

PREMIERE OF ROSSINI OPERA, LIVE SHOW RELAYS AND THE FIRST COMMUNITY OPERA

Submitted by: Clare Adams Publicity

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Garsington Opera's third season in its award winning Opera Pavilion on the spectacular Wormsley Estate, features the UK premiere of Rossini's tragic drama *Maometto secondo*, Mozart's masterpiece, *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* and Humperdinck's magical *Hänsel und Gretel*. The expanded season, with three extra performances, runs from 7 June - 20 July, and also includes two show screen relays of *Hänsel und Gretel* and *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* to the beach at Skegness and Louth in Lincolnshire. It will culminate in Garsington Opera's first large scale community opera at Wormsley.

Newcomers to the festival this year include the young theatre and opera director Edward Dick (directing the Rossini), and Leipzig's First Kapellmeister William Lacey (conducting the Mozart), while 2013 sees the return of a number of singers, conductors, directors and designers that have helped build the company's reputation. Garsington Opera continues its policy of seeking out talented young principal singers, some making their UK debut, to work alongside more established artists. The distinguished Garsington Opera Orchestra, many of whom have been with the company since its early days, will be joined by the Garsington Opera Chorus.

MAOMETTO SECONDO

Arguably Rossini's most ambitious and radical work, *Maometto secondo*, set in Venice, tells the story of an impossible love, and struggles between the Christian and Islamic World. We welcome back two major interpreters of Rossini's music to lead these performances, conductor David Parry and tenor Paul Nilon (Paolo Erisso). Bass-baritone Darren Jeffery sings the title role and the pivotal role of Anna is sung by the young Welsh soprano Siân Davies, making her UK debut, having trained in the US and recently made her New York City Opera debut. Caitlin Hulcup (Calbo), Christopher Diffey (Selimo) and Richard Dowling (Condulmiero) complete the cast. Edward Dick, whose work includes the acclaimed Aldeburgh production of *The Rape of Lucrezia* and Tarik O'Reagan's *Heart of Darkness*, directs with designs by Robert Innes Hopkins.

HÄNSEL UND GRETEL

Wormsley's woodland setting provides the perfect backdrop for Humperdinck's folk tale *Hänsel und Gretel*. Rising Irish star Anna Devin sings *Hänsel* and Claudia Huckle *Gretel*. The well-known William Dazeley sings the role of Father, Susan Bickley tackles the fiendishly challenging role of The Witch, Yvonne Howard sings Mother and Ruth Jenkins is Dew Fairy. The cast includes a children's chorus of eighteen from Trinity Boys School, Croydon. The team responsible for many Garsington Opera triumphants, Martin André (conductor), Olivia Fuchs (director) and Niki Turner (designer), return.

DIE ENTFUHRUNG AUS DEM SERAIL

Mozart's *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* tells the story of a besotted man who discovers that love is the one thing that money can't buy. The production features Norman Reinhardt (Belmonte) making his UK debut, joined by the Texan soprano Rebecca Nelsen (Konstanze), who in 2010 stepped in to the lead role of

Il turco in Italia at short notice to great acclaim, Matthew Rose who made his world stage debut at Garsington Opera in 2003 sings Osmin and Mark Wilde Pedrillo. Swedish soprano Susanna Andersson (Blonde) completes the cast. Daniel Slater returns to direct, having brought a thrilling contemporary edge to the 2012 production of Don Giovanni and Francis O'Connor is the designer. Making his Garsington Opera debut is conductor William Lacey who is First Kapellmeister at Leipzig Opera, a position once held by Gustav Mahler.

COMMUNITY OPERA ROAD RAGE

Garsington Opera's first community opera will have over 180 people on stage, ranging from very young school children to senior citizens drawn from the local community. They will work alongside professional opera singers, musicians from the Southbank Sinfonia, directors, designers, choreographers, stage managers and technicians. Richard Stilgoe, co-writer of Starlight Express and Cats, brings his wit and political satire to a quirky script with protest at its core. Together with composer Orlando Gough's fast moving and rhythmic score, the commission promises to be lively funny and captivating. This is Garsington Opera's first commission.

GARSINGTON OPERA AT WORMSLEY

The award winning Opera Pavilion with superb acoustics is enhanced by natural light which floods the auditorium, fading as night sets in. Nestling in the deer park of the quintessentially English Getty family estate it is designed to complement the outstandingly beautiful surrounding landscape. The Opera Pavilion, now equipped with additional heating, is an idyllic setting in which to experience opera performances of the highest quality. This magnificent location in the Chiltern Hills, on the border of Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire, is just an hour from central London by car and as little as 25 minutes by train to the nearest station at High Wycombe. A dedicated bus meets a train to bring passengers to and from the Wormsley estate.

THE EVENING

Performances start in the early evening and there is a long dinner interval when audiences can picnic or dine in the restaurant overlooking the famous cricket pitch with catering provided by Jamie Oliver's Fabulous Feasts. Audience members may arrive from 3.30pm to enjoy the setting, take a free vintage shuttle bus from the cricket pavilion to the attractive 18th century Walled Garden, set up picnics or meet friends for pre-performance tea or champagne.

PUBLIC BOOKING OPENS 15 APRIL 2013 Tel: 01865 361636 www.garsingtonopera.org
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