

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**10 October 2018**



## **Investec Opera Holland Park announces 2019 Season casts and dates**

- 35 performances across the 2019 Season at Investec Opera Holland Park (OHP), 4 June – 3 August
- Five new productions, including a double bill of *Il segreto di Susanna* by Wolf-Ferrari and Tchaikovsky's *Iolanta*
- One special performance of Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* by Juilliard415, on tour from New York
- Puccini's *Manon Lescaut*, directed and designed by joint winners of the 10<sup>th</sup> European Opera Directing Prize, Karolina Sofulak and George Leigh
- OHP's championing of the 'verismo' genre continues with the third new production of Cilea's *L'arlesiana* in 20 years
- Verdi's *Un ballo in maschera* was last seen at OHP in 2009 and will receive nine main cast performances as well as a Young Artists Performance
- 35,000 tickets for the season, with 2,500 under £20 and over 1,000 free for under 18s and older audiences
- 1,000 more young people to discover opera in a performance of *Un ballo in maschera* especially for school groups, following the success of the inaugural Schools' Matinee in 2018
- The Royal Ballet School returns for four shows
- City of London Sinfonia is OHP's partner orchestra for the 16<sup>th</sup> year running, joined by OHP's critically acclaimed Chorus
- Investec Wealth & Investment is the headline sponsor for the ninth year running. IW&I's generosity enables productions of the highest quality, as well as innovative schemes to widen access to opera via OHP's award-winning *Inspire* programme.

***Manon Lescaut***, sponsored by Viking Cruises, opens the season with the British lyric soprano Elizabeth Llewellyn in the title role. Named 'Best newcomer in opera' by *The Telegraph* in 2010 following her operatic debut as Mimì in *La bohème* at English National Opera, Llewellyn has gone from strength to strength on the international stage. She was last at OHP in 2017, as Magda in *La rondine*. The Welsh bass-baritone Paul Carey Jones makes his OHP debut as Lescaut. His recent career highlights include his Royal Opera House debut in *The Nose* and the Scottish premiere of Philip Glass's *The Trial* with Scottish Opera.

Tenor Peter Auty sings the role of Manon's lover Des Grieux and bass Stephen Richardson is Geronte de Ravoire. Stephen Aviss (former OHP Young Artist) performs the role of Edmondo. Ellie Edmonds, praised for her role as Annina in 2018's *La traviata*, returns as Un Musico.

Peter Robinson returns to conduct, with director Karolina Sofulak and designer George Leigh leading the creative team. They beat 213 teams to win the 10<sup>th</sup> European Opera Directing Prize, selected by an international

panel of judges including OHP's Director of Opera James Clutton. The lighting designer is Rory Beaton, who was nominated for a Knight of Illumination Award for his work on OHP's 2018 production of *Così fan tutte*.

Matteo Lippi, praised for an accomplished OHP debut as Ruggero in 2017's *La rondine*, makes a welcome return as Gustavo in Verdi's ***Un ballo in maschera***. Since his last appearance at OHP he has performed a number of star roles across Italy, including at Teatro La Fenice, and internationally. Gustavo's lover Amelia is sung by Anne Sophie Duprels, who has a string of OHP successes to her name, including the title roles in *Iris*, *Zazà* and most recently *Isabeau*. A doyenne of the opera world, Rosalind Plowright OBE will sing the role of Madame Arvidson.

A graduate of OHP's Young Artists Scheme where she performed Violetta in *La traviata*, and acclaimed for her performance in *Follies* at the National Theatre, Alison Langer returns as Oscar. George von Bergen is Anckarström, Eddie Wade is Ribbing and John Savournin is Horn. Ross Ramgobin will sing Cristiano, having enjoyed success at the Royal Opera House as Rambashi in *The Firework Maker's Daughter*.

The team behind OHP's widely praised 2018 production of *La traviata* reunites, with Matthew Kofi Waldren conducting, Rodula Gaitanou directing and Steve Elias as movement director. For the Young Artists Performance of *Un ballo in maschera*, Sonia Ben-Santamaria conducts and Rachael Hewer directs, with the rest of the cast to be announced soon.

There's a stellar all-British cast for Cilea's ***L'arlesiana***. This opera has been greatly enjoyed by OHP audiences, and this is its third new production in 20 years.

Fflur Wyn, recently elected an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music, will perform the role of Vivetta. Yvonne Howard will sing Rosa Mamai. A favourite with companies across the UK and further afield, she recently excelled as the Queen of the Fairies in *Iolanthe* at English National Opera. Samantha Price sings L'Innocente, James Cleverton is Marco, Keel Watson is Baldassare and Simon Wilding is Metifio.

The conductor Dane Lam, director Oliver Platt, designer Alyson Cummins and lighting designer Rory Beaton join forces once more, following their 2018 production of *Così fan tutte* for OHP.

