



Buxton  
International  
Festival

## CONDUCTED BY ADRIAN KELLY

THE  
MICHAEL BISHOP  
FOUNDATION



Colwinston

**Longcliffe**  
CALCIUM CARBONATES



# HAMLET

**Ambroise Thomas (1811–1896)**

Libretto by Michel Carré and Jules Barbier

**A Buxton International Festival production, featuring the Orchestra of Opera North**

Based on the 1847 adaptation of Shakespeare's *Hamlet* by Alexandre Dumas père

First performed on 9 March 1868 at The Paris Opera, Paris, France

Sung in French with English side-titles

## DATES AND TIMES

<b>Saturday 12 July</b>	7pm–10.05pm
<b>Wednesday 16 July</b>	7pm–10.05pm
<b>Sunday 20 July</b>	3pm–6.05pm
<b>Tuesday 22 July</b>	7pm–10.05pm

## VENUE

**Buxton Opera House**

## DURATION

**3 hours and 5 minutes**, including a 20-minute interval

**Note:** Please note the 7pm start, rather than the traditional 7.15pm.

## OPERA TALKS

<b>Saturday 12 July</b>	5.45pm–6.15pm
<b>Wednesday 16 July</b>	5.45pm–6.15pm
<b>Sunday 20 July</b>	1.45pm–2.15pm
<b>Tuesday 22 July</b>	5.45pm–6.15pm

 **Buxton Opera House**

## CREATIVES

Conductor  
Chorus Master and Assistant Conductor  
Director  
Assistant Director  
Designer  
Lighting Designer  
Repetiteur

**Adrian Kelly**

**Frederick Brown**  
**Jack Furness**  
**Oscar Simms**  
**Sami Fendall**  
**Jake Wiltshire**  
**Erika Gundesen**

## CAST

Claudius, King of Denmark  
Gertrude, Queen of Denmark  
Hamlet, Prince of Denmark  
Polonius, court chancellor  
Ophélie, daughter of Polonius  
Laërte, son of Polonius  
Marcellus, friend of Hamlet  
Horatio, friend of Hamlet  
Ghost of the late King Hamlet  
First gravedigger  
Second gravedigger

**Alastair Miles**  
**Allison Cook**  
**Gregory Feldmann**  
**Richard Woodall**  
**Yewon Han**  
**Joshua Baxter**  
**Tylor Lamani**  
**Dan D'Souza**  
**Per Bach Nissen**  
**John Ieuan Jones**  
**James Liu**

## CHORUS

Soprano

**Hannah Andrusier\*, Kitty Casey\*, Chloé Hare-Jones, Julia Mariko, Roberta Philip, Jessica Hopkins, Rebecca Anderson, Beca Davies, Jemima Gray\*, Danielle Mahaillet, Alexandra Meier, Daisy Mitchell\*, Kristen Gregory\*, Tylor Lamani, James Liu, Aidan McCusker\*, Conor Prendiville, Harun Tekin, Ross Cumming, Alex Gibb\*, John Ieuan Jones, Alex Riddell\*, Owain Rowlands, Richard Woodall**

Mezzo-soprano

Tenor

Bass

\* Members of the Young Artists Programme

## ORCHESTRA

<b>Violin I</b>	Katie Stillman, Byron Parish, Tamsin Symons, Claire Osborne, Brian Reilly, Susannah Simmons, Anthony Banks
<b>Violin II</b>	Katie New, Oliver Bailey, Helen Grieg/Jacqueline Cima, Alison Dixon, Tom Greed
<b>Viola</b>	David Aspin, Lourenco Macedo Sampaio, Anne Trygstad, Vince Parsonage
<b>Cello</b>	Dan Bull, Lydia Dobson, Damion Browne
<b>Double bass</b>	Claire Sadler
<b>Flute</b>	Luke O'Toole, Sarah Whewell
<b>Oboe</b>	Richard Hewitt, Cathy Lowe
<b>Clarinet</b>	Oliver Casanovas Nuevo, Andrew Mason
<b>Bassoon</b>	Adam MacKenzie, David Baker
<b>Horn</b>	Alexander Hamilton, John Pratt, Emily Douglas, Sam Yates
<b>Trumpet</b>	David Hooper, Jim Bulger
<b>Trombone</b>	Blair Sinclair, Chris Gomersall
<b>Bass Trombone</b>	Christian Jones
<b>Tuba</b>	Brian Kingsley
<b>Timpani</b>	Mark Wagstaff
<b>Percussion</b>	Tom Pritchard/Paddy Davies, Michael Harper, John Melbourne
<b>Harp</b>	Céline Saout

