



# Opera Holland Park to host first Virtual Open Day

Press Release

15 May 2020

On Saturday 23 May 2020 from 10am, Opera Holland Park will be hosting its first Virtual Open Day with interactive online workshops, music and activities for all the family.

With the 2020 Season at our theatre in Holland Park postponed until further notice, this year's annual Open Day will be held online, but with all the same opportunities to have fun, meet new people, learn new skills, and find out more about the inner workings of an opera company. Open to all, and especially suitable for families, all activities can be enjoyed from the comfort of your home, across OHP's social media channels and pre-bookable sessions via Zoom.

From vocal warm ups to a dance class led by BBC Dancing Town's Steve Elias, private and group conducting classes with Dane Lam, Lada Valešová and Matthew Kofi Waldren, detailed work on a Russian aria with OHP Young Artist Charlotte Badham, and a tongue-twisting finale with the irrepressible Opera Holland Park Chorus, it promises to be a day which friends and families can enjoy together, even when they are apart.

Search #OHPOpenDay for images and comments from previous years.

Conductor Matthew Kofi Waldren says, 'I am thrilled that Opera Holland Park are mounting their Open Day online for 2020. This is always a dynamic occasion, bringing opera to the community and community to opera. It is what OHP does best, and I am delighted to be involved.'

More information can be found here: <https://operahollandpark.com/events/virtual-open-day-2020/>



## Schedule

### **All day – Conducting Classes**

Three Opera Holland Park conductors, Matthew Kofi Waldren, Dane Lam and Lada Valešová, will be giving private and group conducting lessons over the course of the day via Zoom. To secure your position in one of the classes, you must register your interest in advance. Places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis – so be quick! [Sign up and find out more](#)

### **10am – Vocal Workout**

Join Christopher as he guides you through an operatic vocal warm up, covering breathing, supporting the voice, and improving your tone. Tune in to our Facebook or YouTube channels at 10am to take part. [Find out more](#)

### **10.30am – A Masked Ball**

Join the OHP Inspire team for a fun and creative family workshop aimed at ages 0-5 and children with SEN. This interactive workshop will take you through the events leading up to the masked ball from Verdi's *Un ballo in maschera*. This event will take place via a private Zoom Video Conference and you must register your place in advance. [Sign up and find out more](#)

### **11am – Behind the Beat**

Three conductors from recent Opera Holland Park seasons, Matthew Kofi Waldren, Dane Lam and Lada Valešová, demonstrate the skills and pitfalls of conducting opera. Just tune in to our Facebook or YouTube channels at 11am to watch. [Find out more](#)

### **11.45pm – Strictly No Lycra**

BBC Dancing Town's Steve Elias leads this fun dance class for all ages and abilities. Encourage your family and friends to join in too and use as an opportunity to connect over lockdown. All you need is a little bit of space to move in, a sense of humour and some comfortable shoes. This event will take place via a private Zoom Video Conference and you must register your place in advance. [Sign up and find out more](#)

### **12.15pm – Making Faces**

Have you ever wanted to look completely different? Linchpin of the Opera Holland Park Chorus, Ian Massa-Harris is a specialist in prosthetics, special effects, historical, character and theatrical make up. Here he will take us through the art of transforming your face for the stage. Just tune in to our Instagram at 12.15pm to watch. [Find out more](#)

### **12.45pm – Meet the Singers**

Put your questions to three of Opera Holland Park's principal singers: Alison Langer, Nadine Benjamin and Paul Carey Jones. Hosted by Anna Picard, the singers will talk about their careers and their experiences working for Opera Holland Park. Just tune in to our YouTube channel at 12.45pm to take part. [Find out more](#)



### **1.15pm – Operatic Draw Along**

Prize-winning illustrator Rosie Brooks invites you to join her for a family-friendly drawing class based on opera characters. Grab some paper, pens, pencils or crayons and unleash your inner artist. This event will take place via a private Zoom Video Conference and you must register your place in advance. [Sign up and find out more](#)

### **1.45pm – Meet the Directors**

Directors Martin Lloyd-Evans, Rodula Gaitanou and Rebecca Meltzer get together with Anna Picard to talk about their experiences directing opera and answer your questions as they discuss the creative process from commission to opening night. Just tune in to our YouTube channel at 1.45pm to take part. [Find out more](#)

### **2.30pm – Vocal Masterclass**

Lada Valešová, conductor, pianist, and language coach, leads a masterclass with mezzo-soprano Charlotte Badham, one of the Opera Holland Park Young Artists. Working together on the text and music, Lada and Charlotte will give an insight into the detailed preparation behind live performance. Just tune in to our Facebook or YouTube channels at 2.30pm to watch. [Find out more](#)

### **3pm – Meet the Designer**

Find out what it takes to be a set and costume designer with Alyson Cummins. The designer of recent Opera Holland Park productions *Così fan tutte* (2018) and *L'arlesiana* (2019) discusses the journey from mood board to fittings and technical rehearsals. Just tune in to our Instagram channel at 3.30pm to watch. [Find out more](#)

### **4.15pm – Sing with the OHP Chorus**

Opera Holland Park Chorus Master, Richard Harker, and the Opera Holland Park Chorus invite you to join them in a tongue-twisting family finale. Learn the music and lyrics of 'I am the very model of a Modern Major General' from *The Pirates of Penzance* and sing along with us in an event for all ages and abilities. Just tune in to our Facebook or YouTube channels at 4.15pm to take part. [Find out more](#)

ENDS



## Notes to Editors

### 2020 Season Postponement

Due to ongoing concerns around COVID-19, Opera Holland Park's 2020 season held between June and August in Holland Park has been postponed until further notice. For more information visit <https://operahollandpark.com/opera-holland-park-2020-season-postponement>.

### OHP Inspire

Opera Holland Park's International Opera Award-winning education and outreach project, Inspire, is continuing to work through the current health crisis with local partners including Age UK, using digital technology to reach isolated communities.

### OHP 2019 double bill of *Il segreto di Susanna* and *Iolanta* nominated for 2020 International Opera Award

The Opera Holland Park 2019 Season double bill of *Il segreto di Susanna* and *Iolanta* has been nominated for Best Production at the 2020 International Opera Awards, alongside Bayerische Staatsoper / Royal Opera House, La Monnaie, Deutsche Oper am Rhein, Opéra de Lyon and Bayreuth Festival. For more information visit: <https://operahollandpark.com/news/2019-double-bill-nominated-for-best-production-at-the-international-opera-awards>

### Website and social media

[www.operahollandpark.com](http://www.operahollandpark.com)  
[www.facebook.com/operahollandpark](https://www.facebook.com/operahollandpark)  
[www.twitter.com/operahollandpk](https://www.twitter.com/operahollandpk)  
[www.instagram.com/operahollandpark](https://www.instagram.com/operahollandpark)  
[www.youtube.com/operahollandpark](https://www.youtube.com/operahollandpark)

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