer JOHN B. READ

Conductors KOEN KESSELS /ALONDRA DE LA PARRA/JONATHAN LO  
ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

**The Dante Project**  
**14–30 October 2021**  
**The Royal Ballet**

Main Stage  
Choreography WAYNE MCGREGOR  
Music THOMAS ADÈS

A co-production between THE ROYAL BALLET and PARIS OPERA BALLET  
Music co-commission with LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC, GUSTAVO DUDAMEL, Music and Artistic Director

Generous philanthropic support from SIR LLOYD and LADY DORFMAN and THE FRIENDS OF COVENT GARDEN

Presented as part of the 700th anniversary celebrations of the poet's death, Dante's epic journey through the afterlife, *The Divine Comedy*, is realised in a major artistic collaboration between trailblazing forces of the contemporary arts scene. In an inaugural co-production with Paris Opera Ballet and music co-commission with the LA Phil, Wayne McGregor's ground-breaking choreography comes together with a virtuoso new score by one of the most influential musicians of the 21st Century, composer conductor Thomas Adès, and designs by the acclaimed artist Tacita Dean, celebrated for her pioneering and poetic work across film and other mediums. With esteemed lighting designer Lucy Carter and dramaturg Uzma Hameed, the creative team unite in this three-part work for the full Company to illuminate the extraordinary vision of Dante. Inspired by the agony of Dante's own exile, the poem traces his path from crisis to revelation guided by his literary hero Virgil and his lost love Beatrice, through the horrifying drama of *Inferno* and its damned, the lyrical mysticism of pilgrims on mount *Purgatorio* and the dazzling spheres of *Paradiso* with their endless configurations of light.

## Creative Team

Design TACITA DEAN  
Lighting design (part 1) LUCY CARTER/ SIMON BENNISON  
Lighting design (parts 2 and 3) LUCY CARTER  
Dramaturgy UZMA HAMEED

Conductors THOMAS ADÈS / KOEN KESSELS  
ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

**L'Heure exquisite**  
**Inspired by Samuel Beckett's *Happy Days***  
**15–23 October 2021**  
Linbury Theatre

Choreography MAURICE BÉJART  
Music ANTON WEBERN/GUSTAV MAHLER/WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART/FRANZ LEHAR

ALESSANDRA FERRI and CARSTEN JUNG  
Co-production with AF DANCE, RAVENNA FESTIVAL and THE ROYAL BALLET

Performed by courtesy of FOUNDATION MAURICE BÉJART  
Special thanks to LADY ANGELA BERNSTEIN CBE  
Official pointe shoe sponsor Freed of London  
Supported by Intesa Sanpaolo

World-renowned ballerina and former Royal Ballet Principal Alessandra Ferri returns to the Linbury Theatre following *TRIO Concertdance* and *Chéri*, as well as recent guest appearances with The Royal Ballet in *Wolf Works* and *Marguerite and Armand* on the Main Stage. Maurice Béjart's *L'Heure exquisite* (The Exquisite Hour) was inspired by Samuel Beckett's play *Oh! les beaux jours* (Happy Days). Béjart created this piece for Carla Fracci and Micha Van Hoেকে in 1998, after a solo piece made on Mathilde Soubervie. From its breath-taking opening, with the dancer submerged to the waist in a mountain of over 2,000 pointe shoes, to the stunning variations that capture her past in fragments, this is an unmissable opportunity to celebrate the 40th anniversary milestone of Alessandra Ferri's association with The Royal Ballet and her remarkable artistic journey.

## Creative Team

Original set designs ROGER BERNARD  
Costume designer LUISA SPINATELLI  
Staging MAINA GIELGUD/ MICHA VAN HOECKE

## **La traviata**

**27 October–17 November 2021/ 2 April–18 April 2022**

### **The Royal Opera**

#### Main Stage

Music Giuseppe Verdi

Sung in Italian with English surtitles

Generous philanthropic support from Sir Mick and Lady Barbara Davis

Six sopranos take the role of Violetta this Season in two runs of Richard Eyre's time-honoured production of Verdi's *La traviata*. Verdi's beautiful score contains some of his most inspired arias and duets, including Violetta's joyous 'Sempre libera', and her poignant and passionate encounters with Alfredo and Germont. The superficial glamour of 19th-century Paris contrasts with scenes of great intimacy, culminating in the memorable, heart-breaking final act. The Royal Opera welcomes Lisette Oropesa, Ekaterina Bakanova, Anush Hovhannisyán, Pretty Yende, Angel Blue and Hrachuhí Bassénz to sing the favourite role of star sopranos in the most performed opera in the world.

#### Creative Team

Conductors ANTONELLO MANACORDA/PAUL WYNNE GRIFFITHS/GIACOMO SAGRIPANTI/RENATO BALSADONNA

Director RICHARD EYRE

Designer BOB CROWLEY

Lighting designer JEAN KALMAN

Director of movement JANE GIBSON

#### Cast

Violetta Valéry LISETTE OROPESA/EKATERINA BAKANOVA/ANUSH HOVHANNISYAN/PRETTY YENDE/ANGEL BLUE/HRACHUHÍ BASSÉNZ

Alfredo Germont LIPARIT AVETISYAN/FRÉDÉRIC ANTOUN/STEPHEN COSTELLO/DMYTRO POPOV

Giorgio Germont CHRISTIAN GERHAHER/CHRISTOPH POHL/DIMITRI PLATANIAS/VLADIMIR STOYANOV

Annina RENATA SKARELYTE/SARAH PRING/KSENIIA NIKOLAIEVA/GAYNOR KEEBLE

Doctor Grenvil BLAISE MALABA/SIMON SHIBAMBU/DAVID SHIPLEY

Flora Bervoix STEPHANIE WAKE-EDWARDS/HONGNI WU/ANGELA SIMKIN/RACHEL KELLY

Baron Douphol YURIY YURCHUK/JAMES CLEVERTON/GERMÁN E. ALCÁNTARA

Gastone de Letorières EGOR ZHURAVSKII/THANDO MJANDANA/ANDRÉS PRESNO

Marquis d'Obigny JEREMY WHITE

ROYAL OPERA CHORUS  
ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

**The Waiting Game / Then or Now**

**Ballet Black**

**3–7 November 2021**

Linbury Theatre

Choreography MTHUTHUZELI NOVEMBER (*The Waiting Game*), WILL TUCKETT (*Then or Now*)  
Music ETTA JAMES/WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART/MTUTUHUZELI NOVEMBER; HEINRICH IGNAZ  
FRANZ VON BIBER/DANIEL PIORO

Ballet Black celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. Cassa Pancho's company of Black and Asian classical ballet dancers continue their long association with the Linbury Theatre with a programme of dance very much of the here and now. Two new works by Olivier-award-winning choreographers provide a showcase for the unique character of this leading dance company: *The Waiting Game* by Mthuthuzeli November (supported by The Linbury Trust) and *Then or Now* by Will Tuckett, a co-commission with the Barbican.

