



GARSINGTON OPERA

AT WORMSLEY

30th ANNIVERSARY SEASON: FOUR NEW PRODUCTIONS INCLUDING AN OFFENBACH PREMIERE

Garsington Opera's 30th anniversary season will feature four new productions – the UK stage premiere of Offenbach's *Fantasio*, Smetana's *The Bartered Bride*, Mozart's *Don Giovanni* and finally Britten's *The Turn of the Screw*. The season culminates with concert performances of Monteverdi's *Vespers of 1610*, celebrating the start of a partnership with The English Concert. The season runs from 29 May to 26 July.

Garsington Opera remains committed to engaging great singers from around the world as well as showcasing the best talent from the UK. They are joined by the **Garsington Opera Chorus and Orchestra**, and for the performances of *The Bartered Bride*, the **Philharmonia Orchestra**.

The UK stage premiere of Offenbach's little-known opera *Fantasio* celebrates his bicentenary year. A beguiling tale of love and mistaken identity, it will feature **Hanna Hipp**, who sang Clairon in *Capriccio* last season, in the role of the Jester, a melancholy, moon-struck dreamer yearning after Princess Elsbeth, performed by **Jennifer France**, winner of the Critics Circle Emerging Talent Award 2018, the Leonard Ingrams Foundation Award 2014 and praised for her appearance as Susanna in John Cox's legendary *Le nozze di Figaro*. They are joined by **Huw Montague Rendall** (Prince of Mantua), **Timothy Robinson** (Marinoni), **Graeme Broadbent** (King of Bavaria) and **Bianca Andrew** (Flamel). Three singers, formerly on the Alvarez Young Artists' Programme, **Benjamin Lewis** (Sparck), **Joseph Padfield** (Hartmann) and **Joel Williams** (Facio) complete the cast. This fantastical story is performed in a lively new English translation by **Jeremy Sams**. The creative team of director **Martin Duncan** and designer **Francis O'Connor** return after many admired productions at Garsington Opera, and are joined by lighting designer **Howard Hudson** and choreographer **Ewan Jones**. Making his Garsington Opera debut, **Justin Doyle**, Artistic Director of RIAS Kammerchor, Berlin, will conduct.

The Bartered Bride, a celebration of Czech culture and identity, will be reimaged into the heart of the English countryside, and will open the season. **Natalya Romaniw**, last seen at Garsington as

PRESS RELEASE

Tatyana in *Eugene Onegin*, sings the heroine *Mařenka* who uses all her charm and cunning to marry the man she loves – Jeník, sung by American tenor **Brenden Gunnell**. The cast includes **Joshua Bloom** (Kecal) last seen as Figaro (2017), **Stuart Jackson** (*Vašek*), **Peter Savidge** (Krušina), **Heather Shipp** (Ludmila), **Paul Whelan** (Mícha), **Anne-Marie Owens** (Háta), and **Jeffrey Lloyd-Roberts** (Circus Master). **Lara Marie Müller**, a former Alvarez Young Artist, sings Esmeralda. Dance is at the heart of this sparkling work from the vibrant overture to the riotous and festive polka; **Jac van Steen**, who returns after his success with *Pelléas et Mélisande* (2017), will conduct the **Philharmonia Orchestra**. The creative team of **Paul Curran** (director) and **Kevin Knight** (designer), whose production of *Death in Venice* (2015) was much acclaimed, returns with **Howard Hudson** (lighting designer) and **Darren Royston** (movement director).

Mozart's enduring masterpiece *Don Giovanni* will feature several role debuts including **Jonathan McGovern** in the title role, **David Ireland** (Leporello), formerly an Alvarez Young Artist, Australian soprano **Sky Ingram** (Donna Elvira) and Welsh tenor **Trystan Llŷr Griffiths** (Don Ottavio). The cast also includes two UK debuts – Brazilian soprano **Camila Titingner** (Donna Anna) and Canadian soprano **Mireille Asselin** (Zerlina). **Paul Whelan** (Commendatore) and former Alvarez Young Artist **Thomas Faulkner** (Masetto) complete the cast. Garsington Opera's Artistic Director **Douglas Boyd** conducts and former Artistic Director of the Royal Shakespeare Company **Michael Boyd** (director) returns to direct together with **Tom Piper** (designer), after their success with *Pelléas et Mélisande* (2017) and *Eugene Onegin* (2016) with **Malcolm Rippeth** (lighting designer).

The Turn of the Screw with a libretto by Myfanwy Piper, based on the novella by Henry James, is considered to be one of Britten's finest stage works. The gripping story of a young governess, performed by **Sophie Bevan**, sent to a remote country house to care for two children, also features the tenor **Ed Lyon** (Prologue/Quint), making his role debut. Also in the cast are **Kathleen Wilkinson** (Mrs Grose) and **Katherine Broderick** (Miss Jessel). Emerging American director **Louisa Muller** makes her UK debut together with two-time Olivier and Tony Award-winner **Christopher Oram** (designer) and **Malcolm Rippeth** (lighting designer). **Richard Farnes**, conductor of last year's admired *Falstaff*, will conduct.

Celebrating the start of a new partnership, the renowned Baroque and Classical chamber orchestra **The English Concert** makes its Garsington debut playing on period instruments in three concert performances of Monteverdi's *Vespers of 1610*. They will be joined by soloists **Mary Bevan**, **Sophie Bevan**, **Benjamin Hulett**, **Robert Murray** and **James Way**. **Laurence Cummings** returns to conduct with the **Garsington Opera Chorus**.

