

PRESS RELEASE
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Investec Opera Holland Park announces 2018 season



- Four new productions
- First co-production with Scottish Opera
- Introduction of a schools matinee
- Royal Ballet School returns

Investec Opera Holland Park's 2018 season will include four brand new productions across around 30 performances from June to late July. Precise dates will be announced soon.

Verdi's ***La traviata*** returns to OHP after a decade's gap and Mozart's ***Così fan tutte*** returns after six years. ***Ariadne auf Naxos*** will be the first opera by Richard Strauss that OHP has ever staged, in a co-production with Scottish Opera. The season's Italian rarity will be Mascagni's ***Isabeau***. All are new productions.

Ariadne auf Naxos will be OHP's second co-production, following the success of *La Cenerentola* with Danish National Opera in 2016. Performances will be given in Scotland in February and March 2018 before the production moves to OHP in July 2018. The conductor for both houses will be Brad Cohen, who last appeared at OHP in 2015 in *Flight*. OHP favourite Jennifer France returns as Zerbinetta, the Prima Donna/Ariadne will be sung by Mardi Byers and the Tenor/Bacchus by Kor-Jan Dusseljee. Stephen Gadd will sing the role of Music Master at OHP and the director and designer Antony McDonald makes his OHP debut.

A new production of *La traviata* will be directed by Rodula Gaitanou and designed by International Opera Awards nominee Cordelia Chisholm, who last worked together at OHP on *The Queen of Spades* in 2016. Making her role debut as Violetta will be Lauren Fagan (Donna Anna at OHP in *Don Giovanni*, 2017).

Almost 1,000 young people from across London will have the chance to discover opera in a special Schools Matinee of *La traviata*.

Così fan tutte sees the return to OHP of Sarah Tynan in the role of Despina, Kitty Whately as Dorabella and Nicholas Lester as Guglielmo.

OHP has a long tradition of exploring rare Italian operas from the late Italian period and in 2018 adds Mascagni's *Isabeau* to its repertoire. Known almost solely for *Cavalleria rusticana*, OHP dispelled the myth that Mascagni is a one-hit wonder with the sell-out production of *Iris* in 2016. The principal tenor role of Folco will be performed by David Butt Philip. *Isabeau's* librettist was Luigi Illica, Mascagni's collaborator on *Iris*, and it draws upon similar richly scored Wagnerian musical influences as that opera. The work – a take on the Lady Godiva story - premiered in 1911 and was Mascagni's attempt to revive the romanticism of Italian opera.

OHP is delighted to be welcoming back The Royal Ballet School for their end-of-year, Summer Performances in 2018. These four performances offer a rare opportunity to glimpse the next generation of aspiring young ballet dancers.

The 2018 season will once again be sponsored by Investec Wealth & Investment, to which OHP is extremely grateful for ongoing sponsorship until October 2019. Investec's generosity enables productions of the highest quality as well as innovative schemes to widen access to opera, via the *Inspire* programme.

Opera Holland Park's 2018 season will run from June and tickets will be available from January 2018. For further information about this year's season and to buy tickets, please visit [**www.operahollandpark.com**](http://www.operahollandpark.com).

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