



Opera Holland Park marks Holocaust Memorial Day in words and music

Press Release

Monday 25 January

Directed from the piano by Lada Valešová, tenor Nicky Spence and the Navarra Quartet perform Pavel Haas's song cycle *Fata Morgana* Op. 6 to mark Holocaust Memorial Day, streamed on Opera Holland Park's YouTube and Facebook channels from 6pm on Wednesday 27 January.

The performance will be preceded by a reflection on remembrance from the acclaimed author, Howard Jacobson.

Born in Brno in 1889, Pavel Haas studied composition with Leoš Janáček and was one of the leading Czech composers of his generation. In *Fata Morgana*, a 1923 setting of love poetry by Rabindranath Tagore, the influence of Janáček can be heard alongside Haas's distinctive voice.

In 1941 Haas was interned in the Terezin concentration camp, together with composers Gideon Klein, Hans Krasa and Viktor Ullmann. In October 1944 all four were deported to Auschwitz, where Haas, Ullmann and Krasa were killed on arrival. Klein was sent from Auschwitz to Fürstengrube, where he died in January 1945. The family tree of Bohemian and Moravian musical life was severed and the music of a generation of Czech composers slipped into obscurity.

The novelist and journalist Howard Jacobson was born in Manchester in 1942. He has published more than twenty volumes of fiction and non-fiction, alongside trenchant essays, columns and criticism. In his introduction to Opera Holland Park's film for Holocaust Memorial Day, Jacobson reflects on memory, denial, truth and disinformation.

James Clutton, Chief Executive and Director of Opera at Opera Holland Park, says:

"I have long wanted the company to mark Holocaust Memorial Day in some way. I am grateful to Nicky Spence, the Navarra Quartet and Lada Valešová for creating this performance, and especially grateful to Howard Jacobson for writing words of unparalleled rigour and emotional power for our film."

The film by Simon Wall will be premiered on Opera Holland Park's Facebook and YouTube channels at 6pm on Wednesday 27 January 2021 and will then be available to watch on demand.

Holocaust Memorial Day takes place on 27 January each year in memory of the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, alongside the millions of other people killed under Nazi Persecution and in the genocides which followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. For more information visit <https://www.hmd.org.uk/>.

ENDS



Notes to Editors

The film will be premiered at the following links:

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/XovMASQSg6I>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/operahollandpark

Images will be available from the following link from 8pm on Monday 25 January:
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/3e90l4ajg75stt9/AACWR_6po1EXH3zz0hRY8A8Ha?dl=0

2021 Season

Opera Holland Park's 2021 Season with resident orchestra City of London Sinfonia will open on 1 June. The season includes new productions of Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*, Janáček's *The Cunning Little Vixen*, Mascagni's *L'amico Fritz*, a revival of the company's celebrated 2018 staging of Verdi's *La traviata*, and a co-production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance* with Charles Court Opera. British Youth Opera, a training company with which many of OHP's artists and creatives have cut their operatic teeth, will also be making its OHP debut in August 2021.

More information about the season, including casting and information about the company's redesigned theatre, will be announced in mid-February.

For more information visit <https://www.operahollandpark.com/season-and-events/2021-season/>

OHP Inspire

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

The team have recently devised a series of dynamic music lessons for schools, parents and children aged 7-14, with fun singing exercises for the younger age groups and introductions to operatic music, terminology, stories and characters for older age groups. A new music lesson will be made available every weekday on the company's YouTube and Facebook accounts for three weeks from Monday 25 January, starting with Peter Martin's Silly Warm Up.

Website and social media

www.operahollandpark.com

www.facebook.com/operahollandpark

www.twitter.com/operahollandpk

www.instagram.com/operahollandpark

www.youtube.com/operahollandpark

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