

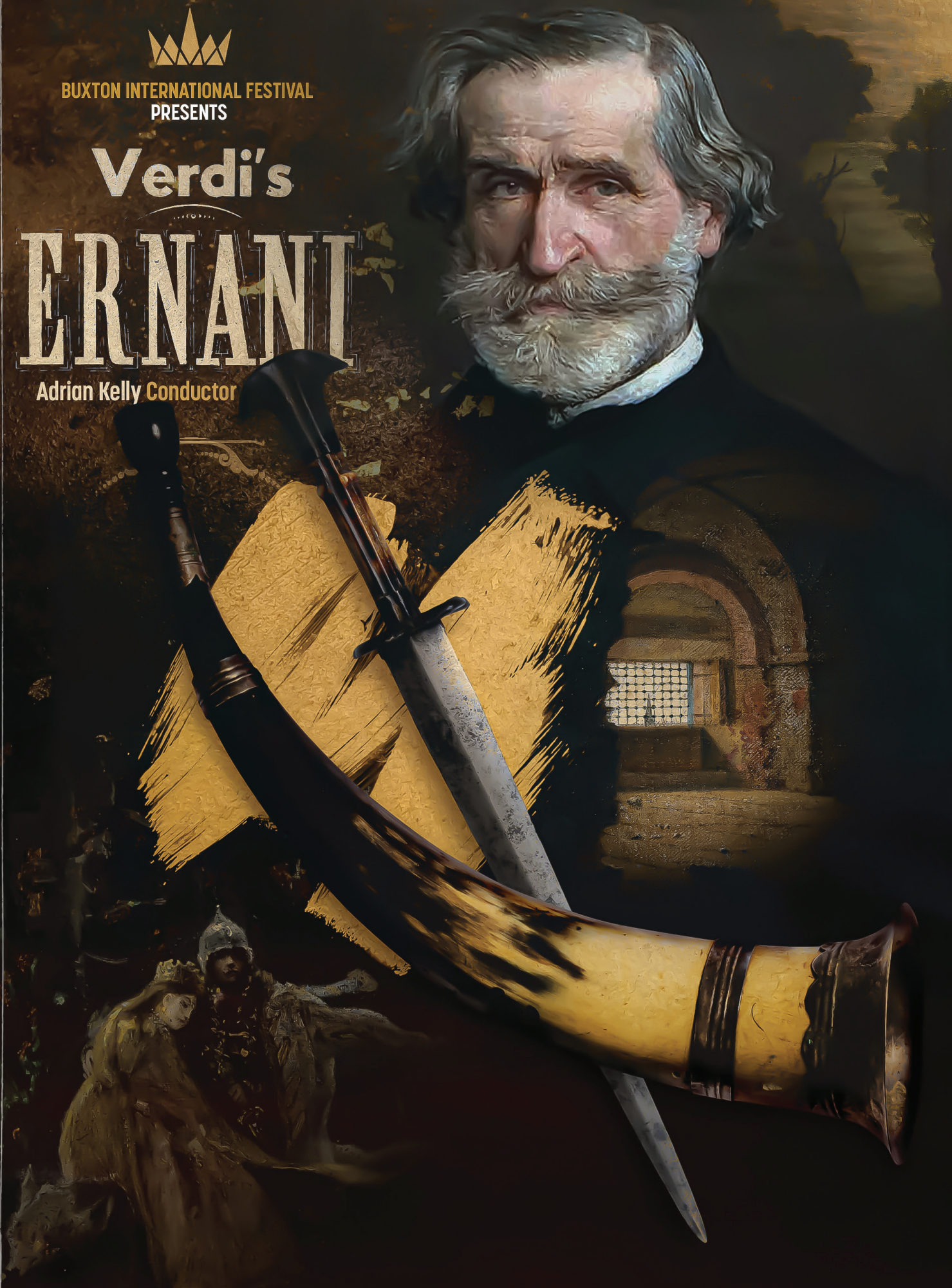


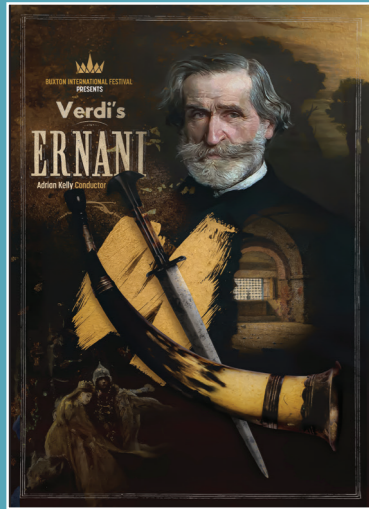
BUXTON INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL  
PRESENTS

Verdi's

# ERNANI

Adrian Kelly Conductor





## ERNANI

Giuseppe Verdi (1813 – 1901)

Libretto by Francesco Maria Piave

A Buxton International Festival Production, featuring The Orchestra of Opera North

Based on the 1830 play *Hernani* by Victor Hugo

Sung in Italian with English side-titles

First performed 9 March 1844, Teatro La Fenice, Venice, Italy

### DATES & TIMES

Saturday 6 July	7.15pm
Wednesday 10 July	7.15pm
Friday 12 July	7.15pm
Sunday 14 July	2pm
Wednesday 17 July	7.15pm

### VENUE

Buxton Opera House

### DURATION

3 hours, including a 20-minute interval

### CREATIVES

Conductor	Adrian Kelly
Director	Jamie Manton
Designer	Sami Fendall
Lighting Designer	DM Wood
Movement Director	Corina Würsch
Assistant Conductor	Toby Hession
Répétiteur	Rebecca Warren

### CAST

Ernani	Roman Arndt
Don Carlo	André Heyboer
Don Ruy Gómez de Silva	Alastair Miles
Elvira	Nadine Benjamin
Giovanna	Jane Burnell
Don Riccardo	Emyr Lloyd Jones
Jago	Theo Perry

### CHORUS

Soprano	Charlotte Baker*, Elizabeth Findon, Kirsty McNaughton*, Anusha Merrin*, Erin Gwyn Rossington