Marking the end of the 30th anniversary season, on the three concert days there will be an afternoon cricket match, tours of the Walled Garden and Green Theatre Recitals showcasing the Alvarez Young Artists, as well as the opportunity to visit the Getty Library.

OPERA FIRST AND FANTASIO

As part of an extensive Learning & Participation Programme, there will be a full performance of *Fantasio* by the Alvarez Young Artists for local school pupils and adults, all of whom take part in preparatory workshops to introduce them to opera and deepen their enjoyment of the performance.

GARSINGTON OPERA AT WORMSLEY

Opera patrons are invited to arrive from 3.30pm to enjoy the extensive gardens and Deer Park of the Wormsley Estate in the heart of the Chilterns, before performances begin in the early evening. Those arriving early can take a short trip in a vintage bus to the 18th century Walled Garden. On their return, they can enjoy traditional afternoon tea overlooking the cricket pitch, admire the spectacular views across the Deer Park and lake from the Champagne Bar, or stroll around the Opera Garden and grounds. In the long dinner interval patrons can dine in the elegant restaurant marquee overlooking the famous Wormsley Cricket Ground or they can have a picnic by the lake, in the garden or in one of the private picnic tents. Performances resume as the evening light begins to fade and end around 10.15pm. A minibus service connects with High Wycombe station, a half hour train journey from London. A short open-air recital by Alvarez Young Artists awaits Saturday patrons in the Green Theatre in the Walled Garden (weather permitting).

WIDENING ACCESS TO GARSINGTON OPERA

Garsington Opera is passionate about widening access to a young audience and has a much sought-after GO≤35 membership scheme which offers subsidised tickets, priority booking, free train transfers, pre-performance parties and half price programmes.

DIARY OF EVENTS AT WORMSLEY

The Bartered Bride	29, 31 May, 6, 8, 11, 15, 20, 23, 30 June	start time 6.05pm
Don Giovanni	30 May, 1, 7, 13, 24, 29 June, 3, 6, 12, 14, 18, 21 July	start time 5.45pm
Fantasio	14, 16, 22, 27 June, 5, 8, 11, 17, 20 July	start time 6.05pm
The Turn of the Screw	1, 4, 7, 13, 15, 19 July	start time 6.35pm
Vespers of 1610	24, 25, 26 July	start time 8.30pm

Tickets £60 - £225 including a suggested but non-obligatory donation of £70 (Vespers £30).

Public booking opens Tuesday 19 March 2019.

Book online: www.garsingtonopera.org or Telephone 01865 361636

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21 January 2018

CASTS

The Bartered Bride Bedřich Smetana

Sung in Czech

Conductor Jac van Steen
Director Paul Curran
Designer Kevin Knight
Lighting Designer Howard Hudson
Movement Director Darren Royston

Mařenka Natalya Romaniw
Jeník Brenden Gunnell
Kecal Joshua Bloom
Vašek Stuart Jackson
Krušina Peter Savidge
Ludmila Heather Shipp
Mícha Paul Whelan
Háta Anne-Marie Owens
Circus Master Jeffrey Lloyd-Roberts
Esmeralda Lara Marie Müller
 PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA & GARSINGTON
 OPERA CHORUS

Don Giovanni Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Sung in Italian

Conductor Douglas Boyd
Director Michael Boyd
Designer Tom Piper
Lighting Designer Malcolm Rippeth

Don Giovanni Jonathan McGovern
Leporello David Ireland
Donna Anna Camila Titinger
Donna Elvira Sky Ingram
Don Ottavio Trystan Llŷr Griffiths
Commendatore Paul Whelan
Zerlina Mireille Asselin
Masetto Thomas Faulkner
 GARSINGTON OPERA ORCHESTRA & CHORUS

Fantasio Jacques Offenbach

Sung in English in a new translation by Jeremy

Sams
Conductor Justin Doyle
Director Martin Duncan
Designer Francis O'Connor
Lighting Designer Howard Hudson
Choreographer Ewan Jones

Fantasio Hanna Hipp
Princess Elsbeth Jennifer France
Prince of Mantua Huw Montague Rendall
Marinoni Timothy Robinson
King of Bavaria Graeme Broadbent
Flamel Bianca Andrew
Sparck Benjamin Lewis
Hartmann Joseph Padfield
Facio Joel Williams
 GARSINGTON OPERA ORCHESTRA & CHORUS

The Turn of the Screw Benjamin Britten

Sung in English

Conductor Richard Farnes
Director Louisa Muller
Designer Christopher Oram
Lighting Designer Malcolm Rippeth

Prologue/Quint Ed Lyon
Governess Sophie Bevan
Mrs Grose Kathleen Wilkinson
Miss Jessel Katherine Broderick
 GARSINGTON OPERA ORCHESTRA

Concert performance**Vespers of 1610** Claudio Monteverdi

Conductor Laurence Cummings
Concert staging P J Harris
Lighting designer Rob Casey

Sopranos Mary Bevan, Sophie Bevan
Tenors Benjamin Hulett, Robert Murray, James Way

THE ENGLISH CONCERT, THE ENGLISH
 CORNETT AND SACKBUT ENSEMBLE &
 GARSINGTON OPERA CHORUS

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