Creative Team

Costume designer PETER TODD

Lighting designer DAVID PLATER

Vocal recordings BALLET BLACK

Recording DANIEL PIORO

Costume designer YUKIKO TSUKAMOTO

Lighting designer DAVID PLATER

Poetry ADRIENNE RICH

Poetry recordings HAFSAH BASHIR/NATASHA GORDON/MICHAEL SHAEFFER

**Giselle**

**4 November–3 December 2021**

**The Royal Ballet**

Main Stage

Choreography MARIUS PETIPA after JEAN CORALLI and JULES PERROT

Music ADOLPHE ADAM edited by LARS PAYNE

Generous philanthropic support from the PAUL FERGUSON MEMORIAL FUND, AUD JEBSEN, SIMON AND VIRGINIA ROBERTSON, THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE ENDOWMENT FUND and the PATRONS OF COVENT GARDEN

*Giselle* is the classic ballet of the Romantic era – and, for the dancer performing the title role, one of the greatest challenges in the repertory. Peter Wright’s production, a classic itself, perfectly achieves the dual aspects of the ballet, moving from the naivety of young love between Giselle and Albrecht in the village setting of Act I to the ethereal Wilis in Act II’s eerie moonlit forest. Rich in vivid character detail and poignant depth of feeling, *Giselle* is a reminder of ballet’s power to move and thrill.

#### Creative Team

Scenario THÉOPHILE GAUTIER after HEINRICH HEINE  
Production and additional choreography PETER WRIGHT  
Designer JOHN MACFARLANE  
Original lighting JENNIFER TIPTON re-created by DAVID FINN

Conductor BORIS GRUZIN  
ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

**Past Present**  
**Yorke Dance Project**  
**12–18 November 2021**

Linbury Theatre

Choreography YOLANDE YORKE-EDGELL/ROBERT COHAN/MARTHA GRAHAM/KENNETH MACMILLAN  
Music NATHANIEL DETT/NILS FRAHM/NATHANIEL DETT/NILS FRAHM/ÓLAFUR ARNALDS/ZOLÁN KODÁLY/ANTON WEBERN/BOSHUSLAV MARTINU

Yorke Dance Project will juxtapose past and present with works by choreographers who have shaped dance today. Martha Graham’s iconic *Lamentation* is performed alongside the premiere of Robert Cohan’s final work *Afternoon Conversations with Dancers*, created during lockdown. Cohan trained and performed with Graham, one of the seminal forces of modern dance. Kenneth MacMillan’s *Sea of Troubles* follows and the programme is completed with the premiere of a new work by Artistic Director Yolande Yorke-Edgell, with music by Nathaniel Dett, sharing the company’s dedication to past and present contemporary dance.

15 November 2021

Special celebratory event in memory of SIR ROBERT COHAN with the company and guest artists performing some of his rare and cherished works.

#### Creative Team

Lighting designer ZEYNEP KEPEKLI  
*Sea of Troubles* Designer DEBORAH MACMILLAN

## **Macbeth**

**16–30 November 2021**

### **The Royal Opera**

Main Stage

Music Giuseppe Verdi

Sung in Italian with English surtitles

Supported by Rolex

For Verdi, Shakespeare was a long-standing passion and *Macbeth* (the first of his three Shakespearean masterpieces) is widely seen as a major step forward in his artistic development. First seen in 2002, Phyllida Lloyd's production encapsulates the sinister quality of the piece, with striking designs by Anthony Ward. Conducted by Daniele Rustioni, Simon Keenlyside returns to the title role, which he first performed at Covent Garden in 2011, with Italian soprano Anna Pirozzi returning as Lady Macbeth. Austrian bass Günther Groissböck sings the role of Macbeth's erstwhile friend Banquo and South Korean tenor David Junghoon Kim sings the role of Macbeth's enemy and eventual nemesis, Macduff.

#### Creative Team

Conductor DANIELE RUSTIONI

Director PHYLLIDA LLOYD

Designer ANTHONY WARD

Lighting designer PAULE CONSTABLE

Choreographer MICHAEL KEEGAN-DOLAN

#### Cast

Macbeth SIMON KEENLYSIDE

Lady Macbeth ANNA PIROZZI

Banquo GÜNTHER GROISSBÖCK

Macduff DAVID JUNGHOON KIM

Lady-in-waiting APRIL KOYEJO-AUDIGER

Malcolm EGOR ZHURAVSKII  
Doctor BLAISE MALABA

ROYAL OPERA CHORUS  
ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

**Wolf Witch Giant Fairy**  
**17 December 2021–3 January 2022**  
**A Royal Opera and Little Bulb production, in association with Farnham Maltings**

Linbury Theatre  
Sung in English  
\*All performances are Relaxed Performances

Generous philanthropic support from the Paul Hamlyn Education Fund

In the far-away land of fairy tales is a magical wood full of fantastical creatures, enchanted folk and tall pines stretching as far as the eye can see. Here, the trees see wonders as numerous as their branches – lovers in peril, witches on broomsticks, wolves in disguise... you never know what you might find. We all know the famous fairy tales and how they end... or do we? Wolf Witch Giant Fairy, a wild folk opera of music, mischief and magic, is a new collaboration between The Royal Opera and the always innovative Little Bulb, who return to the Linbury Theatre in this new family-friendly show for Christmas.

