



GARSINGTON OPERA

AT WORMSLEY

OperaFirst Schools' Project 2023 Theme: *The Bartered Bride*



Garsington Opera

Founded in 1989, the internationally-renowned summer opera festival presents productions of great artistic quality at the spectacular Wormsley Estate, near Stokenchurch (just off Junction 5 of the M40). Garsington Opera is committed to engaging the very best performers from around the world, as well as promoting talent from within the UK who are just beginning to make their names on the worldwide opera stage. The company champions lesser-known works, which have included a number of British premieres, and continues to introduce a new generation to opera through its Learning & Participation programme.

OperaFirst

OperaFirst gives an exceptional opportunity to a new generation of young people to study musical and dramatic themes of an opera through an in-school workshop before experiencing a full-scale performance at Wormsley. Ordinarily this is a schools' performance, specially put on to offer our young understudy cast the valuable opportunity to perform with orchestra to a warm and enthusiastic audience. We are passionate about introducing young people to the wonderful and varied genre of opera and our teams enjoy collaborating and exchanging ideas with pupils on arts projects that wouldn't ordinarily happen in their school.

The Bartered Bride

In this story of thwarted love and arranged marriage, the spirited heroine, Mařenka, must use every last ounce of determination, charm and cunning in order to marry the man she loves, Jenik. Her parents and their marriage broker want her to wed the son of a rich man, yet rumour has it that a second son exists, but has disappeared. Bargains ensue and relationships are tested. There's a circus, an escaped bear, heart-stopping love duets and deliriously infectious tunes. Dance is at the heart and soul of this piece, from the gloriously vibrant overture to a riotous and festive polka. It's an irresistible combination.

Format

[Rob Gildon](#) (Director) will be joined by [Emily Leather](#) (Vocal Director) and a singer to deliver intensive one-day workshops using the successful 'Create an Opera' format. Starting with warm-ups and teambuilding activities, the whole group will then explore the music and story, devising their own music, words and movements as well as performing music directly



from the opera if time allows. Pupils will need to be off-timetable for the whole day in a space big enough for everyone to move around freely. We are happy to accommodate different groups: ie a single year group, music specialist groups, a combination of two year groups, etc. **Workshops must have a minimum of 20 students and can accommodate up to approximately 30 students per workshop.** If you think you may have more than 30 participants, please contact us directly to see if that is possible.

Potential Workshop Dates

May 5th, 10th, 11th

June 28th, 30th

Your Workshop will be on one of the above dates, which will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. If you would like to sign up for 2023, [follow this link](#) to fill out the form with your availability. *Availability cannot be accepted via email.*

The Bartered Bride Performance 2023

Garsington Opera, Wormsley Estate, nr Stokenchurch HP14 3YG

Date: **Wednesday 12th July 2023**

Time: Late afternoon/early evening but to finish by 21:00
approx

Cost: £5 per pupil (1 free teacher ticket per 10 pupils)

The cost includes participation in the workshop and a seat at the final performance. Payment to be made in advance of the workshop.

Transport: This needs to be arranged by the school.

There will be a short workshop as part of the performance led by the creative team, giving audience members an insight into other elements of opera including conducting, stage management, costumes, and orchestra.

If you would like to sign up for 2023, [please follow this link to fill in our form](#) as soon as possible. If you have any specific questions, please email learning@garsingtonopera.org. Workshops and workshop dates are limited and will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

Recent projects

To read about our most recent [community opera](#), the [Youth Company](#), or our OperaFirst projects, please see our website: www.garsingtonopera.org