Mezzo-Soprano	Rebecca Anderson, Judy Louie Brown, Helen Maree Cooper, Siân Davies*, Olivia Hamblyn*, Ruby Hendry*
Tenor	Brennan Alleyne*, Joshua Baxter, Jonah Halton, James Liu, Yihui Wang*
Baritone	James Connolly*, Dominic Felts, Hamish Garrity*
Bass	Richard Woodall

\* Members of the Young Artists Programme

### ORCHESTRA

Violin I	Winona Fifield, Byron Parish, Claire Osborne, Tamsin Symons, Brian Reilly, Susannah Simmons, Catherine Landen, Anthony Banks
Violin II	Katherine New, Cristina Ocaña Rosado, Alison Dixon, Jacqueline Cima, Helen Greig
Viola	David Aspin, Lourenço Macedo Sampaio, Anne Trygstad, Clare Gardiner, Vince Parsonage, Katie Jarvis
Cello	Jessica Burroughs, Daniel Bull, Lydia Dobson, Damion Browne
Double Bass	David Johnson, Claire Sadler
Flute	Luke O'Toole, Fiona Colville
Oboe	Richard Hewitt, Catherine Lowe
Clarinet	Oliver Casanovas Nuevo, Andrew Mason
Bass Clarinet	Sarah Masters
Bassoon	Adam Mackenzie, David Baker
Horn	David Tollington, John Pratt, Alexander Hamilton, Sam Yates
Trumpet	David Hooper, Peter Mainwaring
Trombone	Blair Sinclair, Tom Berry
Bass Trombone	Christian Jones
Cimbasso	Brian Kingsley
Timpani	Mark Wagstaff
Percussion	Christopher Bradley, John Melbourne
Harp	Celine Saout