The off-stage music will be played by members of the newly formed Buxton International Festival Orchestra.



# SYNOPSIS

## Act I

The King of Denmark has died and the succession has passed to his brother Claudius rather than his son Hamlet. Gertrude, widow of the old King and mother to Hamlet, is crowned for the second time by her new husband Claudius. Hamlet is lamenting how quickly Gertrude has remarried when Ophélie arrives, questioning him about his decision to leave court. Hamlet confesses that he still loves her and will not leave. He then promises her brother Laërte that he will look after Ophélie while Laërte is in Norway. As midnight approaches, Hamlet meets Horatio and Marcellus on the battlements, who report their previous sighting of the ghost of the late King. Midnight strikes, and the ghost appears again, telling Hamlet that Claudius killed his father, and exhorting him to take revenge on Claudius whilst sparing Gertrude.

## Act II

Ophélie wonders why Hamlet has become so cold towards her. Gertrude approaches and convinces Ophélie that Hamlet still loves her. Claudius and Gertrude speculate as to whether Hamlet has discovered their crime. Hamlet announces that he has ordered a theatrical presentation that evening, which reassures Claudius that the Prince knows nothing.

Hamlet instructs the players that they will present 'The Murder of Gonzague', which deliberately bears a close similarity to the crimes revealed to Hamlet by the ghost. At the play that evening, the King reacts strongly to the play, convincing Hamlet of his guilt. Feigning madness, Hamlet denounces Claudius, accusing him of murder.

## Act III

Alone in Gertrude's apartment, Hamlet is disturbed by the arrival of Claudius, who prays in remorse for the murder of his brother. Catching a glimpse of Hamlet, Claudius thinks he has seen the spectre of the late King. Polonius, Ophélie's father, arrives to reassure the King, but their conversation convinces the listening Hamlet that Polonius was an accomplice to the murder.

Ophélie and Gertrude enter, and attempt to convince Hamlet to marry Ophélie. Now knowing about Polonius' actions, Hamlet cannot bring himself to marry the daughter of someone he must kill. The rejected Ophélie leaves mother and son alone. Hamlet ferociously questions Gertrude, attempting to force her to confess. The Ghost appears to Hamlet and unseen by Gertrude, reminds Hamlet not to carry out vengeance on his mother.

## Act IV

Beside a lake in the countryside, Ophélie appears. She has gone mad, believing herself married to Prince Hamlet.

## Act V

A pair of gravediggers are at work but cannot tell Hamlet whose grave they are digging. Hamlet is on the run from assassins, and does not yet know that Ophélie has died. Laërte arrives, consumed with anger at Hamlet, and challenges Hamlet to a duel. Hamlet is wounded.

A funeral cortege interrupts them, which is eventually revealed to be Ophélie's. Whilst Hamlet is still coming to terms with her death, the Ghost appears and galvanises Hamlet to denounce and kill Claudius. Hamlet is proclaimed King of Denmark.





## Adrian Kelly

Conductor

Adrian studied at the University of Cambridge and the Royal Northern College of Music, was a member of the Young Artists Programme at the Royal Opera House and then became coach at the Hamburg State Opera. From 2010–2019 he was first Kapellmeister and then Music Director at the Salzburg Landestheater. Noteworthy productions in Salzburg include Krenek's *Jonny spielt auf*, Verdi's *Rigoletto*, Massenet's

*Werther* and a cycle of Mozart's Da Ponte operas. He has been Artistic Director of Buxton International Festival since 2019, and Head of the International Opera Studio at Zurich Opera since the start of the 2020/2021 season. In Zurich he has conducted performances of Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, Donizetti's *Viva la mamma*, and Rihm's *Jakob Lenz*.



## Frederick Brown

Chorus Master and Assistant Conductor

Frederick Brown is a pianist and conductor from Cornwall. He is Chorus Master and a staff conductor at Welsh National Opera, for whom he has conducted performances of Will Todd's *Alys in Wonderland*, Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, *Don Giovanni*, *Così fan Tutte* and *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Verdi's *La Traviata* and Rossini's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, as well as gala concerts and

concerts for children. He previously worked as a répétiteur at the Hamburg Staatsoper and has also worked as assistant conductor for Iford Arts Festival (*La Traviata*, 2013) and Buxton International Festival (*Lucio Silla*, 2017). He trained at the University of Cambridge, the Royal Academy of Music and the National Opera Studio.



## Jack Furness

Director

Jack Furness, founder and Artistic Director of Shadwell Opera, studied music at Cambridge University. In the 2015–16 season he was an Emerging Artist Director for Scottish Opera, after which he assisted directors such as Sir David McVicar, Laurent Pelly, Kasper Holten and Robert Carsen at the Royal Opera House. This season includes productions of *Hansel and Gretel* (Royal Academy of Music), and *The Queen of Spades* (Garsington Opera). Jack returns to the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden as the revival director of *Turandot*.

Recent directing credits include *Candide* (Scottish Opera); *Acis, Galatea e Polifemo* (London Handel Festival); *Faust* (Irish National Opera); *Rusalka* (Garsington Opera, Edinburgh International Festival); *Don Giovanni* (Nevill Holt Opera); *Gianni Schicchi* (Copenhagen Opera Festival); *Dido and Aeneas* (Royal Academy of Music); and for Shadwell Opera several productions including Oliver Knussen's *Where the Wild Things Are* (Alexandra Palace Theatre and Mariinsky Concert Hall, St Petersburg).



## Oscar Simms

Assistant Director

Oscar is a young British director and facilitator. Since graduating with a First Class degree in Music from the University of Cambridge, he has assisted directors at the National Opera Studio, London Handel Festival, Waterperry Opera Festival, Royal Academy of Music and Arcola Theatre. He is a Trustee of Music & Theatre For All and is especially interested in opera

produced in community settings. He works regularly with the Pimlico Musical Foundation and in 2023 his production of *Noye's Fludde* brought together 200 children from local primary schools, following in-school workshops connecting Britten's opera to teaching about climate change.



## Sami Fendall

Designer

Sami is an award-winning production designer whose work spans live performance, stage, and screen. In 2019, she was named the overall winner of the National Theatre's Linbury Prize for Stage Design. Her designs for *Hotel*, commissioned by Birmingham Royal Ballet, were shortlisted for the 2021 Fedora Van Cleef & Arpels Prize for Ballet. Recent and upcoming projects include a new ballet for the Paris Opera (2026), a revival of *Brigadoon* at

Regent's Park Open Air Theatre (2025), and a feature film project for Scottish Ballet. In 2024, Sami designed *Ernani* for Buxton International Festival, *Averno* for Stuttgart Ballet, and the musical *CAKE*. Her film work includes the 2023 feature *Catching Dust*, which premiered at the Tribeca and Raindance Film Festivals. Sami studied Stage Design at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.



## Jake Wiltshire

Lighting Designer

Jake designs extensively both in the UK and worldwide. His work has been seen with major opera companies and festivals including The Royal Opera House, Welsh National Opera, New Zealand Opera, Savonlinna Opera Festival, Garsington Opera and St Galler Festspiele. In 2009 he was made an Honorary Associate of

the Royal Academy of Music (HonARAM) and in 2023 he was nominated for a Canadian Dora Mavor Moore Award for outstanding lighting design. Jake has lit several productions for Buxton International Festival, Longborough Festival and Opera Holland Park.