#### Company

LITTLE BULB  
ALEXANDER SCOTT  
DOMINIC CONWAY  
CLARE BERESFORD

#### Cast

PETER BRATHWAITE  
CLAIRE WILD

**Tosca**  
**5–22 December 2021 / 8–22 February 2022**

## **The Royal Opera**

Main Stage

Music Giacomo Puccini

Sung in Italian with English surtitles

Generous philanthropic support from Aud Jebsen, the Friends of Covent Garden and the Royal Opera House Endowment Fund

Three outstanding casts bring alive the excitement of one of the best-loved operas in the repertory: Puccini's *Tosca*. From the demonic chords with which it famously begins to the violent twist of its shock ending, the tension never lets up for a moment. Into the romantic world of an idealistic painter, Cavaradossi, and his sensuous lover Tosca comes the malevolence of Baron Scarpia, Chief of Police, with fatal results. Jonathan Kent's taut and intense production with Paul Brown's historically charged designs wonderfully evokes the dangerous atmosphere of Rome in 1800, where love and evil come – thrillingly – face to face.

### Creative Team

Conductors OKSANA LYNIV/ FRANCESCO IVAN CIAMPA/MARCO ARMILIATO

Director JONATHAN KENT

Designer PAUL BROWN

Lighting designer MARK HENDERSON

### Cast

Floria Tosca ELENA STIKHINA/ANNA PIROZZI/ANGELA GHEORGHIU

Mario Cavaradossi BRYAN HYMEL/FREDDIE DE TOMMASO/STEFAN POP

Baron Scarpia ALEXEY MARKOV/ CLAUDIO SGURA/MICHAEL VOLLE

Spoletta HUBERT FRANCIS/ALED HALL

Cesare Angelotti YURIY YURCHUK/CHUMA SIJEQA

Sacristan JEREMY WHITE/ALEXANDER KÖPECZI

Sciarrone JIHOON KIM/SIMON WILDING

ROYAL OPERA CHORUS

ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

## **Nabucco**

**20 December 2021–23 January 2022**



**The Royal Opera, co-production with La Scala, Milan, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Gran Teatre del Liceu, Barcelona**

Main Stage

Music Giuseppe Verdi

Sung in Italian with English surtitles

Generous philanthropic support from Mrs. Alfiya Askar Abulkhair and Timur Kuanyshev and Melinda and Donald Quintin

The tragic story of a desperate father's descent into madness, his two daughters torn apart by their love for the same man, is set against the epic biblical backdrop of the Israelites' exile from their homeland in Verdi's early masterpiece. The opera was an instant success at its 1842 premiere, with the famed Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves ('Va, pensiero') taking on an anthemic political resonance that lasts to this day. For this revival of Daniele Abbado's 2013 production, Daniel Oren conducts Enkhbat Amartuvshin as Nabucco (Nebuchadnezzar) King of the Babylonians, Anna Netrebko as the scheming princess Abigaille (sharing the role with Liudmyla Monastyrskaya) and Alexander Vinogradov as the high priest Zaccaria.

Creative Team

Conductor DANIEL OREN

Director DANIELE ABBADO

Associate Director BORIS STETKA

Designer ALISON CHITTY

Lighting designer ALESSANDRO CARLETTI

Video designer LUCA SCARZELLA

Movement director SIMONA BUCCI

Cast

Nabucco (Nebuchadnezzar) ENKHBAT AMARTUVSHIN

Abigaille LIUDMYLA MONASTYRSKA/ANNA NETREBKO

Zaccaria ALEXANDER VINOGRADOV

Fenena VASILISA BERZHANSKAYA

Ismaele NAJMIDDIN MAVLYANOV

High Priest of Baal BLAISE MALABA

Anna APRIL KOYEJO-AUDIGER

Abdallo ANDRÉS PRESNO

ROYAL OPERA CHORUS

ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

**The Marriage of Figaro**

**9–27 January 2022**

**The Royal Opera**

Main Stage

Music Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Sung in Italian with English surtitles

Position of Music Director Maestro Antonio Pappano generously supported by Mrs Susan A. Olde OBE

From the headlong rush of the overture, Mozart's timeless comedy is a breathless journey through one very eventful day in the life of an 1830s château. Figaro and his bride Susanna conspire to foil the unwanted advances of Count Almaviva, while the Countess has her heart stolen by a cross-dressing pageboy. Mozart's music unfolds with beautiful solos and ensembles to amplify the deep emotions behind the seemingly farcical surface. Music Director of The Royal Opera Antonio Pappano brings his specialist perspective to Mozart's effervescent score, sharing the baton with Christopher Willis. A young and predominantly Italian cast perform this revival of David McVicar's sumptuous and hugely popular period staging.

Creative Team

Conductors ANTONIO PAPPANO/CHRISTOPHER WILLIS

Director DAVID MCVICAR

Designer TANYA MCCALLIN

Lighting designer PAULE CONSTABLE

Movement director LEAH HAUSMAN

Cast

Figaro RICCARDO FASSI

Susanna GIULIA SEMENZATO

Count Almaviva DAVIDE LUCIANO

Countess Almaviva FEDERICA LOMBARDI

Cherubino HANNA HIPP

Don Basilio GREGORY BONFATTI

Marcellina MONICA BACELLI

Bartolo GIANLUCA BURATTO

Antonio JEREMY WHITE  
Barbarina ALEXANDRA LOWE  
Don Curzio ALASDAIR ELLIOTT

ROYAL OPERA CHORUS  
ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

### **Theodora**

**31 January–16 February 2022**

**The Royal Opera, co-production with Teatro Real, Madrid**

Main Stage

Music George Frideric Handel

Sung in English with English surtitles

Generous philanthropic support from Charles Holloway, Crevan O'Grady and Jane McClenahan and Susan and John Singer

The Royal Opera continues its celebration of the operas and oratorios Handel wrote for Covent Garden with a new production of his late masterpiece, *Theodora*, in which love transcends political tyranny. Theodora is persecuted for her religious beliefs, but her virtue inspires the devotion of one of her oppressors. Joyce DiDonato and rising stars Julia Bullock and Jakub Józef Orliński lead an international cast of baroque specialists with some of Handel's greatest choruses, matched in brilliance by arias and duets of profound dignity and humanity. Director Katie Mitchell views the story through the lens of contemporary religious terrorism, and gives a modern, feminist context to a work not heard at Covent Garden since 1750.