\* The off-stage trumpeters are members of the BIF Young Instrumentalists Programme

## SYNOPSIS

### ACT I: The Bandit

'Ernani' is a nom-de-guerre adopted by a destitute aristocrat, Don Juan. He is the son of the murdered Duke of Segovia who was killed during a civil war on the orders of Don Carlo, King of Spain. Ernani is now in hiding in the mountains of Aragon as the leader of a large rebel group. He tells his men of his love for Donna Elvira who is being forced to marry her elderly uncle, Don Ruy Gómez de Silva. The rebels eagerly set out with Ernani for Silva's castle in a daring raid to rescue her.

But as Elvira waits in her room, she is visited by the King who also declares his love for her. She resists and as he tries to abduct her, she seizes a knife in self-defence. Ernani bursts in and is taunted with insults by the King. As the tension turns to violence, Silva enters and is shocked to find Elvira with two rival suitors for his intended bride. He threatens them both. The King's identity is then revealed and he makes an innocent excuse for his presence, leading Silva to ask for forgiveness. The King dismisses Ernani who leaves vowing revenge.

### ACT II: The Guest

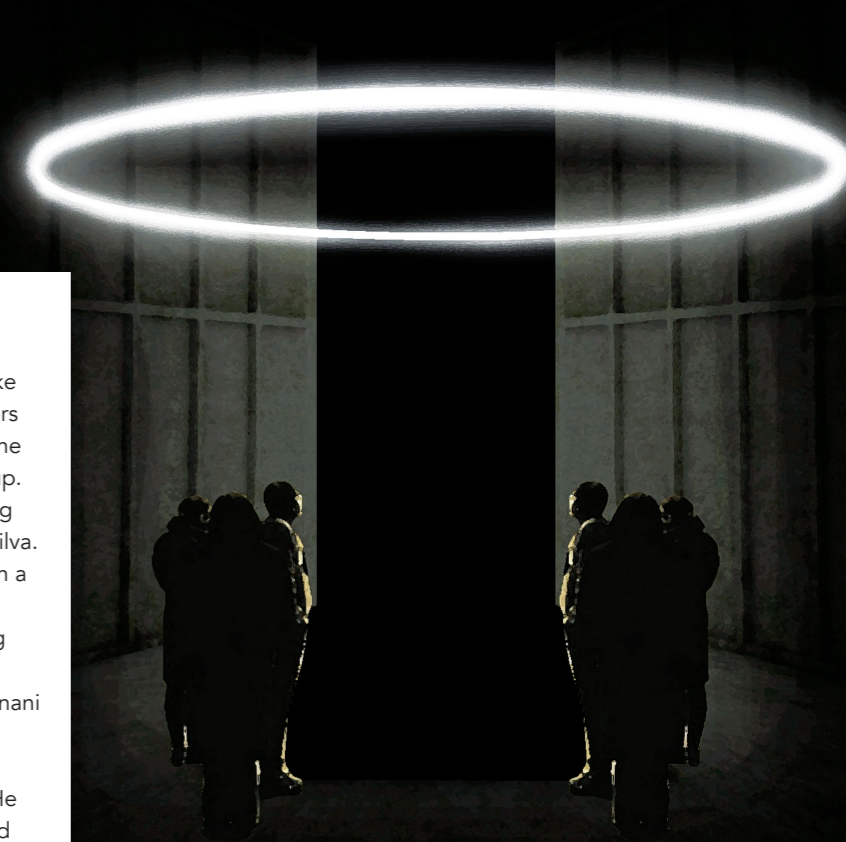
Elvira has been persuaded that Ernani is dead and she has agreed to marry her uncle Silva. As preparations are underway, Ernani arrives disguised as a pilgrim. Elvira enters in her bridal gown and Ernani throws off his disguise, offering his head – which has a price on it – as a wedding gift. Elvira, briefly left alone with her lover, assures him that she would rather kill herself than marry someone else. When Silva returns, he finds the couple embracing but, on the arrival of the King, suppresses his rage and hides Ernani, planning to take revenge on him later. Silva is accused of concealing a criminal but refuses to surrender Ernani and offers his own life as a forfeit. When Elvira enters to ask the King for mercy, he takes her hostage. Silva challenges Ernani to a duel and is astonished when Ernani refuses and reveals that the King is also a suitor for Elvira's hand. The two agree to suspend their quarrel to take vengeance against the King. Once they have done so, Ernani says, his life will be in Silva's hands. As a pledge, he gives Silva a hunting horn: when it is sounded, Ernani will submit to his fate. Silva agrees and calls his men in pursuit of the King.