## Erika Gundesen

Repetiteur

Canadian pianist and conductor Erika Gundesen is a graduate of the University of British Columbia and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. She works in opera and theatre in London, England, and is currently assistant music director of the West End production *Operation Mincemeat*. Other recent credits include: *La Bohème*, *L'elisir d'amore* (Longborough); *What Dreams May*

*Come, The Snowmaiden, Blonde Eckbert* (English Touring Opera); *The Lehman Trilogy* (National Theatre); *Turandot*, *Salome*, *Lohengrin*, *Mavra/Pierrot lunaire*, *Seven Deadly Sins/Mahagonny* (Royal Opera House); *Broken Wings* (Charing Cross Theatre); *La donna del lago* (Buxton); *Parade*, *RENT*, *West Side Story* (Vivo d'Arte).



## Alastair Miles

Claudius, King of Denmark (Bass)

Described by The Guardian as 'The finest British bass of his generation', Alastair Miles appears regularly at London's Royal Opera House and in the UK has also sung for English National Opera, Glyndebourne, Grange Park Opera, Scottish Opera and Welsh National Opera. International engagements have taken him to the Metropolitan Opera, New York; the Salzburg Easter and Summer Festivals; the Theater an der Wien; the Wiener Staatsoper; the Flanders Opera; the

Opéra Royal de Wallonie; the Opéra de Lille; the Opéra national de Paris; the Bavarian State Opera; the Deutsche Oper, Berlin; Oper Köln; La Scala, Milan; Teatro Regio Torino; the Dutch National Opera; and the Teatro Real, Madrid. He also appears widely in concert and has made over ninety recordings, including a recital disc of Brahms and Wolf for Signum Classics, as well as a huge variety of operatic repertoire.



## Allison Cook

Gertrude, Queen of Denmark (Mezzo-soprano)

A true Soprano Falcon, Allison Cook is one of today's leading interpreters of 20th century and contemporary repertoire. She created roles such as the Marquise in Francesconi's *Quartett* (Teatro alla Scala, Wiener Festwochen, Teatro Colón Buenos Aires) and Lea in Benêt Casablanca's

*L'enigma de Lea* (the Liceu, Barcelona). Other highlights include Ades' *Powder her face* (New York, La Monnaie in Brussels and Warsaw) and Brunhilda in Ramanati's *Amerika* (Zurich). Future projects include a return to ENO and La Monnaie.



## Gregory Feldmann

Hamlet, Prince of Denmark (Baritone)

Hailed for his 'hearty, luxurious baritone' (Musical America), Gregory Feldmann appears on international opera and recital stages alike. This season he returned to Opernhaus Zürich to make his guest debut as Elviro in Handel's *Serse*, as well as his role debut as Mercutio in Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette*. He was a member of Opernhaus

Zürich's Internationales Opernstudio from 2022-24. A passionate recitalist, Gregory enjoys a 'luminous' collaboration with pianist Nathaniel LaNasa (Oberon's Grove). The prize-winning duo have performed in leading recital venues worldwide, including New York's Carnegie Hall, London's Wigmore Hall, and Paris' Musée d'Orsay.



## Richard Woodall

Polonius (Bass)

Richard studied Performance Arts at Middlesex University and singing at the Guildhall School of Music. He has sung in many productions with English National Opera and Opera North. Other companies include Carl Rosa Opera, Crystal Clear Opera, London Opera Players, Heritage Opera, Opera della Luna, Opera South East, Arcadian

Opera and Pavilion Opera, where his roles have included Leporello *Don Giovanni*, Figaro and Dr Bartolo *The Marriage of Figaro*, Dulcamara *L'Elisir d'Amore*, King Philip *Don Carlos*, Lord Capulet *Romeo and Juliet*, Harvey in Ethel Smyth's *The Wreckers*, and most of the bass-baritone roles in the Gilbert and Sullivan Savoy Operas.