### Creative Team

Conductor HARRY BICKET

Director KATIE MITCHELL

Set designer CHLOE LAMFORD

Costume designer SUSSIE JUHLIN-WALLÉN

Lighting designer JAMES FARNCOMBE

Movement director SHELLEY MAXWELL

### Cast

Theodora JULIA BULLOCK

Irene JOYCE DIDONATO

Didymus JAKUB JÓZEF ORLIŃSKI  
Septimus ED LYON  
Valens GYULA ORENDT  
Messenger THANDO MJANDANA

ROYAL OPERA CHORUS  
ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

### **Bajazet**

**4–12 February 2022**

**The Royal Opera, co-production with Irish National Opera**

Linbury Theatre  
Music Antonio Vivaldi  
Sung in Italian with English surtitles

Generous philanthropic support from Culture Ireland

A recent revival of interest in Vivaldi's operas has introduced modern audiences to the adrenalin rush of his instrumentally virtuosic vocal writing. His opera *Bajazet*, first performed in Verona in 1735, is an extraordinary thriller set in a dark, tense, claustrophobic environment. Powerful men and strong women negotiate their relationships as desires of the heart clash with rank and duty. The drama is brought to life in the intimate setting of the Linbury Theatre by director Adele Thomas, experienced in this repertory. The Royal Opera and Irish National Opera, whose production of Vivaldi's *Griselda* made waves in 2019, join forces for this wonderful opportunity to discover Vivaldi – and Baroque opera – anew.

### Creative Team

Conductor PETER WHELAN  
Director ADELE THOMAS  
Set and costume designer MOLLY O'CATHAIN  
Lighting designer SINÉAD WALLACE

### Cast

Bajazet GIANLUCA MARGHERI  
Tamerlano JAMES LAING  
Asteria NIAMH O'SULLIVAN  
Andronicus ERIC JURENAS  
Irene RACHEL KELLY

Idaspe AOIFE MISKELLY

Irish Baroque Orchestra

**Draft Works**

**The Royal Ballet**

**15–16 February 2021**

Linbury Theatre

Generous philanthropic support from AUD JEBSEN

*Draft Works* gives audiences an opportunity to see new creative processes at work. Encouraging fresh thinking and giving insights into rising talent, two programmes bring together a sample of new choreographic ideas from Royal Ballet dancers and guest collaborators as well as from the newly appointed Royal Ballet Emerging Choreographer. The intimacy of the Clore Studio allows audiences to see movement at the choreographic cutting edge up close.

**The Nutcracker**

**23 November 2021–8 January 2022**

**The Royal Ballet**

Main Stage

Choreography PETER WRIGHT after LEV IVANOV

Music PYOTR IL'YICH TCHAIKOVSKY

Generous philanthropic support from SIR LLOYD and LADY DORFMAN, KENNETH and SUSAN GREEN, LINDSAY and SARAH TOMLINSON, MELINDA and DONALD QUINTIN and THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE ENDOWMENT FUND

Production supported by Van Cleef & Arpels.

*The Nutcracker* has long been one of the most delightful ways to discover the enchantment of ballet and makes for a sparkling festive treat for the whole family. Tchaikovsky's much-loved music is matched to a story of magic on Christmas Eve, and the journey of Clara and her Nutcracker to the Land of Sweets brings with it some of the most familiar of all ballet moments. Peter Wright's gorgeous production for The Royal Ballet keeps true to the spirit of this Russian ballet classic, and the many solo roles and ensembles show the world-class skills of the Company at its best.

Creative Team

Original scenario MARIUS PETIPA after E.T.A HOFFMANN'S *Nussknacker und Mausekönig*  
Production and scenario PETER WRIGHT  
Designer JULIA TREVELYAN OMAN  
Lighting designer MARK HENDERSON  
Production consultant ROLAND JOHN WILEY

Conductors BARRY WORDSWORTH/JONATHAN LO/KOEN KESSELS  
ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

**Swan Lake**  
**1–25 March 2022 / 4–28 May 2022**  
**The Royal Ballet**

Main Stage  
Choreography MARIUS PETIPA and LEV IVANOV  
Music PYOTR IL'YICH TCHAIKOVSKY

Generous philanthropic support from DOUG and CERI KING, SUSAN and JOHN BURNS, RICKI GAIL and ROBERT CONWAY, KENNETH and SUSAN GREEN and THE J P JACOBS CHARITABLE TRUST.  
Supported by Boodles

The Royal Ballet's sumptuous production of *Swan Lake* returns to the Royal Opera House stage after its 2020 revival was cut short by the pandemic's closure of theatres. The reimaging of Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov's towering masterpiece by Liam Scarlett is testament to the late choreographer's abiding love of classicism and innate musicality which shine through the production. With its sublime score by Tchaikovsky and glittering designs by John Macfarlane, an irresistible mix of spectacle, mystery and passion infuses this audience favourite, one of the best-loved works in the 19th-century classical ballet canon.

Creative Team

Production LIAM SCARLETT  
Additional choreography LIAM SCARLETT and FREDERICK ASHTON  
Designer JOHN MACFARLANE  
Lighting designer DAVID FINN

Conductors KOEN KESSELS/PAVEL SOROKIN  
ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

**Dance Reflections by Van Cleef & Arpels Festival**  
**9–24 March 2022**

Linbury Theatre

Choreography ANNE TERESA DE KEERSMAEKER: ROSA/LYON OPERA BALLET/OLA MACIEJEWSKA  
Music STEVE REICH/GAVIN GORDON

*Dance Reflections by Van Cleef & Arpels Festival* is an exciting new partnership with the High Jewellery Maison, a devotee of dance ever since its foundation. A showcase of modern and contemporary choreographic repertory, featuring both established and new work, aims to support dance creation today. The initiative will be inaugurated in the form of a festival in London developed in partnership with other cultural institutions. Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker's *Fase: Four Movements to the Music of Steve Reich* and Ola Maciejewska's *Bombyx Mori* will be among the works presented.

