

PRESS RELEASE
17 October 2019



**Opera Holland Park reveals casts for
2020 Season of firsts**

- Five new productions for the 2020 Season, and a new collaboration with Charles Court Opera
- Two classics of the repertoire, two operettas, and a double bill of rarities by Delius and Puccini
- 40 performances across the 2020 Season, 2 June – 8 August
- Three directors make their OHP debuts: Julia Burbach, Natascha Metherell and Christopher Luscombe
- OHP hosts its first Gilbert and Sullivan work for 20 years, *The Pirates of Penzance*, in a new collaboration with Charles Court Opera
- 1,000 free tickets across the season for under 18s and older audiences
- The Discovery Matinee, a new *Inspire* initiative for 2020, offers more than 250 tickets for free and the rest greatly discounted. Aimed at all first-time opera-goers – families, young and older people, community groups – this relaxed performance will also provide a welcoming environment for children with special educational needs.
- The Schools' Matinee returns, with the opportunity for 1,000 more young people from local schools to discover opera in the Young Artists' production of *Eugene Onegin*
- The chance to see the next generation of ballet stars in four performances by students of the Royal Ballet School
- City of London Sinfonia returns for its 17th year in the pit

Tchaikovsky's perfect tragedy of first love, ***Eugene Onegin***, opens the season, with Anush Hovhannisyanyan as Tatyana. Critically acclaimed for her role as Violetta in *La traviata* for Scottish Opera in 2017, and nominated in the 2018 International Opera Awards, she makes her OHP debut. Also appearing at OHP for the first time is the Australian baritone Samuel Dale Johnson as Onegin. British lyric soprano Amanda Roocroft makes her role debut as Madame Larina, having performed the role of Tatyana to great acclaim internationally. Fresh from success at Opera North and the Royal Opera, Nicky Spence returns to OHP as Lensky. Emma Stannard sings the role of Tatyana's sister Olga, with Kathleen Wilkinson as their nurse, Filippjevna.

A finalist in the Newcomer category of the 2019 International Opera Awards, and winner of the 2019 Off West End Award for Best Opera Production, director Julia Burbach makes her OHP debut with *Eugene Onegin*. The designer takis returns to OHP for the first of three productions in the 2020 Season. His previous productions at OHP include 2019's *Un ballo in maschera*. Familiar to OHP audiences for his work in repertoire from Mozart to Cilea, Dane Lam conducts. Mark Jonathan, winner of the

2019 Knight of Illumination Award for lighting in opera, is the lighting designer.

The 2020 Young Artists Performance will be *Eugene Onegin*, a work originally composed for students at the Moscow Conservatory. The conductor is Lada Valesova and the director is Rebecca Meltzer. The Young Artist cast will be announced at the start of next year.

Verdi's **Rigoletto** opens on 6 June, with Stephen Gadd in the title role and Anna Patalong as Gilda, Rigoletto's daughter. Italian tenor Matteo Desole, who made his OHP debut as Alfredo in 2018's *La traviata*, returns in the role of the Duke of Mantua. Hannah Pedley sings Maddalena. Former Young Artists Blaise Malaba and Georgia Mae Bishop sing the roles of Sparafucile and Giovanna. Yolanda Grant-Thompson, the first recipient of OHP's Laura Monaghan Bursary, is the Page.

Matthew Kofi Waldren returns to conduct his third Verdi opera in three consecutive OHP seasons, following outstanding reviews for *La traviata* and *Un ballo in maschera* in 2018 and 2019. British director Natascha Metherell, fast acquiring a reputation internationally for her work at the Royal Danish Opera and the Liceu, Barcelona, makes her OHP debut. Alyson Cummins, praised for her designs for OHP's *L'arlesiana* and *Così fan tutte*, is the designer. The lighting designer Rory Beaton also returns.