There's a chance to hear this rare pairing of Wolf-Ferrari's one-act comedy ***Il segreto di Susanna*** and Tchaikovsky's one-act fairy tale ***Iolanta*** in six performances. Clare Presland and Richard Burkhard are the leading couple Countess Susanna and Count Gil in *Il segreto di Susanna*. Presland made her professional debut in *The Death of Klinghoffer* at English National Opera in 2012, a production in which Burkhard also performed. Both Clare and Richard also appeared in Opera Holland Park's 2017 Season: *Káťa Kabanová* and *Zazà* respectively. Sante will be played by John Savournin, the brilliant bass-baritone, actor and director, in this silent role.

John Andrews conducts and the director is John Wilkie, a 2015 alumnus of OHP's Young Artists Scheme. The internationally renowned, London-based set designer takis returns.

An all-star cast concludes the season in *Iolanta*. Since winning first prize at the Kathleen Ferrier Awards in 2012, Natalya Romaniw has performed on many of the world's great stages, receiving unanimous critical acclaim for roles including Tatyana in *Eugene Onegin* at Garsington in 2016. Vaudémont is sung by David Butt Philip, an alumnus of the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme at the Royal Opera House who won widespread admiration in Brett Dean's *Hamlet* at Glyndebourne in 2017. He performed the role of Folco in OHP's 2018 production of *Isabeau* and in the days before his sparkling solo career he sang in the OHP Chorus, in 2009.

Two more former Jette Parker Young Artists appear in *Iolanta*: Grant Doyle, as Robert, and Ashley Riches, as Ibn-Hakia. The Russian bass Mikhail Svetlov is René, with Paul Curievici as Alméric. Barnaby Rea, a former Harewood Artist at English National Opera, who has recently joined the solo ensemble at Oper Frankfurt, will take the role of Bertrand. Laura Woods, who recently starred in *Greek* at the Arcola Theatre and was Flora in OHP's 2018 production of *La traviata*, returns to OHP as Marta. Julia Hamon is Brigitta and Helen Brackenbury is Laura.

The conductor Sian Edwards and director Olivia Fuchs, the creative powerhouse behind 2017's *Kát'a Kabanová*, reunite, with takis once again the designer.

OHP is also delighted to be welcoming the period instrument ensemble Juilliard415 and singers from Juilliard's Marcus Institute for Vocal Arts for a staged performance of Purcell's ***Dido and Aeneas*** on 9 June 2019. These renowned New York musicians have toured extensively internationally, and this performance will form part of a tour of European capitals.

Investec Opera Holland Park's 2019 Season will run from 4 June to 3 August. Tickets will be available from March (with priority booking for Members from February). For further information please visit **[www.operahollandpark.com](http://www.operahollandpark.com)**.

## **Investec Opera Holland Park 2019**

4 June – 3 August

### ***Manon Lescaut*** by Giacomo Puccini

New production by Opera Holland Park, with City of London Sinfonia and the Opera Holland Park Chorus, sponsored by Viking Cruises

4, 7, 11, 13, 15, 18, 20, 22 June

<i>Manon Lescaut</i>	Elizabeth Llewellyn
<i>Lescaut</i>	Paul Carey Jones
<i>Des Grieux</i>	Peter Auty
<i>Geronte de Ravoir</i>	Stephen Richardson
<i>Edmondo</i>	Stephen Aviss/John Wood
<i>Musician</i>	Ellie Edmonds
<i>Conductor</i>	Peter Robinson
<i>Director</i>	Karolina Sofulak
<i>Designer</i>	George Leigh
<i>Lighting Designer</i>	Rory Beaton
<i>Choreographer</i>	Tim Claydon

### ***Un ballo in maschera*** by Giuseppe Verdi

New production by Opera Holland Park, with City of London Sinfonia and the Opera Holland Park Chorus

8, 12, 14, 16, 19, 21, 25, 27, 29 June

<i>Gustavo</i>	Matteo Lippi
<i>Amelia</i>	Anne Sophie Duprels
<i>Anckarström</i>	George von Bergen
<i>Oscar</i>	Alison Langer
<i>Madame Arvidson</i>	Rosalind Plowright OBE
<i>Ribbing</i>	Eddie Wade
<i>Horn</i>	John Savournin
<i>Cristiano</i>	Ross Ramgobin
<i>Conductor</i>	Matthew Kofi Waldren
<i>Director</i>	Rodula Gaitanou
<i>Movement Director</i>	Steve Elias

Young Artists Performance on 28 June, conducted by Sonia Ben-Santamaria and directed by Rachael Hewer. Full cast to be announced soon.