**Peter Grimes**

**17–31 March 2022**

**The Royal Opera co-production with Teatro Real, Madrid, Teatro dell'Opera di Roma and L'Opéra National de Paris**

Main Stage

Music Benjamin Britten

Sung in English with English surtitles

Generous philanthropic support from Peter and Fiona Espenhahn, Gini and Richard Gabbertas and the Royal Opera House Endowment Fund

Following Deborah Warner's award-winning production of *Billy Budd* in 2019, The Royal Opera continues its Benjamin Britten series with her new production of *Peter Grimes*, which had its premiere in Madrid in April 2021. Warner's sympathetic approach to Britten's sombre parable foregrounds the complexity of Peter Grimes himself and the tragic conflict between the group and the individual. Mark Elder conducts a cast that includes British singers Allan Clayton, Bryn Terfel and John Tomlinson, alongside Maria Bengtsson and former Jette Parker Young Artist Jacques Imbrailo.

Creative team

Conductor MARK ELDER

Director DEBORAH WARNER

Set designer MICHAEL LEVINE

Costume designer LUIS F. CARVALHO

Lighting designer PETER MUMFORD

Movement director KIM BRANDSTRUP

Cast

Peter Grimes ALLAN CLAYTON  
Ellen Orford MARIA BENGTSSON  
Captain Balstrode BRYN TERFEL  
Swallow JOHN TOMLINSON  
Ned Keene JACQUES IMBRAILO  
Auntie CATHERINE WYN-ROGERS  
Mrs Sedley ROSIE ALDRIDGE  
Bob Boles JOHN GRAHAM-HALL  
First Niece JENNIFER FRANCE  
Second Niece ALEXANDRA LOWE  
Rev. Horace Adams JAMES GILCHRIST  
Hobson STEPHEN RICHARDSON

ROYAL OPERA CHORUS  
ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

**New Kyle Abraham / Solo Echo / DGV: Danse à grande vitesse**

28 March–7 April 2022

The Royal Ballet

Main Stage

Generous philanthropic support from SIR LLOYD and LADY DORFMAN and the FRIENDS OF COVENT GARDEN DGV: *DANSE À GRANDE VITESSE* Artistic Associate CHRISTOPHER WHEELDON generously supported by KENNETH and SUSAN GREEN

Three of the world's most exciting contemporary choreographers come together in an extraordinary showcase of modern ballet that includes the world premiere of a new work by Kyle Abraham, an innovative new voice in ballet. Love, loss and acceptance are at the heart of Crystal Pite's moving and melancholic *Solo Echo*, inspired by Mark Strand's poem 'Lines for Winter', and set to Brahms's sonatas for cello and piano. Royal Ballet Artistic Associate Christopher Wheeldon's energetic *DGV: Danse à grande vitesse*, created for The Royal Ballet in 2006, is a mesmerising blend of movement and metaphor set to a compelling score by Michael Nyman., created for The Royal Ballet in 2006, is a mesmerising blend of movement and metaphor set to a compelling score by Michael Nyman.



## Creative Team

World premiere  
NEW KYLE ABRAHAM  
Choreography KYLE ABRAHAM

SOLO ECHO  
Choreography CRYSTAL PITE  
Music JOHANNES BRAHMS  
Scenic design JAY GOWER TAYLOR  
Costume design CRYSTAL PITE / JOKE VISSER  
Lighting design TOM VISSER

DGV: DANSE À GRANDE VITESSE  
Choreography CHRISTOPHER WHEELDON  
Music MICHAEL NYMAN  
Designer JEAN-MARC PUISSANT  
Lighting JENNIFER TIPTON

Conductor KOEN KESSELS  
ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

### **The Dark Crystal: Odyssey**

**1–23 April 2022**

Linbury Theatre

Director/ Choreographer Wayne McGregor  
Music Joel Cadbury

World premiere. A co-production between THE ROYAL BALLET and STUDIO WAYNE MCGREGOR in association with THE JIM HENSON COMPANY

*The Dark Crystal: Odyssey.* A thousand years ago this land was green and good. Until the crystal cracked... Based on Jim Henson's iconic 1982 movie and featuring the startling performers of Company Wayne McGregor, this is a magical coming-of-age story – the journey of a reluctant hero who must bring healing to his world. A team of world-class collaborators, led by director and choreographer Wayne McGregor includes artists Brian and Wendy Froud, composer Joel Cadbury, digital designers kontrastmoment, lighting designer Lucy Carter, dramaturg Uzma Hameed, costume designer Philip Delamore, face- and body-artist Alex Box, and a puppet narrator from The Jim Henson Company. Together they create a breath-taking, timeless myth of courage and self-sacrifice for all generations.

### Creative Team

Creative consultants BRIAN and WENDY FROUD  
Music JOEL CADBURY  
Lighting LUCY CARTER  
Dramaturg UZMA HAMEED  
Animation KONTRASTMOMENT  
Costume PHILIP DELAMORE  
Face and body design ALEX BOX  
Puppet JIM HENSON'S CREATURE SHOP

### **Lohengrin**

**19 April–14 May 2022**

**The Royal Opera, co-production with Opera Vlaanderen**

Main Stage

Music Richard Wagner

Sung in German with English surtitles

Generous philanthropic support from Aud Jebsen and Bertrand and Elisabeth Meunier

David Alden's acclaimed staging of Wagner's early masterpiece, first seen in 2018, places the opera in the timeless setting of a bombed-out city – a dystopian world threatened from outside, where the people are looking for both a sense of direction and a new leader. American heldentenor Brandon Jovanovich leads the cast as the mysterious 'swan knight' Lohengrin, sent to defend the accused Elsa von Brabant, under the condition that she must never ask his true identity. Former Jette Parker Young Artists Jennifer Davis and Kostas Smoriginas return to Covent Garden as Elsa and the wicked Friedrich von Telramund, while Anna Smirnova and Maida Hundeling share the role of Telramund's evil wife Ortrud. Jakub Hrůša conducts.

