



# Introducing the Opera Holland Park 2022 Season, including full casting and notes on the continuing evolution of London's greenest theatre

## Press Release

Embargo: 12 noon on Monday 24 January

In 2021 Opera Holland Park unveiled a reimagined auditorium and performance space to reflect the natural beauty of the theatre's setting and to allow for social distancing. Constructed from reclaimed and sustainable materials and designed in collaboration with takis, it was described in *The Guardian* as 'a well-nigh ideal solution' to the challenges imposed by the pandemic.

In 2022 the total capacity will remain flexible at approximately 700 seats with improved sightlines and additional levels, using the same footprint and aesthetic. Sustainability informs every aspect of the theatre, with food and drink predominantly sourced from independent companies within a 50 mile radius of Holland Park for purchase by patrons.

### Five new productions to celebrate the return of summer

New productions of the classic nineteenth-century tragedies *Eugene Onegin* and *Carmen* take us from the palaces of St Petersburg to the streets of Seville. The UK premiere of Mark Adamo's 1998 opera *Little Women* leads to progressive New England, where Jo March recalls her first love in the shadow of the American Civil War. A double bill of Delius's Parisian melodrama *Margot la Rouge* and Puccini's Gothic fantasy *Le Villi* contrasts a crime of passion with supernatural punishment, while a co-production of *HMS Pinafore* with Charles Court Opera proves that no one can mock English mores more successfully than the English themselves. The City of London Sinfonia returns as resident orchestra for all five productions.

Director Julia Burbach, conductor Lada Valešová and designer takis head the creative team for ***Eugene Onegin***, with a cast including Anush Hovhannisyan (Tatyana), Samuel Dale Johnson (Onegin) and Thomas Atkins (Lensky). An internationally acclaimed Tatyana, the great lyric soprano Amanda Roocroft makes her role debut as Larina, Tatyana's mother, in this exquisite new production of a classic story of innocence and experience.

Former Opera Holland Park Young Artist Cecilia Stinton directs ***Carmen***, with Kezia Bienek in the title role and Oliver Johnston as Don José. Alison Langer plays Micaëla, with Thomas Mole as Escamillo. Conductor Lee Reynolds makes his company debut alongside the Spanish choreographer Isabel Baquero in a vibrant, clear-sighted and provocative reading of the opera.

Acclaimed as a modern masterpiece in America, Mark Adamo's tender 1998 adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's coming-of-age novel ***Little Women*** receives its UK premiere, focusing on the love between the four March sisters. Sian Edwards conducts, with Ella Marchmont making her company debut as director. The March sisters are played by Charlotte Badham (Jo), Kitty Whately (Meg), Harriet Eyley (Beth) and Elizabeth Karani (Amy).



Delius's only *verismo* opera, a scalding reunion between two former lovers in a Parisian dive, and Puccini's Gothic fantasy of supernatural revenge in a German forest are contrasted in a double bill of ***Margot la Rouge*** and ***Le Villi***. Directed by Martin Lloyd-Evans and conducted by Francesco Cilluffo, French soprano Anne Sophie Duprels plays Delius's Margot and Puccini's Anna. Tenors Samuel Sakker and Peter Auty, and baritones Paul Carey Jones and Stephen Gadd, play opposite Duprels in the two operas, while Laura Woods, George von Bergen and Laura Lolita Perešivana lead the supporting ensemble of soldiers, drinkers, thieves and prostitutes in the Delius.

A new co-production between Opera Holland Park and Charles Court Opera of Gilbert and Sullivan's tart and toe-tapping naval satire, ***HMS Pinafore***, brings the 2022 Season to an uproarious close. Director John Savournin takes the role of Captain Corcoran opposite Richard Burkhard's Sir Joseph Porter and Peter Kirk's Ralph Rackstraw, with design by Madeleine Boyd and lighting design by Jake Wiltshire.

### **Nurturing new talent**

Thirteen alumni of the acclaimed **Opera Holland Park Young Artists** scheme return as principal artists in the 2022 Season, including the conductor Lada Valešová (*Eugene Onegin*), the director Cecilia Stinton (*Carmen*), and singers Charlotte Badham, Jack Holton, Alison Langer, Thomas Mole and Emma Stannard.

