



GARSINGTON OPERA
AT WORMSLEY

***Over 400 students from schools in Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire
and Berkshire to be involved in Garsington Opera projects***

Students from eight secondary schools in Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire will be visiting Garsington Opera at Wormsley to see a live performance of **Eugene Onegin** on Monday 4 July. Prior to that, Garsington Opera's Learning & Participation team, led by Hazel Gould (Director) and Jessie Maryon Davies (Music Director), will be delivering intensive one-day workshops in the schools. Using the musical and dramatic themes in Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*, pupils aged 11-18 will create an opera in a day. Students from diverse backgrounds will learn about the opera genre, compose their own words and music, and present a 15-minute performance at the end of the day to invited peers and parents. For many it is their first experience of opera.

Each workshop is supported by a professional opera singer who leads the singing and performs extracts from *Eugene Onegin* in the original Russian, before taking a question and answer session. Singers involved include Benjamin Lewis, Daniel Rudge, Robert Gildon (baritones) and Lawrence Thackeray (tenor), all of whom have sung in Garsington Opera productions.

The OperaFirst performance of *Eugene Onegin* will be performed by the understudy cast together with the Garsington Opera Orchestra. The invited audience will also include Garsington Youth Opera performers, Garsington Opera's Adult Community Company, patients from Stoke Mandeville Hospital's Spinal Injuries Unit (recent hospitals' project) plus partners around the UK from the *Opera For All* programme.

Schools involved:

- Cressex Community School **Bucks**
- Chiltern Music Academy **Bucks**
- Langley Grammar School **Berks**
- The Cooper School **Oxon**
- The Misbourne Secondary **Bucks**
- Upton Grammar School **Berks**
- Westgate School **Berks**
- Ditton Park Academy **Berks**

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PRESS RELEASE

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THE CREATION PROJECT FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Garsington Opera's Learning & Participation team of Karen Gillingham (Director), Suzi Zumpe (Music Director), Peter Willcock (baritone) and Jonathan Williams (repetiteur) is delivering intensive workshop days in seven primary schools in Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire this summer. Using both the original *Creation* by Haydn, and a modern composition by Richard Taylor, pupils aged 5-11 are devising and performing a large scale musical and dramatic piece that explores different creation stories.

Following the initial workshops, pupils from different schools will be brought together for two cluster days in Millbrook and Lane End schools to meet each other and consolidate their learning, before all seven schools come together for a final performance day at Cressex Community School on Wednesday 6 July.

The young students will then see a full-scale rehearsal with the whole performing company of Garsington Opera's production of Haydn's *Creation* at Wormsley on 13 July, with singers, orchestra and dancers from the Rambert Dance Company. This will be many participants' first visit to see a live professional performance.

Schools involved:

- Millbrook Combined Primary School **Oxon**
- Lane End Primary School **Bucks**
- Heritage House special school **Bucks**
- Stokenchurch Primary School **Bucks**
- Frieth Primary School **Oxon**
- Ibstone Primary School **Bucks**
- Chalgrove Primary School **Oxon**

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