## Yewon Han

Ophélie, daughter of Polonius (Soprano)

Yewon Han won the Tenor Viñas International Singing Competition 2023 in Barcelona (first prize overall) and the Third Prize at the Neue Stimmen Competition 2022. As a member of the International Opera Studio at Opernhaus Zürich (2022-2024), she sung roles including Titania *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Romilda *Serse*; she covered the title role of *Lakmé* and Norina

*Don Pasquale*, and sang Naiade *Ariadne auf Naxos*. Yewon Han studied in South Korea, where she graduated from the College of Music of Seoul National University and in 2021-22 she was a member of the Young Artist Program of Korea National Opera. In 2022 Yewon Han performed the role of Adele *Die Fledermaus* (Tiroler Festspiele Erl.)



## Joshua Baxter

Laërte, son of Polonius (Tenor)

London-born Tenor Joshua Baxter is a graduate of the University of Aberdeen and the Royal Academy of Music, where he earned a Professional Diploma and MA in Performance. Joshua has performed roles such as Luigi *Il Tabarro*, Don José *Carmen*, and Faust *Faust* across the UK and Europe, including with

Glyndebourne and Buxton International Festival. An accomplished oratorio soloist, he has performed works including Verdi's *Requiem* and Handel's *Messiah*. Recent highlights include soloist appearances at York Proms and with the Bolton Symphony Orchestra.



## Tylor Lamani

Marcellus (Tenor)

South African born Tamsanqa Tylor Lamani has performed in South Africa and abroad, including Tamino *The Magic Flute* (UCT), Tabaldo *I Capuletti e I Montecchi* (and cover for ETO), Don Basilio/Curzo *The Marriage of Figaro* and Nemorino *L'elisir d'Amore*, Cavaradossi *Tosca* (Cape Town Opera), Verdi's

*Requiem* and Handel's *Messiah* (Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra), Rinuccio *Gianni Schicchi* (Operatunity), Alfredo *La Traviata* (Barefoot Opera). He was a second prize winner in University of Cape Town's Shock Opera competition.



## Dan D'Souza

Horatio (Baritone)

Anglo-Irish baritone Dan D'Souza made his debut at English National Opera as Belcore *The Elixir of Love* (Autumn 2024) and is now a Harewood Artist, supported by the inaugural Nicholas Folwell Scholarship. During the 2025/2026 season, he will sing Sid *Albert Herring*. Previous engagements include Cirillo *Fedora* and Ibn-Hakia *Iolanta* (If Opera), Trinculo *La Tempesta* (Wexford Festival Opera), Apollo *Apollo e Dafne* (London Handel

Festival), Angelotti *Tosca* (The Grange Festival) and Flemish Deputy *Don Carlo* (Royal Ballet and Opera). Winner of both the Dame Patricia Routledge National English Song Competition and the Royal College of Music Lieder Competition, Dan D'Souza was a laureate for the 2023 Académie Orsay-Royaumont and a prize winner at the 2025 Tenor Viñas Competition.



## Per Bach Nissen

Ghost of the late King Hamlet (Bass)

Danish bass Per Bach Nissen's latest engagements include King René *Iolanta* (Volkoper Vienna and Salzburg State Theatre), Wirt *Der Schatzgräber* (Opera National du Rhin), Hans Foltz *Meistersinger*, Dr. Bartolo *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, Sagrestano *Tosca*, Jeronimus *Maskarade* and Jens Grand *King and Marschall* (The Royal Danish Opera). Wagner roles include Fafner *Das Rheingold* and Siegfried (Frankfurt Opera), Fasolt *Das*

*Rheingold* (Mupa, Budapest) and Pogner *Die Meistersinger* (Hannover State Opera). Per's debut at Bregenzer Festspiele was as Kardinal Camillo *Beatrice Cenci*. In the USA his roles have included Rocco *Fidelio* (Detroit Opera) and Osmin *Abduction from the Seraglio* (Opera Philadelphia). At Komische Oper Berlin he sang Gremin *Eugene Onegin* and at English National Opera Police Chief *Lady Macbeth of Mzensk*.