The third production of the 2020 Season is Lehár's romantic comedy, **The Merry Widow**, sung in the English translation by Kit Hesketh-Harvey with Giles Havergal. The lead couple of Hanna Glawari and Count Danilo will be sung by Julia Sporsén and Alex Otterburn, last seen at OHP in *Ariadne auf Naxos* (2018). Alison Langer, singing Valencienne, and Stephen Aviss, singing Camille, performed together at OHP in 2017's *La traviata*. Both are former OHP Young Artists. John Savournin, last seen at OHP in *Il segreto di Susanna* in 2019, will sing Baron Zeta.

Christopher Luscombe, an Associate Artist of the Royal Shakespeare Company, makes his OHP debut as director of *The Merry Widow*. John Andrews is the conductor, Simon Higlett the designer, Mark Jonathan the lighting designer and Ewan Jones the choreographer.

Generously supported by the Delius Trust, **Margot la Rouge**, Delius's only verismo opera, receives its first major UK staging. The two-act version of Puccini's **Le Villi** completes a double bill on the theme of lost love and corrupted innocence. Martin Lloyd-Evans (director), takis (designer), Francesco Cilluffo (conductor) and Jake Wiltshire (lighting designer) form the creative team for both works.

French soprano Anne Sophie Duprels sings the roles of Delius's Margot and Puccini's Anna. Peter Auty and Stephen Gadd return to OHP as Roberto and Guglielmo in *Le Villi*. In *Margot la Rouge*, Paul Carey Jones will sing The Artist. Samuel Sakker and Nadine Benjamin return to OHP as Sergeant Thibault and Lili Béguin, joined by George von Bergen, Laura Woods and Jack Holton.

Described as “the masters of G&S in small spaces”, Charles Court Opera joins forces with Opera Holland Park, the Opera Holland Park Chorus and City of London Sinfonia in a production of WS Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan’s comedy, ***The Pirates of Penzance***, directed by John Savournin. Savournin’s recent directing credits include *Trial by Jury* for Opera North. Opening on 4 August, *The Pirates of Penzance* will be the first production of a G&S operetta at Holland Park for 20 years.

Tickets for Opera Holland Park’s 2020 Season will be on general sale from 26 February, with priority booking from January onwards. For further information please visit www.operahollandpark.com.

Opera Holland Park 2020

2 June – 8 August

Eugene Onegin by Tchaikovsky

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

2, 5, 9, 11, 13, 18 (Young Artists Performance), 20, 24, 26 June

Tatyana

Onegin

Lensky

Olga

Madame Larina

Filippyevna

Prince Gremin

Triquet

Anush Hovhannisyan

Samuel Dale Johnson

Nicky Spence

Emma Stannard

Amanda Roocroft

Kathleen Wilkinson

Matthew Stiff

John Wood

Conductor

Director

Designer

Lighting Designer

Movement Director

Dane Lam

Julia Burbach

takis

Mark Jonathan

Jo Meredith

The Young Artist cast will be announced in early 2020. The conductor is Lada Valesova and the director is Rebecca Meltzer.

Rigoletto by Verdi

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

6, 10, 12, 17, 19, 21 (Discovery Matinee), 23, 25, 27 June

<i>Rigoletto</i>	Stephen Gadd
<i>Gilda</i>	Anna Patalong
<i>Duke of Mantua</i>	Matteo Desole
<i>Sparafucile</i>	Blaise Malaba
<i>Maddalena</i>	Hannah Pedley
<i>Monterone</i>	Keel Watson
<i>Giovanna</i>	Georgia Mae Bishop
<i>Count Ceprano</i>	Trevor Eliot Bowes
<i>Marullo</i>	Themba Mvula
<i>Borsa</i>	Mike Bradley
<i>Countess Ceprano</i>	Joanna Harries
<i>Page</i>	Yolanda Grant-Thompson
<i>Conductor</i>	Matthew Kofi Waldren
<i>Director</i>	Natascha Metherell
<i>Designer</i>	Alyson Cummins
<i>Lighting Designer</i>	Rory Beaton