### ACT III: Clemency

At Charlemagne's tomb in Aachen, the King is waiting to learn the electors' choice of the next Holy Roman Emperor. He reflects on the futility of wealth and power and vows to rule wisely if chosen. A group led by Ernani and Silva has gathered in wait for him and Ernani is chosen as the assassin. When cannon shots announce that the King has been elected Emperor, he emerges and confronts the conspirators ordering that the mob be arrested and the nobles executed. Ernani reveals his identity and claims his right to die with the other noblemen. Elvira again pleads for his life. Addressing himself to the spirit of Charlemagne, the new Emperor pardons the conspirators and agrees to the marriage of Ernani and Elvira.

### ACT IV: The Mask

At his castle in Aragon, Ernani is celebrating his marriage to Elvira. A horn sounds in the distance, announcing Silva who enters demanding that Ernani fulfil the pledge to surrender his life. Ernani pleads for a moment of happiness at the end of his miserable existence. Silva curses him as a coward and silently hands him a dagger. Ernani stabs himself, leaving Elvira in the grips of her uncle.





**ADRIAN KELLY**  
*Conductor*

Adrian Kelly 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 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.



**JAMIE MANTON**  
*Director*

Jamie is twice Olivier Award nominated for his productions of *The Cunning Little Vixen* and *Paul Bunyan* at the English National Opera. As Director: *Eugene Onegin* (BIF), *The Cunning Little Vixen* (Canadian Opera Company, ENO), *The Day After* (ENO), *La Traviata* (Nevill Holt Opera), *No Quarter*, *A Single Act*, *The Norman Conquests Trilogy*,

*Punk Rock* (Duelling Productions), *August: Osage County* (Exeter Northcott). As Associate & Revival Director: *A Christmas Carol* (Broadway/Melbourne/San Francisco/The Old Vic: In Camera/The Old Vic), *King Lear* (Old Vic), *Carmen* (ENO). Upcoming, as director: *Fidelio* (Garsington), *L'infidelta Delusa* (Royal Conservatoire of Scotland), *The Magic Flute* (Royal Academy of Music).



**SAMI FENDALL**  
*Designer*

Sami Fendall is an award-winning production designer who specialises in live performance, stage and screen. In 2019 Sami was the overall winner of the National Theatres award; Linbury Prize for Stage Design. Her designs for *Hotel* commissioned by the Birmingham Royal Ballet were also shortlisted for the 2021 Fedora

Van Cleef & Arpels Prize for Ballet. Recently Sami Art Directed choreographers Jess & Morg's multi-award-winning production of *Coppelia* for Scottish Ballet; designed the feature film *Catching Dust* which was selected and released at Tribeca and Raindance Film Festival; designed the musical *CAKE* directed by Drew McOnie, and a new production for Stuttgart Ballet. Currently, Sami is designing a new feature film for Scottish Ballet.



**DM WOOD**  
*Lighting Designer*

Works include designs for the Royal Opera House, Garsington Opera, Santa Fe Opera, The Norwegian National Opera, Grand Théâtre de Genève, the Stuttgart Ballet, Bayerische Staatsoper, The Royal Danish Opera, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Opera Di Firenze, Gran Teatre del Liceu, Greek National Opera, Northern Ireland Opera, