



GARSINGTON OPERA
AT WORMSLEY

Garsington Opera's 2020 Festival contains a rarity, a fairy tale, a teenager's score requiring great virtuosic dexterity and a celebration of Beethoven's birth. Now performing in its 31st year, the season runs from 28 May – 18 July 2020.

There will be three new productions: Verdi's rarely performed comedy *Un giorno di regno*, Dvořák's fairy-tale opera *Rusalka*, Mozart's early masterpiece, *Mitridate, re di Ponto*, which premiered a week after Beethoven's baptism, and in celebration of Beethoven's 250th anniversary will be a revival of John Cox's much-loved production of *Fidelio*.

***Un giorno di regno* – new production**

Verdi's first comedy *Un giorno di regno* (*A One-Day Reign*, known as *King for a Day*), was premiered at La Scala in 1840. It is a fast-paced *melodramma giocoso* featuring dazzling arias and energetic ensembles, in which the comic promise which was to blossom in *Falstaff* is supremely evident. **Richard Burkhard** (*Die Zauberflöte* and *Falstaff*, 2018) sings the role of Cavaliere di Belfiore, impersonating King Stanislaus in his absence. We welcome back bass-baritone **Henry Waddington** (*Falstaff*, 2018) as the usurper Barone di Kelbar. Australian soprano **Siobhan Stagg** makes her Garsington debut as Giulietta, Kelbar's daughter. **Christine Rice** (*Semele*, 2017) is Belfiore's lover the Marchesa. Director **Christopher Alden** makes his Garsington debut, alongside set and lighting designer **Charles Edwards**. The choreographer is **Tim Claydon** (*Idomeneo*, 2016 and *Falstaff* 2018) and the costumes are by **Sue Willmington** (*La fedeltà premiata*, 1995). **Tobias Ringborg** (*Idomeneo*, 2016) returns to conduct the Philharmonia Orchestra and Garsington Opera Chorus.

Performances: 28, 30 May, 6, 10, 19, 28 June, 12, 15 July 2020

Start time: 6.30pm

Insight talk: Tuesday 31 March, 6.30pm, Oxford

***Mitridate, re di Ponto* – new production**

Mozart was nearly 15 at the premiere of *Mitridate, re di Ponto* on 26 December 1770 at the Milan carnival. His talent transcended his youth, as ever, and the work was an unprecedented success. It was later eclipsed by his mature operas, but since its rediscovery in the 20th century, *Mitridate* has been reclaimed by new generations of singers capable of meeting the score's virtuosic demands. Garsington's cast is led by **Robert Murray** (*Semele*, 2017, *Vespers*, 2019) as the king. We welcome acclaimed Mozartian **Elizabeth Watts** making her Garsington debut as his fiancée Aspasia and countertenor **Tim Mead** (*L'Olimpiade*, 2012) as Farnace, one of Mitridate's sons. Soprano **Mary Bevan** (*L'italiana in Algeri*, 2016 & *Vespers*, 2019) is his brother Sifare

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and soprano **Jennifer France** (*Le nozze di Figaro*, 2017 and *Fantasio*, 2019) is Ismene, Farnace's scorned fiancée. **Tim Albery** (*Idomeneo*, 2016 and *Capriccio*, 2018) directs, the designer is **Hannah Clark** (*Idomeneo*, 2016) and the lighting designer is **Malcolm Rippeth**, who was recently nominated for a Knights of Illumination award for his work on Garsington's *The Turn of the Screw*. **Clemens Schuldt**, winner of the Donatella Flick conducting competition in 2010 and Principal Conductor of the Münchener Kammerorchester, makes his Garsington debut, conducting The English Concert.

Performances: 29, 31 May, 5, 11, 13, 20, 29 June, 2 July 2020

Start time: 6.20pm

Insight Talk: Tuesday 21 April, 6.30pm, Oxford

Rusalka – new production

Dvořák's fairy-tale extravaganza is his best-loved opera. The wonderful music is an intoxicating combination of folk tunes, courtly dances and soaringly romantic melodies. Performing the title role of the water-nymph is **Natalya Romaniw** (*Eugene Onegin*, 2016 and *The Bartered Bride*, 2019), recently acclaimed as one of classical music's most exciting rising stars (Hugh Canning, Sunday Times). We welcome some new performers to the Garsington stage: Austrian-Australian tenor **Gerard Schneider** makes his debut as the Prince and bass-baritone **Robert Hayward** as Vodník the water-goblin. Irish mezzo-soprano **Patricia Bardon** (*Le pescatrici*, 1997, *La pietra del paragone*, 1998) is Ježibaba, **Sky Ingram** (*Don Giovanni*, 2019) is the Foreign Princess, the Gamekeeper is **Colin Judson** (*Falstaff*, 2018) and the Kitchen Boy **Grace Durham**. **Michael Boyd** (*Eugene Onegin*, 2016, *Pelléas et Mélisande*, 2017 and *Don Giovanni*, 2019) directs a new production, designed by **Tom Piper** with lighting design by **Malcolm Rippeth**. Garsington's Artistic Director **Douglas Boyd** conducts the Philharmonia Orchestra and Garsington Opera Chorus.

Performances: 14, 18, 26 June, 1, 4, 8, 10, 16, 18 July 2020

Start time: 5.40pm. This production contains two intervals.

Insight talk: Tuesday 5 May, 6.30pm, London

Fidelio – revival

We celebrate the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth with a revival of **John Cox**'s legendary production of *Fidelio* from 2009. The 'simplicity and eloquence' of this production have made it a favourite with our audience. British tenor **Toby Spence** (*Idomeneo*, 2016) is Florestan. South African-Dutch soprano **Johanni van Oostrum** as Leonore and Russian soprano **Galina Averina** as Marzelline make their Garsington debuts. **David Soar** (*Semele*, 2017) is the evil governor of the prison, Don Pizarro, **Joshua Bloom** (*Le nozze di Figaro*, 2017 and *The Bartered Bride*, 2019) is the gaoler Rocco, tenor **Trystan Llŷr Griffiths** (*Don Giovanni*, 2019) is Jaquino and **William Thomas** Don Fernando. Conductor **Gérard Korsten** makes his house debut with the Philharmonia Orchestra and Garsington Opera Chorus. **John Cox** revives his own production with Associate Director **Bruno Ravella** (*Falstaff*, 2018), designer **Gary McCann** and lighting designer **Malcolm Rippeth**.

Performances: 25, 27, 30 June, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 14, 17 July 2020

Start time: 6.20pm

Insight talk: Wednesday 29 April, 7pm, London

Garsington Opera at Wormsley

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 the performance begins in the early evening. Those arriving early can take a short

trip in a vintage bus to the 18th century Walled Garden, take 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 or 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, half an hour into Marylebone station in London.

Public booking opens on 24 March 2020
 Garsington Opera at Wormsley
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7 October 2019

CASTS AND CREDITS

Un giorno di regno

Belfiore	Richard Burkhard
Marchesa di Poggio	Christine Rice
Barone di Kelbar	Henry Waddington
Giulietta di Kelbar	Siobhan Stagg
Edoardo	Konu Kim
La Rocca	Grant Doyle
Conductor	Tobias Ringborg
Director	Christopher Alden
Set & Lighting Designer	Charles Edwards
Costume Designer	Sue Willmington
Philharmonia Orchestra & Garsington Opera Chorus	
Sung in Italian with English supertitles	

Rusalka

Rusalka	Natalya Romaniw
Prince	Gerard Schneider
Vodník	Robert Hayward
Foreign Princess	Sky Ingram
Ježibaba	Patricia Bardon
Gamekeeper	Colin Judson
Kitchen Boy	Grace Durham
First Nymph	Marlena Devoe
Second Nymph	Samantha Price
Third Nymph	Rebecca Afonwy-Jones
Conductor	Douglas Boyd
Director	Michael Boyd
Designer	Tom Piper
Lighting Designer	Malcolm Rippeth
Philharmonia Orchestra & Garsington Opera Chorus	
Sung in Czech with English supertitles	

Mitridate, re di Ponto

Mitridate	Robert Murray
Aspasia	Elizabeth Watts
Sifare	Mary Bevan
Farnace	Tim Mead
Ismene	Jennifer France
Arbate	Colin Judson
Marzio	Florian Panzner
Conductor	Clemens Schuldt
Director	Tim Albery
Designer	Hannah Clark
Lighting Designer	Malcolm Rippeth
The English Concert	
Sung in Italian with English supertitles	

Fidelio

Leonore	Johanni van Oostrum
Florestan	Toby Spence
Rocco	Joshua Bloom
Don Pizarro	David Soar
Marzelline	Galina Averina
Jaquino	Trystan Llŷr Griffiths
Don Fernando	William Thomas
Conductor	Gérard Korsten
Director	John Cox
Associate Director	Bruno Ravella
Designer	Gary McCann
Lighting Designer	Malcolm Rippeth
Philharmonia Orchestra & Garsington Opera Chorus	
Sung in German with English supertitles	