The Merry Widow by Lehár

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

18, 22, 24, 28, 30 July, 1 August

<i>Hannah Glawari</i>	Julia Sporsén
<i>Count Danilo</i>	Alex Otterburn
<i>Valencienne</i>	Alison Langer
<i>Camille</i>	Stephen Aviss
<i>Baron Zeta</i>	John Savournin
<i>St. Brioche</i>	Neal Cooper
<i>Cascada</i>	John Lofthouse
<i>Kromow</i>	Nicholas Garrett
<i>Olga</i>	Caroline Carragher
<i>Conductor</i>	John Andrews
<i>Director</i>	Christopher Luscombe
<i>Designer</i>	Simon Higlett
<i>Lighting Designer</i>	Mark Jonathan
<i>Choreographer</i>	Ewan Jones

Double bill: *Margot la Rouge* by Delius

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

21, 23, 25, 29, 31 July

<i>Margot la Rouge</i>	Anne Sophie Duprels
<i>Sergeant Thibault</i>	Samuel Sakker
<i>L'Artiste</i>	Paul Carey Jones
<i>Lili Béguin</i>	Nadine Benjamin
<i>Nini</i>	Claire Mitcher
<i>La Patronne</i>	Laura Woods
<i>First Soldier</i>	George von Bergen
<i>La Poigne</i>	Jack Holton
<i>Second Soldier</i>	Alistair Sutherland
<i>Third Woman</i>	Chloë Pardoe
<i>Conductor</i>	Francesco Cilluffo
<i>Director</i>	Martin Lloyd-Evans
<i>Designer</i>	takis
<i>Lighting Designer</i>	Jake Wiltshire

Double bill: *Le Villi* by Puccini

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

<i>Anna</i>	Anne Sophie Duprels
<i>Roberto</i>	Peter Auty
<i>Guglielmo</i>	Stephen Gadd
<i>Conductor</i>	Francesco Cilluffo
<i>Director</i>	Martin Lloyd-Evans
<i>Designer</i>	takis
<i>Lighting Designer</i>	Jake Wiltshire

The Pirates of Penzance by Gilbert & Sullivan

Charles Court Opera in association with Opera Holland Park
with City of London Sinfonia and the Opera Holland Park Chorus
4, 5, 6, 7, 8 August

The Royal Ballet School: Summer Performances

Thursday 2 July, 7pm (predominantly Upper School)

Friday 3 July, 7pm (predominantly White Lodge)

Saturday 4 July, 2pm (predominantly White Lodge)

Saturday 4 July, 7pm (predominantly Upper School)

Schools' Matinee: *Eugene Onegin* with the OHP Young Artists

Tuesday 16 June, 12pm

Tickets (including resource pack) from £5 per person

Workshop packages for schools also available

Further information: <https://operahollandpark.com/projects/schools-matinee-2020/>

Discovery Matinee: *Rigoletto*

Sunday 21 June, 2pm

Notes to Editors

2020 Season booking dates

Founder/Benefactor Priority Booking – Wednesday 22 January, 10am
Ambassador Priority Booking – Monday 27 January, 10am
Envoy Priority Booking – Monday 3 February, 10am
Silver and Gold Members Priority Booking – Monday 10 February, 10am
Friends Priority Booking – Monday 24 February, 10am
General Booking – Wednesday 26 February, 10am
INSPIRE £22 tickets – Wednesday 11 March, 10am
In person booking at the theatre – Wednesday 6 May, 10am

Booking methods

Online: www.operahollandpark.com

Telephone: 0300 999 1000

In person at the Box Office, from 6 May, 10am

INSPIRE ticket scheme

INSPIRE £22 tickets – booking (online only) from 11 March, 10am. These are available to all, with a limit of two per production and four per season for each individual.

Free under 18 tickets – booking opens on Monday 30 March, online and by telephone.

NB all Under 18s tickets for the production of *Rigoletto* will be allocated to the Discovery Matinee.

Over 65s – booking opens on Wednesday 13 November and closes on Monday 2 March (by application only – available from our website)

www.operahollandpark.com/season-and-events/ticket-schemes/free-tickets-for-over-65s/

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)

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