### Creative Team

Conductor JAKUB HRŮŠA  
Director DAVID ALDEN  
Set designer PAUL STEINBERG  
Costume designer GIDEON DAVEY  
Lighting designer ADAM SILVERMAN  
Video designer TAL ROSNER  
Movement director MAXINE BRAHAM

## Cast

Lohengrin BRANDON JOVANOVICH  
Elsa von Brabant JENNIFER DAVIS  
Ortrud ANNA SMIRNOVA/MAIDA HUNDELING  
Friedrich von Telramund KOSTAS SMORIGINAS  
King Heinrich GÁBOR BRETZ  
Herald DEREK WELTON

ROYAL OPERA CHORUS  
ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

## **Scènes de ballet / A Month in the Country / Rhapsody 22 April–2 May 2022 The Royal Ballet**

### **Main Stage**

Choreography FREDERICK ASHTON  
Music IGOR STRAVINSKY/FRYDERYK CHOPIN arranged JOHN LANCHBERY/SERGEY RACHMANINOFF

Generous philanthropic support from AUD JEBSEN and THE PATRONS OF COVENT GARDEN SCÈNES DE BALLET – Generous philanthropic support from LINDSAY and SARAH TOMLINSON

Frederick Ashton, The Royal Ballet's founder choreographer, created a remarkable range of ballets. In this mixed programme, the detailed characters and heightened emotional drama of *A Month in the Country* are contrasted with the dazzling and chic *Scènes de ballet*. The programme finishes with the celebratory flourish of *Rhapsody* – Ashton's tribute to virtuoso dance. This showcase of Ashton's different styles presents the Company's legacy, as today's dancers take on celebrated heritage roles.

## Creative Team

### *SCÈNES DE BALLET*

Designer ANDRÉ BEAUREPAIRE  
Lighting designer JOHN B. READ

### *A MONTH IN THE COUNTRY*

Designer JULIA TREVELYAN OMAN  
Original lighting designer WILLIAM BUNDY  
Lighting designer JOHN CHARLTON

## *RHAPSODY*

Set designer FREDERICK ASHTON

Costume designs WILLIAM CHAPPELL re-created by NATALIA STEWART

Lighting designer PETER TEIGEN

Conductor EMMANUEL PLASSON

ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

### **Insight ASHTON REDISCOVERED**

**Date TBC**

Linbury Theatre

The 10th anniversary of the Frederick Ashton Foundation is marked with an unmissable Insight into the genius of Ashton. Find out more about the master choreographer's work and legacy in an evening of live performance and specially commissioned film.

### **Don Pasquale**

**3–20 May 2022**

**The Royal Opera co-production with Opéra National de Paris and Teatro Massimo, Palermo**

Main Stage

Music Gaetano Donizetti

Sung in Italian with English surtitles

Donizetti's comedic tale of trickery and deception has delighted and surprised audiences for centuries. The witty story of a middle-aged man whose supposed young wife runs rings around him, with her own ulterior romantic purpose in mind, in combination with Donizetti's sparkling score remains as fun and full of life as ever. Returning after a successful run in 2019, Damiano Michieletto's exhilarating production shows how contemporary the characters still are and how immediate and touching the story remains.

#### Creative Team

Conductor GIACOMO SAGRIPANTI

Director DAMIANO MICHIELETTO

Set designer PAOLO FANTIN

Costume designer AGOSTINO CAVALCA

Lighting designer ALESSANDRO CARLETTI

Video designer ROCAFILM

## Cast

Don Pasquale ILDEBRANDO D'ARCANGELO  
Norina PRETTY YENDE/ZUZANA MARKOVÁ  
Ernesto XABIER ANDUAGA  
Malatesta ANDRZEJ FILOŃCZYK

ROYAL OPERA CHORUS  
ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

## **Samson et Dalila**

**26 May–19 June 2022**

### **The Royal Opera**

Main Stage

Music Camille Saint-Saëns

Sung in French with English surtitles

Position of Music Director Maestro Antonio Pappano generously supported by Mrs Susan A. Olde OBE. Generous philanthropic support from Gini and Richard Gabbertas, Alan and Caroline Howard, Aud Jebesen, Trifon and Despina Natsis and Simon and Virginia Robertson.

Pious restraint comes face to face with sensuous hedonism in Camille Saint-Saëns's grand-opera retelling of the Bible story of Samson and Delilah. Multi-Olivier Award winning director Richard Jones returns to The Royal Opera to stage this spectacular fin-de-siècle masterpiece, not performed at Covent Garden in over 40 years. Elīna Garanča stars as the Philistine Dalila, Nicky Spence as the inspiring Jewish hero Samson and Antonio Pappano conducts the full forces of the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House. With superb singing in solos and duets of great intimacy and fervour, gorgeous music with thrilling orchestral interludes, and splendid choral numbers for the Royal Opera Chorus – this will be an opera evening to remember.

## Creative Team

Conductor ANTONIO PAPPANO

Director RICHARD JONES

Set designer HYEMI SHIN

Costume designer NICKY GILLIBRAND

Lighting designer ANDREAS FUCHS

Movement director LUCY BURGE

## Cast

Samson NICKY SPENCE  
Dalila ELĪNA GARANČA  
High Priest of Dagon LUKASZ GOLINSKI  
First Philistine ALAN PINGARRÓN  
Second Philistine CHUMA SIJEQA  
Philistine Messenger THANDO MJANDANA

ROYAL OPERA CHORUS  
ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

### **The Royal Ballet presents Next Generation Festival 1–21 June 2022**

The Next Generation Festival celebrates a wealth of emerging artists from junior companies and premier dance schools drawn from the UK, across Europe and around the world. Across the festival, there will be performances by many companies to create a great occasion for both performers and audiences. Enjoy dance of today and see something of the art form's fantastic potential and vibrant future.

Guest companies to be announced.