**L'arlesiana** by Francesco Cilea

New production by Opera Holland Park, with City of London Sinfonia

20, 25, 27, 31 July, 2 August 2019

<i>Vivetta</i>	Fflur Wyn
<i>Rosa Mamai</i>	Yvonne Howard
<i>L'Innocente</i>	Samantha Price
<i>Marco</i>	James Cleverton
<i>Baldassare</i>	Keel Watson
<i>Metifio</i>	Simon Wilding
<i>Conductor</i>	Dane Lam
<i>Director</i>	Oliver Platt
<i>Designer</i>	Alyson Cummins
<i>Lighting Designer</i>	Rory Beaton

**Double Bill: Il segreto di Susanna** by Ermanno Wolf-Ferrari

New production by Opera Holland Park, with City of London Sinfonia

<i>Countess Susanna</i>	Clare Presland
<i>Count Gil</i>	Richard Burkhard
<i>Sante</i>	John Savourin
<i>Conductor</i>	John Andrews
<i>Director</i>	John Wilkie
<i>Designer</i>	takis

**Double Bill: Iolanta** by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

New production by Opera Holland Park, with City of London Sinfonia and the Opera Holland Park Chorus

<i>Iolanta</i>	Natalya Romaniw
<i>Count Vaudemont</i>	David Butt Philip
<i>René</i>	Mikhail Svetlov
<i>Robert</i>	Grant Doyle
<i>Ibn-Hakia</i>	Ashley Riches
<i>Alméric</i>	Paul Curievici
<i>Bertrand</i>	Barnaby Rea
<i>Marta</i>	Laura Woods
<i>Brigitta</i>	Julia Hamon
<i>Laura</i>	Helen Brackenbury
<i>Conductor</i>	Sian Edwards
<i>Director</i>	Olivia Fuchs
<i>Designer</i>	takis

22, 24, 26, 30 July, 1, 3 August 2019

## **The Royal Ballet School: Summer Performances**

4, 5, 6 July 2019 at 7pm, 6 July 2019 at 2pm

## **Juilliard415: *Dido and Aeneas* by Henry Purcell**

9 June 2019

### **Notes to Editors**

#### 2019 Season booking dates (including Juilliard415)

23 January 2019, 10am – Founders and Benefactors Priority Booking

28 January 2019, 10am – Ambassadors Priority Booking

4 February 2019, 10am – Envoys Priority Booking

11 February 2019, 10am – Silver and Gold Members Priority Booking

27 February 2019, 10am – General Booking

13 March 2019, 10am – INSPIRE £20 tickets (online only)

29 April 2019, 1pm – In person booking at the theatre

#### Booking methods

Online: [www.operahollandpark.com](http://www.operahollandpark.com)

Telephone: 0300 999 1000

In person at the Box Office, from 29 April 2019, 1pm

#### INSPIRE ticket scheme

£20 INSPIRE tickets: booking (online only) from 13 March 2019. These are available to all, with a limit of two per production and four per season for each individual.

#### Schools' Matinee: 26 June 2019 at 12pm

Tickets (including resource pack) from £5 per person

Workshop packages for schools also available

Booking now open

Contact: [inspire@operahollandpark.com](mailto:inspire@operahollandpark.com) or 020 3846 6222

More information: [www.operahollandpark.com/schoolsmatinee/](http://www.operahollandpark.com/schoolsmatinee/)

#### Travelling to Opera Holland Park

Address: Holland Park, W8 6LU

Nearest station: Holland Park. Many others are also close – Kensington High Street (10 minutes' walk), Kensington Olympia (15 minutes' walk), Notting Hill Gate (16 minutes' walk) and Earl's Court (18 minutes' walk).

Santander Cycle sites are situated at the Ilchester Place gates and Duchess of Bedford's Walk gates to Holland Park.

Buses: 9, 10, 27, 28, 49, 328, C1 (Kensington High Street) and 31, 94, 148, 228 (Holland Park)

#### Investec Wealth & Investment

Opera Holland Park is extremely grateful to Investec Wealth & Investment, its principal sponsor since 2011. Part of the Investec group, Investec Wealth & Investment (IW&I) offers wealth management and investment services to private individuals, charities, trusts, international clients and financial advisers. The firm has circa 1,200 staff located at its 15 offices across the UK.

### Viking Cruises

The 2019 production of *Manon Lescaut* is generously sponsored by Viking Cruises. Viking offers culturally enriching, destination-focused river and ocean cruises for travellers curious about the world, its rich culture and varied history. Viking takes its guests on curated, elegant voyages to some of the most iconic rivers in Europe and the Far East, allowing a unique window on inspiring destinations and rewarding experiences. Featuring on board cultural enrichment and included shore excursions.

### **Contact for further information and pictures**

Alexandra Watson, Harestones Communications  
[alexandra@harestones.org](mailto:alexandra@harestones.org) +44 (0)7789 656433

### **Contact for press ticket requests**

Chloe Bridgen, Marketing & PR Manager, Opera Holland Park  
[chloe.bridgen@operahollandpark.com](mailto:chloe.bridgen@operahollandpark.com) +44 (0)7713 326006