



GARSINGTON OPERA
AT WORMSLEY

600 SCHOOL CHILDREN SEE OPERA PREMIERE

Young people from ten Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire primary and secondary schools will visit Garsington Opera on the Wormsley Estate to see a full production of Offenbach's *Fantasio* on 10 July as part of this year's *OperaFirst* project. The production will be performed by the Alvarez Young Artists, understudies of the principal cast, with the Garsington Opera Orchestra conducted by Assistant Conductor, Harry Sever.

OperaFirst, Garsington Opera's annual schools' project has seen a team of professional musicians led by director Karen Gillingham, working with local young people to discover Offenbach's *Fantasio*, which will culminate in the visit to the opera.

Schools involved are primary schools Chalgrove, Stokenchurch, Longwick, Watlington, Frieth, Ibstone and Millbrook and secondary schools Alfriston, Cressex, Mandeville, Misbourne, St Michael's and Waddesdon.

The *OperaFirst* performance is generously supported by The Vernon Ellis Foundation, Fedora and co-funded by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union.



PRESS RELEASE

Garsington Opera's Learning & Participation Programme aims to enrich people's lives through opera sharing the passion and love of opera with a wider audience. A bold and ambitious participatory programme helps to engage with a diverse community, providing access to Garsington's high quality opera and challenging perceived barriers to cultural engagement. Opera is used as a medium to improve emotional wellbeing and to champion the vital element of musical engagement. Recent performances include the world premiere of *Silver Birch* (2017), covered by BBC Arts, and a new production of *Eliza and the Swans* (2018) by the Youth Opera Company.

www.garsingtonopera.org

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PRESS ENQUIRES CLARE ADAMS clare@garsingtonopera.org or 07793 556103