### **Like Water for Chocolate 1–17 June 2022 The Royal Ballet**

Main Stage

Choreography CHRISTOPHER WHEELDON  
Music JOBY TALBOT

World premiere  
THE ROYAL BALLET  
A co-production between THE ROYAL BALLET and AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE

Artistic Associate CHRISTOPHER WHEELDON generously supported by KENNETH and SUSAN GREEN  
Generous philanthropic support from RICHARD and DELIA BAKER, SUSAN and JOHN BURNS, SUE BUTCHER, SIR LLOYD and LADY DORFMAN, CHARLES HOLLOWAY, LINDSAY and SARAH TOMLINSON and THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE ENDOWMENT FUND

A modern Mexican classic of magic realism provides the basis for The Royal Ballet's new full-length work, reuniting Artistic Associate Christopher Wheeldon with the creative team who transformed *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *The Winter's Tale* into dance, composer Joby Talbot and designer Bob Crowley. Journey into Laura Esquivel's captivating family saga where the central character's emotions spill out through cooking to influence everyone around her in startling and dramatic ways. In this co-production with American Ballet Theatre, Mexican conductor Alondra de la Parra acts as musical consultant for Talbot's newly commissioned score, with Wheeldon working closely with Esquivel to reshape her richly layered story as an entertaining and engrossing new ballet.

#### Creative Team

Designer BOB CROWLEY  
Lighting designer NATASHA KATZ  
Video designer LUKE HALLS  
Music consultant ALONDRA DE LA PARRA  
Inspired by the book by LAURA ESQUIVEL

Conductor ALONDRA DE LA PARRA  
ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

#### **Madama Butterfly**

**14 June–6 July 2022**

**The Royal Opera, co-production with Gran Teatre del Liceu, Barcelona**

Main Stage  
Music Giacomo Puccini  
Sung in Italian with English surtitles

The clash of Eastern and Western cultures proves the downfall of a young geisha in one of the most popular of all Italian operas. Lianna Haroutounian takes the title role in four performances of this revival of Moshe Leiser and Patrice Caurier's elegant production for The Royal Opera, inspired by 19th-century European images of Japan. From the radiant happiness of Cio-Cio-San's 'Ancora un passo', to the devastating pathos of 'Un bel dì vedremo' as she longs for the 'fine day' when her husband will return, Puccini's music evokes the shifting perspectives within the Japanese setting: sensual and seductive at the outset, yet brutal and heartbreaking by the end. Further casting for the title role to be announced.

#### Creative team

Conductor DAN ETTINGER  
Directors MOSHE LEISER/PATRICE CAURIER

Set designer CHRISTIAN FENOULLAT  
Costume designer AGOSTINO CAVALCA  
Lighting designer CHRISTOPHE FOREY

### Cast

Cio-Cio-San LIANNA HAROUTOUNIAN  
Lieutenant B.F. Pinkerton FREDDIE DE TOMMASO/GIANLUCA TERRANOVA  
Sharpless LUCAS MEACHEM/GYULA NAGY  
Suzuki KSENIIA NIKOLAIEVA  
Goro ALEXANDER KRAVETS  
The Bonze JEREMY WHITE  
Kate Pinkerton RACHAEL LLOYD  
Prince Yamadori ALAN PINGARRÓN

ROYAL OPERA CHORUS  
ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

### **Violet**

**23 June 2022**

**The Royal Opera in association with Hackney Empire a co-commission and co-production by music Theatre Wales, Britten Pears Arts and The Royal Opera**

Hackney Empire  
Music Tom Coult  
Sung in English with English surtitles

In a muddied nightdress, in a country kitchen, Violet finally smiles. For years, her tired daily routine has been dictated by the inescapable chime of the Clock Tower, until one night she feels time quicken. Suddenly an hour is lost – every day. As the hours disappear, long-held certainties evaporate and ordered society falls into disarray. With the townspeople in crisis, can Violet finally escape? Presented at Hackney Empire and combining the acclaimed talents of playwright Alice Birch, known for her powerful female-centered writing, and rising star composer Tom Coult, this is opera for now and about now.

### Creative team

Libretto ALICE BIRCH  
Conductor ANDREW GOURLAY  
Director JUDE CHRISTIAN



Designer ROSIE ELNILE  
Costume designer CÉCILE TRÉMOLIÈRES  
Lighting designer JOSHUA PHARO

### Cast

Violet ELIZABETH ATHERTON  
Laura FRANCES GREGORY  
Felix ELLIOTT CARLTON HINES

LONDON SINFONIETTA

**Così fan tutte**  
**25 June–9 July 2022**  
**The Royal Opera**

Main stage  
Music Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
Sung in Italian with English surtitles

Generous philanthropic support from the Patrons of Covent Garden

Following a bet, two young men disguise themselves and attempt to seduce each other's girlfriends with unexpected and comical results. The lovers learn, in director Jan Philipp Gloger's words, that 'love is not a God-given thing, but something that we have to fight for, find, define, create and dream newly, almost every day'. Mozart's beautiful score contains some of the composer's most attractive arias and is packed with humour. In the 19th century many viewed its plot as immoral or even cruel. However, since the second half of the 20th century its wonderful music and Mozart and librettist Da Ponte's witty, compassionate examination of young love have ensured its lasting popularity.

### Creative team

Conductor JULIA JONES  
Director JAN PHILIPP GLOGER  
Set designer BEN BAUR  
Costume designer KARIN JUD  
Lighting designer BERND PURKRABEK  
Dramaturg KATHARINA JOHN

## Cast

Fiordiligi JENNIFER DAVIS  
Dorabella JULIE BOULIANNE  
Ferrando BOGDAN VOLKOV  
Guglielmo GORDON BINTNER  
Despina SERENA GAMBERONI  
Don Alfonso LUCIO GALLO

ROYAL OPERA CHORUS  
ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

### **Cavalleria rusticana / Pagliacci**

**5–20 July 2022**

**The Royal Opera, co-production with Göteborgs Operan. Opera Australia, Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie**

Main Stage

Music Pietro Mascagni/Ruggero Leoncavallo  
Sung in Italian with English surtitles

Position of Music Director Maestro Antonio Pappano generously supported by Mrs Susan A. Olde OBE. Generous philanthropic support from Spindrift al Swaidi, Martin and Jane Houston, Aud Jebesen and the Royal Opera House Endowment Fund. Supported by Rolex.