There will be three performances of *Eugene Onegin* in the 2022 Season from this year's cohort of Young Artists: conductor Hannah von Wiehler, director Emma Black, répétiteur Alina Sorokina, and singers Lucy Anderson, Rory Musgrave and Jack Roberts.

First seen at Holland Park in 2021, **British Youth Opera** returns, taking participants through the process of putting on a full-scale opera production, kick-starting careers for young singers as well as creative, technical, and other behind-the-scenes roles. In a season full of dance, from the seguidilla to the polonaise, **The Royal Ballet School** also returns for its first summer residency since 2019.

### **Opera in Song**

Curated by Julien van Mellaerts and Dylan Perez, the **Opera in Song** series returns with an expanded programme of six recitals to include a portrait of Carmen in song, a celebration of female composers and librettists, a survey of classic and classical American songs, and three programmes of Schubert song cycles given fresh contexts in poetry and music. Artists include Louise Alder, James Baillieu, Adèle Charvet, Francesca Chiejina, Kunal Lahiry, Simon Lepper, Gary Matthewman, Ema Nikolovska, Ella O'Neill, Alex Otterburn and Roderick Williams.

Additional performances in the calendar include a series of **spoken word events**, the return of **Notting Hill Carnival**, Waterperry Opera's family-friendly reduction of ***Peter and the Wolf***, Fifth Door Ensemble's presentation of ***The Seven Deadly Sins*** and ***Bluebeard's Castle***, and the Holland Park debut of the period instruments ensemble, Figure, in a performance of Handel's tree-hugging opera, ***Serse***.



### **Working closely with the community**

Despite a 30% reduction in capacity from its pre-pandemic level, Opera Holland Park will maintain its annual percentage of accessible and free tickets, including **Free Tickets for Under 18s and Over 65s**, and **reduced tickets for NHS staff**.

The 2022 Season sees the return of the **Discovery Matinees**. These performances are designed to welcome people who want to try opera out for the first time in a relaxed environment, and those who love opera but find the normal theatre-going experience inaccessible.

This year there will be two **Schools' Matinees**: a full performance of *Eugene Onegin* on 15 June, and an introduction to opera and the instruments of the orchestra on 21 June. Workshops will be made available to those schools joining us for the Schools' Matinees.

Opera Holland Park's International Opera Award-winning outreach and education Inspire team is planning online and in person **OperaUNITY sessions for families** with children under the age of five or those with special educational needs, to complement *Carmen*, *Eugene Onegin*, *Little Women* and *HMS Pinafore*. This year's collaboration with the Holland Park Ecology Centre is inspired by the legend of *Le Villi* and will feature an exploration of the woodland around the theatre.

**Opera for Thought**, an Inspire project designed for those living with dementia, will focus on *Eugene Onegin*, in collaboration with the Opera Holland Park Young Artists.

Further Inspire activities include a new **Youth Choir initiative** with the West London virtual schools, offering cultural engagement and enrichment to children from the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and nearby boroughs through learning songs from the operas in the season, and creating new songs around the stories they tell.

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### ***Eugene Onegin* by Tchaikovsky**

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

Sung in Russian with English surtitles

31 May, 3, 9, 11, 15, 17, 21 and 25 June at 7.30pm

Discovery Matinee on 19 June at 2pm

Young Artists performances on 13 and 23 June at 7.30pm

Schools' Matinee performance on 15 June

**Conductor** Lada Valešová

**Director** Julia Burbach

**Designer** takis

**Lighting Designer** Robert Price

**Choreographer** Jo Meredith

**Chorus Master** Richard Harker

**Tatyana** Anush Hovhannisyan

**Onegin** Samuel Dale Johnson

**Lensky** Thomas Atkins



**Olga** Emma Stannard  
**Larina** Amanda Rookcroft  
**Filippjevna** Kathleen Wilkinson  
**Prince Gremin** Matthew Stiff  
**Triquet** John Wood  
**Zaretsky/Captain** Konrad Jaromin

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***Eugene Onegin* Young Artists Performances, including the Schools' Matinee**

**Conductor** Hannah von Wiehler  
**Director** Emma Black  
**Répétiteur** Alina Sorokina

**Tatyana** Lucy Anderson  
**Onegin** Rory Musgrave  
**Lensky** Jack Roberts  
**Olga** Anna Elizabeth Cooper  
**Larina** Emily Hodkinson  
**Filippjevna** Jane Monari  
**Prince Gremin** Henry Grant Kerswell  
**Triquet** Phillip Costovski  
**Zaretsky/Captain** Konrad Jaromin

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***Carmen*** by Bizet

2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 14, 18, 22 and 24 June at 7.30pm  
Discovery Matinee on 12 June at 2pm

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

Sung in French with English surtitles

**Conductor** Lee Reynolds  
**Associate Conductor** Sonia Ben-Santamaria (conducting on 12 and 14 June)  
**Director** Cecilia Stinton  
**Designer** takis  
**Lighting Designer** Johanne Jensen  
**Choreographer** Isabel Baquero  
**Chorus Master** Richard Harker

**Carmen** Kezia Bienek  
**Don José** Oliver Johnston  
**Escamillo** Thomas Mole  
**Micaëla** Alison Langer  
**Frasquita** Natasha Agarwal  
**Mercédès** Ellie Edmonds



**Zuniga** Jacob Phillips  
**Moralès** Jevan McAuley  
**Le Dancaïre** Themba Mvula  
**Le Remendado** Mike Bradley

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***Margot la Rouge*** by Delius / ***Le Villi*** by Puccini

21, 23, 27 and 29 July and 2, 4 and 6 August at 7.30pm  
Discovery Matinee on 31 July at 2pm

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

*Margot la Rouge* is sung in French and *Le Villi* is sung in Italian with English surtitles

**Conductor** Francesco Cilluffo  
**Director** Martin Lloyd-Evans  
**Designer** takis  
**Lighting Designer** Jake Wiltshire  
**Choreographer** Jami Reid-Quarrell  
**Chorus Master** Dominic Ellis-Peckham

***Margot la Rouge***

**Margot** Anne Sophie Duprels  
**Sergeant Thibault** Samuel Sakker  
**L'Artiste** Paul Carey Jones  
**Lili Béguin** Sarah Minns  
**Nini** Laura Lolita Perešivana  
**La Patronne** Laura Woods  
**First Soldier** George von Bergen  
**La Poigne** Jack Holton  
**Second Soldier** Alistair Sutherland  
**Totor** David Woloszko  
**First Woman** Grace Nyandoro  
**Second Woman** Alys Roberts  
**Third Woman** Chloë Pardoe  
**Second Drinker** Matthew Duncan  
**Third Drinker/A Man** Peter Lidbetter  
**Waiter** Richard Moore  
**Police Inspector** Dragoş Andrei Ionel

***Le Villi***

**Anna** Anne Sophie Duprels  
**Roberto** Peter Auty  
**Guglielmo** Stephen Gadd



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***Little Women*** by Mark Adamo

22, 28 and 30 July and 3 and 5 August at 7.30pm  
Discovery Matinee on 24 July at 2pm

UK premiere and new production by Opera Holland Park, with City of London Sinfonia and the Opera Holland Park Chorus

Sung in English with English surtitles

**Conductor** Sian Edwards

**Associate Conductor & Chorus Master** Scott Wilson (conducting on 3 and 5 August)

**Director** Ella Marchment

**Designer** Madeleine Boyd

**Lighting Designer** Rory Beaton

**Jo** Charlotte Badham

**Meg** Kitty Whately

**Beth** Harriet Eyley

**Amy** Elizabeth Karani

**Laurie** Frederick Jones

**John Brooke** Harry Thatcher

**Cecilia March** Lucy Schauer

**Friedrich Bhaer** Benson Wilson

**Alma March** Victoria Simmonds

**Gideon March** James Cleverton

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***HMS Pinafore*** by Gilbert & Sullivan

9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 August at 7.30pm  
Discovery Matinee on 13 August at 2pm

New co-production by Opera Holland Park and Charles Court Opera, with City of London Sinfonia and the Opera Holland Park Chorus

Sung in English with English surtitles

**Conductor** David Eaton

**Director** John Savournin

**Designer** Madeleine Boyd

**Lighting Designer** Jake Wiltshire

**Choreographer** David Hulston

**Chorus Master** Dominic Ellis-Peckham

**Sir Joseph Porter** Richard Burkhard

**Captain Corcoran** John Savournin

**Ralph Rackstraw** Peter Kirk

**Dick Deadeye** Frederick Long



**Boatswain** Themba Mvula  
**Bob Becket** Peter Lidbetter  
**Josephine** Llio Evans  
**Hebe** Sophie Dicks  
**Mrs Cripps** Lucy Schauer

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### **Opera in Song: 28 June – 3 July**

#### **Carmen in Song**

28 June, 7.30pm

Adèle Charvet (mezzo soprano), Julien Van Mellaerts (baritone) and Simon Lepper (piano) perform a dramatic retelling of the story of Carmen through the songs of Henri Duparc, Georges Bizet, Richard Strauss and others.

#### **Unsung Heroines**

29 June, 7.30pm

Louise Alder (soprano), Opera Holland Park Young Artists and Gary Matthewman (piano) celebrate the work of female composers and librettists including Alma Mahler, Amy Beach and Clara Schumann. The recital will be held in support of a local women's shelter.

#### **America in Song**

3 July, 7.30pm

Francesca Chiejina (soprano), Kitty Whately (mezzo soprano), Frederick Jones (tenor), Alex Otterburn (baritone) and Dylan Perez (piano) explore American song from the operatic stage to Broadway in the music of composers from Charles Ives to George Gershwin, Margaret Bonds, Stephen Sondheim and Mark Adamo.

#### **Winter Journey**

1 July, 7.30pm

Roderick Williams and Ella O'Neill perform *Winterreise* in Jeremy Sams's English translation, *Winter Journey*.

#### **Die schöne Müllerin**

2 July, 7.30pm

Julien Van Mellaerts and James Baillieu perform *Die schöne Müllerin* in the original language, framed by the poet Wilhelm Müller's prologue and epilogue in English.

#### **Schwanengesang and The Lake**

3 July, 3pm

BBC New Generation Artists Ema Nikolovska and Kunal Lahiry present *Schwanengesang* with the world premiere of *The Lake*, composed by Errollyn Wallen as a reflection and response to Schubert's final collection of songs.

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## Discovery Matinees

The Discovery Matinees welcome people who want to try opera out for the first time in a relaxed environment, and those who love opera but find the normal theatre-going experience inaccessible.

What's on offer:

- Relaxed Performance – every Discovery Matinee will be adapted to suit people who find it difficult to follow the usual conventions of theatre behaviour, and those who prefer a more relaxed environment.
- Subsidised tickets – ticket prices are reduced for the Discovery Matinees with prices ranging from £10–50, with half price access tickets available for disabled people and a companion or carer.
- Audio-description – Discovery Matinees will be audio-described for blind and partially-sighted audiences, with additional commentary explaining the action on stage, including singers' body language, expressions and movements.
- Weekend afternoon performances – we hope a 2pm start to each Discovery Matinee will allow families to fall in love with opera together.

Dates and times:

- *Carmen* – 12 June at 2pm
- *Eugene Onegin* – 19 June at 2pm
- *Little Women* – 24 July at 2pm
- *Margot la Rouge / Le Villi* – 31 July at 2pm
- *HMS Pinafore* – 13 August at 2pm

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## Booking Information

Tickets for the 2022 Season will go on sale on the following dates. Tickets cost £10-£128.

General booking for all performances as part of the 2022 Season opens on Wednesday 6 April at 10am. Priority booking is available for OHP Members and Supporters – for more details please visit our website. Inspire £22 tickets go on sale on Wednesday 13 April.

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## Free Ticket Schemes

Applications for Free Tickets for Under 18s will open on Wednesday 6 April at 10am.

Applications for Free Tickets for Over 65s for the 2022 Season open on Wednesday 26 January and close on Friday 8 April.

Since 2017 we have offered half price community tickets to staff of the NHS, London Ambulance Service, London Fire Service, Metropolitan Police and Armed Forces as well as teachers, social workers





and carers from the Tri-Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, Westminster and Kensington & Chelsea. Employees are eligible for half price or two-for-one tickets for all of our 2022 Season productions.

For more information visit [www.operahollandpark.com](http://www.operahollandpark.com)

*ENDS*

### **Notes to Editors**

#### **Images and other media**

A short trailer introducing the theatre for 2022 can be accessed [here](#).

This year's promotional artwork by illustrator Lucy Sharp can be downloaded [here](#).

#### **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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