



## PRESS RELEASE

**Embargoed until 23 October 2017**

### **Investec Opera Holland Park announces casts for 2018 Season**

Investec Opera Holland Park's 2018 casts will feature an exciting mix of longstanding Opera Holland Park (OHP) performers, house debuts from established artists, and rising stars, across four brand new productions and 31 performances (28 of which are public). These principals are joined by the Opera Holland Park Chorus and City of London Sinfonia, which celebrates a 15-year partnership with OHP in 2018.

Verdi's ***La traviata***, returning to OHP after over a decade's gap, opens the 2018 Season on 29 May, with a cast of predominantly familiar OHP faces. Lauren Fagan, who made her debut as Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni* in 2017, returns as Violetta and her lover Alfredo is played by Matteo Desole, making his OHP debut. The creative team are also established OHP names. Following *La rondine* last year, Matthew Kofi Waldren returns to conduct. Rodula Gaitanou, Cordelia Chisholm and Simon Corder, who last worked together at OHP on *The Queen of Spades* in 2016, take the roles of director, designer and lighting designer respectively. This production is sponsored by Viking Cruises.

Opening on 31 May, Mozart's ***Così fan tutte*** makes a welcome reappearance at OHP after six years, in another new production. Eleanor Dennis makes her OHP debut as Fiordiligi and Peter Coleman-Wright as Don Alfonso. Four other principals return: Sarah Tynan as Despina, Kitty Whately as Dorabella, Nicholas Lester as Guglielmo, and Nick Pritchard (an OHP Young Artists Scheme alumnus) as Ferrando. The creative forces of conductor Dane Lam and director Oliver Platt reunite, having worked together most recently on the 2017 production of *Don Giovanni*. Alyson Cummins, who designed the sparkling 2017 production of *Zazà*, returns.

In 2018, OHP stages its first ever Richard Strauss opera, a co-production with Scottish Opera. Performances of ***Ariadne auf Naxos*** will be given in Scotland in March and April 2018 before the production moves to OHP in July. Mardi Byers and Kor-Jan Dusseljee make OHP debuts as the Prima Donna/Ariadne and The Tenor/Bacchus respectively, while OHP favourite Jennifer France returns as Zerbinetta. There are further house debuts from Alex Otterburn, playing Arlecchino; Daniel Norman as Scaramuccio; Elgan Llyr Thomas as Brighella; and John Molloy as Truffaldino. Stephen Gadd takes on his second production of OHP's 2018 Season, in the role of The Music Teacher, and the voice of classical music on BBC Radio Scotland, Jamie MacDougall, plays The Dancing Master. The actress and author Eleanor Bron, who plays Carol Tregorran in *The Archers*, makes her debut on the OHP stage as The Major Domo. The conductor will be Brad Cohen, who last appeared at OHP in 2015 for *Flight*. Antony McDonald makes his OHP debut as both director and designer, with Wolfgang Göbbel as lighting designer and Lucy Burge as choreographer.

OHP continues its tradition of championing rare late Italian opera in 2018, adding Mascagni's **Isabeau** to its repertoire. OHP dispelled the myth that Mascagni is a one-hit wonder with the sell-out production of *Iris* in 2016 and previous productions of *L'amico Fritz* and *Zanetto*. Anne Sophie Duprels, who wowed audiences with her portrayal of Iris in 2016 and Zazà in 2017, returns in the title role. David Butt Philip returns to OHP in the role of Folco, having sung in the chorus in 2009 and since become one of the UK's leading tenors. King Raimondo will be sung by Mikhail Svetlov, who appeared in *Kát'a Kabanová* last summer; with George von Bergen returning to OHP as Cornelius, and Ermytrude and Ermyngarde played by Nadine Benjamin and Joanna Marie Skillett respectively. Fiona Kimm is Giglietta, Oliver Brignall sings Il cavalier Faidit and Thomas Humphreys is L'araldo maggiore. The director Martin Lloyd-Evans and designer takis reunite, having collaborated on the 2017 production of *La rondine* and the 2016 production of *Die Fledermaus*. Francesco Cilluffo conducts, making his OHP debut.

Almost 1,000 young people from the borough and across London will have the chance to discover opera in a special **Schools' Matinee** of *La traviata* on 13 June. It will give students in years 6 to 9 the opportunity to explore and experience an extraordinary professional opera with supporting pre-performance workshops and educational resource packs. Tickets cost just £5 per student, and will go on sale on 31 October 2017.

OHP is delighted to be welcoming back **The Royal Ballet School** for four Summer Performances at the end of June. There will be a chance to see some of the opera world's rising stars in the prestigious Young Artists Performance of *La traviata* on 11 June. The cast will be announced in January.

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

Investec Opera Holland Park's 2018 Season will run from 29 May to 28 July. Tickets will be available from January. For further information please visit [www.operahollandpark.com](http://www.operahollandpark.com).

## **Investec Opera Holland Park 2018**

29 May – 28 July

### ***La traviata*** by Giuseppe Verdi

New Production

29 May, 1, 5, 7, 9, 11 (Young Artists), 15, 17 (matinee at 2pm), 21, 23  
June 2018 at 7.30pm

**£80/£76/£65/£55/£20 (INSPIRE)**

Young Artists Performance: **£35/£30/£26/£23/£20 (INSPIRE)**

*La traviata* is supported by Viking Cruises

*Violetta*

*Alfredo*

*Alfredo* (17 and 21 June)

*Giorgio Germont*

*Flora*

*Annina*

*Gastone*

*Barone Douphol*

*Marchese d'Obigny*

*Dottore Grenvil*

Lauren Fagan

Matteo Desole

Stephen Aviss

Stephen Gadd

Laura Woods

Ellie Edmonds

Charne Rochford

Nicholas Garrett

David Stephenson

Henry Grant Kerswell

*Conductor*

*Director*

*Designer*

*Lighting Designer*

Matthew Kofi Waldren

Rodula Gaitanou

Cordelia Chisholm

Simon Corder

### ***Così fan tutte*** by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

New Production

31 May, 2, 6, 8, 14, 16, 20, 22 June 2018 at 7.15pm

**£80/£76/£65/£55/£20 (INSPIRE)**

*Fiordiligi*

*Dorabella*

*Guglielmo*

*Ferrando*

*Despina*

*Don Alfonso*

Eleanor Dennis

Kitty Whately

Nicholas Lester

Nick Pritchard

Sarah Tynan

Peter Coleman-Wright

*Conductor*

*Director*

*Designer*

Dane Lam

Oliver Platt

Alyson Cummins

**Isabeau** by Pietro Mascagni  
New Production  
14, 18, 20, 26, 28 July 2018 at 7.30pm  
**£76/£70/£59/£50/£20 (INSPIRE)**

*Isabeau*  
*King Raimondo*  
*Folco*  
*Cornelius*  
*Ermyntrude*  
*Ermyngarde*  
*Giglietta*  
*Il cavalier Faidit*  
*L'araldo maggiore*

Anne Sophie Duprels  
Mikhail Svetlov  
David Butt Philip  
George von Bergen  
Nadine Benjamin  
Joanna Marie Skillett  
Fiona Kimm  
Oliver Brignall  
Thomas Humphreys

*Conductor*  
*Director*  
*Designer*

Francesco Cilluffo  
Martin Lloyd-Evans  
takis

**Ariadne auf Naxos** by Richard Strauss  
New co-production with Scottish Opera  
17, 19, 21, 25, 27 July 2018 at 7.30pm  
**£76/£70/£59/£50/£20 (INSPIRE)**

*The Prima Donna/Ariadne*  
*The Tenor/Bacchus*  
*Zerbinetta*  
*Arlecchino*  
*Scaramuccio*  
*Truffaldino*  
*Brighella*  
*The Major Domo*  
*The Music Teacher*  
*The Composer*  
*The Dancing Master*  
*A Wigmaker*  
*A Lackey*  
*An Officer*  
*Naiad*  
*Dryad*  
*Echo*

Mardi Byers  
Kor-Jan Dusseljee  
Jennifer France  
Alex Otterburn  
Daniel Norman  
John Molloy  
Elgan Llyr Thomas  
Eleanor Bron  
Stephen Gadd  
Emily Edmonds  
Jamie MacDougall  
Thomas Humphreys  
Trevor Bowes  
Oliver Brignall  
Elizabeth Cragg  
Laura Zigmantaite  
Lucy Hall

*Conductor*  
*Director*  
*Designer*  
*Lighting Designer*  
*Choreographer*

Brad Cohen  
Antony McDonald  
Antony McDonald  
Wolfgang Göbbel  
Lucy Burge

## **The Royal Ballet School: Summer Performances**

28 June at 7pm

29 June at 7pm

Matinee 30 June at 2pm

30 June at 7pm

**£35/£30/£25/£20/£15**

Monday 12 March, 10am – RBS Family priority booking opens

Monday 19 March, 10am – RBS Friends priority booking opens

Monday 26 March, 10am – RBS General Booking opens

### **Notes to Editors**

#### 2018 Season booking dates

Monday 15 January, 10am – Founder and Benefactor priority booking

Monday 22 January, 10am – Ambassador priority booking

Monday 29 January, 10am – Envoy priority booking

Monday 5 February, 10am – Friends and Members priority booking

Monday 12 February, 10am – General booking

Monday 9 April, 10am – INSPIRE £20 tickets booking

Monday 30 April, 1pm – In person booking at the Opera Holland Park Theatre

#### Booking methods

Online: <https://bookings.operahollandpark.com/>

Telephone: 0300 999 1000

In person at the Box Office, from Monday 30 April 2018, 1pm

#### INSPIRE ticket scheme

£20 INSPIRE tickets: booking (online only) from Monday 9 April, 10am. These are available to all, with a limit of two per production and four per season for each individual.

#### Schools' Matinee: Wednesday 13 June 2018

Tickets (including resource pack) from £5 per person

Workshops for 35 people (including performance tickets) from £400

Booking opens on 31 October 2017

Contact: [inspire@operahollandpark.com](mailto:inspire@operahollandpark.com) or 020 3846 6222

More information: <http://www.operahollandpark.com/schoolsmatinee/>

#### Travelling to Opera Holland Park

Address: Holland Park, W8 6LU

Nearest station: Holland Park. Many others are also close - Kensington High Street (10 minutes' walk), Kensington Olympia (15 minutes' walk), Notting Hill Gate (16 minutes' walk) and Earl's Court (18 minutes' walk). Santander Cycle sites are situated at the Ilchester Place gates and Duchess of Bedford's Walk gates to Holland Park.

Buses: 9, 10, 27, 28, 49, 328, C1 (Kensington High Street) and 31, 94, 148, 228 (Holland Park)

**Contact for further information and pictures**

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