## John Ieuan Jones

First Gravedigger (Baritone)

Recent operatic roles include Capellio (cover) *I Capuletti e i Montecchi*, Theo *The Vanishing Forrest* (ETO), Papageno *The Magic Flute* (Wild Arts), Maximilian *Candide* (WNO), Guglielmo

*Così fan Tutte* (Opera Cymru) and the lead baritone in *The Butterfly House* (Clonter). Later this year, Ieuan will join Mid Wales Opera in their production of *Trouble in Tahiti*.



## James Liu

Second Gravedigger (Tenor)

James is a British-Chinese tenor who studied at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Recent engagements include Calaf *Turandot* (Opera Makers) and Don Jose *La tragédie de*

*Carmen* (Buxton International Festival). James is a frequent performer with the English National Opera chorus and was a BAME Fellow during the 19/20 and 20/21 seasons.







# BUXTON INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL CHORUS

## Chloé Hare-Jones

*Soprano*

Chloé Hare-Jones' recent engagements include Lauretta *Dr Miracle*, Princess *Sleeping Beauty* Respighi's *La Bella Dormiente Nel Bosco*, Juliet (RWCMD Gala) and Gretel *Hänsel und Gretel* (RWCMD). She was a finalist of the Dunraven Welsh Young singer of the year competition. Recently graduated from the David Seligman Opera school, Chloé is now working as a vocal teacher for CF Music and IMS and is a facilitator and creative enabler for Hijinx and Taking Flight.

## Jessica Hopkins

*Soprano*

Jessica studied music at Clare College, University of Cambridge, and completed her postgraduate training at the RNCM. Recent highlights include First Niece *Peter Grimes* (Cadogan Hall) and joining the chorus in *The Magic Flute* (Opera North). Later this summer, Jessica will appear at the St Endellion Festival in Cornwall, singing Nanetta *Falstaff* and Belinda *Dido and Aeneas*. A former BIF Young Artist and a 2025 James Bowman Young Artist for Vache Baroque, Jessica will join the Opéra national du Rhin for the 2025/26 season as a member of their opera studio.

## Julia Mariko

*Soprano*

Japanese-English soprano Julia Mariko's work includes opera, musical theatre and film. She has performed roles with notable companies including Opera North, Scottish Opera, English Touring Opera, Waterperry Opera, Opera Up Close. She continues to work with ENO as part of their Discover Opera Days.

## Roberta Philip

*Soprano*

Roberta Philip is finalising her Master's at Guildhall School. She was a 2024 British Youth Opera Serena Fenwick artist. Credits include covering Barbarina *The Marriage of Figaro* (English National Opera), performing and walking in London Fashion Week, at the Biennale di Venezia and in choruses at the Royal Albert Hall and Philharmonie de Paris.

## Rebecca Anderson

*Mezzo-soprano*

Rebecca Anderson completed a Masters of Music (2021) and a Postgraduate Diploma (2023) at the Royal Northern College of Music where she also worked as President of the Students' Union 2021-22. She now works across the UK. Recent opera credits include Lady Bertram *Mansfield Park*, Minskwoman *Flight*, and Lapak *The Cunning Little Vixen*.

## Beca Davies

*Mezzo-soprano*

A Welsh National Opera Associate Artist 2023-24, Beca is an alumna of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland where she was a Sheila Osborne Scholar, and King's College London where she attained a first-class honours degree in Music. At Welsh National Opera Beca performed the roles of Beggar Woman *Death in Venice*, Second Conversa *Suor Angelica*, Nina *Ainadamar*, and joined the WNO Orchestra as the mezzo-soprano soloist for A New Year's Celebration, Schools Concerts, and Play Opera LIVE.

## Danielle Mahaillet

*Soprano*

Danielle Mahaillet is a French soprano and a graduate of the Masters programme at The Guildhall School of Music and Drama. In recent years she has received operatic training from companies such as Pegasus Opera Mentoring Programme in partnership with Glyndebourne, and is currently an OperUs Young Artist in Trieste Italy. Danielle has an extensive repertoire, from Massenet to Puccini.

## Alexandra Meier

*Mezzo-soprano*

Described as having a 'mezzo voice of searing power' (The Times), mezzo-soprano Alexandra Meier has performed with a variety of opera companies in the UK. Most recently she worked with English Touring Opera, covering the role of Lel *The Snowmaiden* and Berthe Judith Weir's *Blond Eckbert*. Previously she played Dinah *Trouble in Tahiti* (Grimeborn Festival), Hänsel *Hänsel und Gretel* (HGO), and Angelina *La Cenerentola* (Longhope Opera). Alexandra is a 2025 Opera Prelude Young Artist and is a graduate of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama opera course.





## Tylor Lamani

Tenor

South African born Tamsanqa Tylor Lamani has performed in South Africa and abroad, including Tamino *The Magic Flute* (UCT), Tebaldo *I Capuletti e I Montecchi*, Don Basilio/Curzo *The Marriage of Figaro* and Nemorino *L'elisir d'Amore*, cover Cavaradossi *Tosca* (Cape Town Opera), Verdi's *Requiem* and Handel's *Messiah* (Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra), Rinuccio *Gianni Schicchi* (Operatunity), Alfredo *La Traviata* (Barefoot Opera), Tebaldo cover *I Capuletti e I Montecchi* (English Touring Opera). He was a second prize winner in University of Cape Town's Shock Opera competition.

## James Liu

Tenor

James is a British-Chinese tenor who studied at the Guildhall School. Recent engagements include Calaf *Turandot* (Opera Makers) and Don José *La tragédie de Carmen* (Buxton International Festival). James is a frequent performer with the English National Opera chorus and was a BAME Fellow during the 19/20 and 20/21 season.

## Conor Prendiville

Tenor

Recent highlights for Conor Prendiville include Sciortino *La Ciociara* (Wexford Festival Opera) and joining the Upper Austrian Opera Studio in the Landestheater Linz where he performed Riamund in Kreutzer's *Melusina*, Moser *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* and more. Other credits include Tamino *Die Zauberflöte* (Stadtheater Bad Hall), Beppe *I Pagliacci* (Cork Opera House), Eisenstein *Die Fledermaus* (Merry Opera) and Flute *Midsummer Night's Dream* (Blackwater Valley Opera Festival).

## Harun Tekin

Tenor

Harun Tekin is an English/Turkish tenor from rural Lincolnshire. In May/June 2025, he performed the role of Benedict *Silver Bell* (New Sussex Opera) and played Don Ottavio *Don Giovanni* (Peregrine Orchestra). In June, he performed in The Wigmore Hall and The Salle Cortot in Paris as a part of the Wigmore French Song Exchange.

## Ross Cumming

Baritone

Ross graduated with First Class honours in Music from the University of Aberdeen, an MMus in Performance with Distinction at the Royal Northern College of Music and an MMus in Opera at the Alexander Gibson Opera School. He was a 2023/25 Scottish Opera Emerging Artist and was also on the Buxton Young Artist programme 2021/22. Recent operatic performances with Scottish Opera include Sid Albert Herring, Dr Malatesta *Don Pasquale*, Roger Penistone *A Matter of Misconduct!* (World premiere alongside Opera Holland Park), Marchese d'Obigny *La Traviata* and Fiorello and covering Figaro *The Barber of Seville*.

## John Ieuan Jones

Bass

John Ieuan Jones is a graduate of the Royal Northern College of Music. Recent operatic roles include Capellio (cover) *I Capuletti e I Montecchi* and Theo *The Vanishing Forest* (ETO), Papageno *The Magic Flute* (Wild Arts), Maximilian *Candide* (WNO), Guglielmo *Così fan Tutte* (Opera Cymru) and the lead baritone in *The Butterfly House* (Clonter).

## Owain Rowlands

Baritone

Owain Rowlands is studying at the David Seligman Opera School (Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama) where he has performed Simone *Gianni Schicchi* and Il Re *Sleeping Beauty*. Recently he performed Bottom *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (RWCMD) and Brikbrak *Alcina's Island* (Bampton Classical Opera). He was a finalist in the Sir Bryn Terfel Scholarship competition, a runner up at Llangollen Eisteddfod in the Pendine International Voice of the Future, winner of 'Llais Llwyfan Llanbedd', Dunraven Young Singer of the Year finalist, winner of the London Welsh Young Singer Competition and winner of the W Towyn Roberts Scholarship competition.

## Richard Woodall

Bass

Richard studied Performance Arts at Middlesex University and singing at the Guildhall School of Music. He has sung in many productions with English National Opera and Opera North. Other companies include Carl Rosa Opera, Crystal Clear Opera, London Opera Players, Heritage Opera, Opera della Luna, Opera South East, Arcadian Opera and Pavilion Opera, where his roles have included Leporello *Don Giovanni*, Figaro and Dr Bartolo *The Marriage of Figaro*, Dulcamara *L'elisir d'Amore*, King Philip *Don Carlos*, Lord Capulet *Romeo and Juliet*, Harvey *The Wreckers*, and most of the bass-baritone roles in the Gilbert and Sullivan Savoy Operas.



/ Hannah Andrusier



/ Kitty Casey



/ Jemima Gray



/ Daisy Mitchell



/ Kristen Gregory



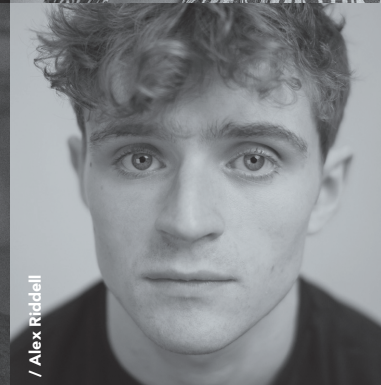
/ Aidan McCusker



/ Alex Gibb



/ Alex Riddell



# BUXTON INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL YOUNG ARTISTS PROGRAMME

## Hannah Andrusier

*Soprano*

Hannah Andrusier is a soprano currently studying at the RNCM under Elizabeth Ritchie, where she holds the Eva Turner Award for Sopranos. She is a Sybil Tutton Opera Award holder this year.

## Kitty Casey

*Soprano*

Kitty Casey is currently studying at The Royal Northern College of Music. She has recently understudied the principal role of Lola *Uprising*, premiering at Glyndebourne. She is the 2024 winner of the Dame Felicity Lott recital prize.

## Jemima Gray

*Mezzo-soprano*

South African-born Jemima is studying for a Masters degree at the Royal Northern College of Music. Jemima has sung the roles of Kate Owen *Wingrave* (RNCM), The Abbess *Suor Angelica* (Berlin Opera Academy) and Attendant *A Trip to the Moon* (Garsington Opera).

## Daisy Mitchell

*Mezzo-soprano*

Daisy is a mezzo-soprano from Staffordshire Moorlands currently studying for a Master of Music at the Royal Northern College of Music under the tutelage of Sam Queen. She is grateful to the Annie Ridyard Scholarship for support of her studies.

## Kristen Gregory

*Tenor*

Kristen Gregory is currently in his first Postgraduate Year at the RNCM. Opera Credits include *Lechmere Owen Wingrave* and *King Ouf L'Etoile*. His studies are supported by the South Square Trust and the Gilbert and Sullivan Society, as well as the Andrew Lloyd Webber Scholarship.

## Aidan McCusker

*Tenor*

Scottish tenor Aidan McCusker is currently studying at the Royal Northern College of Music. Recent roles include Monsieur Triquet *Eugene Onegin*, Don Ottavio *Don Giovanni*, and chorus work with Opera North and Opera Rara.

## Alex Gibb

*Bass*

South African-born Alex recently earned a Masters in Music from the Royal Northern College of Music. His notable roles include Sir Thomas Bertram *Mansfield Park* and Giorgio Germont *La Traviata*. He has also performed with Opera North and the Hallé under Sir Mark Elder.

## Alex Riddell

*Bass*

Alex is a first-year Masters baritone, returning to the RNCM to study with Mark Wildman. He gained his undergraduate degree here, studying with Susan Roper and Peter Wilson. He has received support from the Waverley Fund.