Damiano Michieletto's Olivier Award-winning double production draws these opera classics together in a thrillingly observed re-creation of life in a southern Italian village. Emotions erupt as a travelling theatre visits, leading to shocking events brought about by secret love and uncontrollable jealousy. Antonio Pappano conducts a star cast led by Jonas Kaufmann, in the dual roles of Turridu and Canio, alongside Royal Opera favourites Ermonela Jaho (Nedda), Anita Rachvelishvili (Santuzza) and Dimitri Plataniias (Alfio/ Tonio). With intense drama and passionate, instantly recognisable melodies, 'Cav and Pag' distils into one wonderful evening out the enduring appeal of Italian opera in its most familiar form.

## Creative Team

Conductor ANTONIO PAPPANO  
Director DAMIANO MICHIELETTO  
Set designer PAOLO FANTIN  
Costume designer CARLA TETI

Lighting designer ALESSANDRO CARLETTI

Cast

CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA

Turiddu JONAS KAUFMANN

Santuzza ANITA RACHVELISHVILI

Alfio DIMITRI PLATANIAS

Lola AIGUL AKHMETSHINA

Mamma Lucia ELENA ZILIO

PAGLIACCI

Canio JONAS KAUFMANN

Tonio DIMITRI PLATANIAS

Nedda ERMONELA JAHO

Silvio MATTIA OLIVIERI

Beppe EGOR ZHURAVSKII

ROYAL OPERA CHORUS

ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

**The Blue Woman**

**6–11 July 2022**

**The Royal Opera co-production with Britten Pears Arts**

Linbury Theatre

Music Laura Bowler

Sung in English with English surtitles

*The Blue Woman* explores the psychological aftermath of sexual violence on women. It excavates the interior landscape of one woman, who has experienced a post-traumatic shattering of self as a consequence of being raped. It follows her as she searches a nameless city looking for what was taken. Wrapped around the central spine of the story are fragments of text, from other women of different ages, who have all been victims of sexual violence. Formally experimental, the structure of the opera mirrors the journey of fracture and reform that the Woman goes on. *The Blue Woman* provokes a conversation between how operas deal with violence against women and our modern day understanding of this reality.

### Creative Team

Libretto LAURA LOMAS  
Director KATIE MITCHELL

### Cast

ELAINE MITCHENER  
GWENETH ANN RAND  
LUCY SCHAUFER  
ROSIE MIDDLETON

### **Otello**

**12–24 July 2022**

**The Royal Opera**

Main Stage  
Music Giuseppe Verdi  
Sung in Italian with English surtitles

Generous philanthropic support from the Friends of Covent Garden

Verdi's Shakespeare-inspired penultimate opera marks the culmination of the composer's genius, and is one of the most powerful works in the repertory. The perfect marriage of music and drama, with scenes ranging from the grand and ceremonial to those of exquisite intimacy, *Otello* charts the fall of an all-powerful leader from the radiance of power to the darkness of deluded jealousy. American tenor Russell Thomas takes on the title role for which he is becoming increasingly renowned, alongside Armenian soprano Hrachuhí Bassénz as Desdemona and British baritone Christopher Maltman as Otello's nemesis Iago. Daniele Rustioni conducts this revival of Keith Warner's brooding and insightful production.

### Creative Team

Conductor DANIELE RUSTIONI  
Director KEITH WARNER  
Set designer BORIS KUDLIČKA  
Costume designer KASPAR GLARNER  
Lighting designer BRUNO POET  
Movement director MICHAEL BARRY  
Fight director RAN ARTHUR BRAUN

## Cast

Otello RUSSELL THOMAS  
Desdemona HRACHUHÍ BASSÉNZ  
Iago CHRISTOPHER MALTMAN  
Cassio PIOTR BUSZEWSKI  
Roderigo ANDRÉS PRESNO  
Emilia KSENIIA NIKOLAIEVA  
Montano BLAISE MALABA  
Lodovico ALEXANDER KÖPECZI

ROYAL OPERA CHORUS  
ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

## **The Royal Ballet School Summer Performance 16 July**

Main Stage

The Royal Ballet School's annual matinee is an opportunity to catch a glimpse of the ballet stars of the future as these supremely talented young dancers demonstrate the skills and artistry they have learned at one of the world's greatest ballet schools. The programme draws on choreography from across the repertory, with extracts from classical heritage and more contemporary works danced by students from all years in the School.

ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

## **Attila in Concert 19–22 July 2022 The Royal Opera**

Main Stage  
Music Giuseppe Verdi  
Sung in Italian with English surtitles

Italian conductor Speranza Scappucci makes her Royal Opera debut conducting these special concert performances of Verdi's second opera for La Fenice in Venice, which tells the founding story of the city itself after the destruction of Aquileia by Attila, King of the Huns. This is a rare opportunity to experience one of Verdi's most stirring operas with a fantastic cast that includes Ildar Abdrazakov as

the conquering Attila, Sondra Radvanovsky as Odabella, daughter of the Lord of the fateful Aquileia, Joseph Calleja as her lover Foresto and Simon Keenlyside as the heroic Roman General Ezio.

Conductor SPERANZA SCAPPUCCI  
Attila ILDAR ABDRAZAKOV  
Odabella SONDRA RADVANSKY  
Ezio SIMON KEENLYSIDE  
Foresto JOSEPH CALLEJA  
Uldino EGOR ZHURAVSKII

ROYAL OPERA CHORUS  
ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

**Ends**

#### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

[www.roh.org.uk](http://www.roh.org.uk)

**Please find a selection of images in the following links -**

**Ballet images [HERE](#)**

**Opera Images: [HERE](#)**

**For all ballet enquiries, please contact: Ashley Woodfield – [Ashley.Woodfield@roh.org.uk](mailto:Ashley.Woodfield@roh.org.uk)**

**For all opera enquiries, please contact: Chloe Westwood – [chloe.westwood@roh.org.uk](mailto:chloe.westwood@roh.org.uk)**

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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. Guest choreographers Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Cathy Marston, Crystal Pite, Hofesh Shechter, Pam Tanowitz and Twyla Tharp have also created works for the Company.

### **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)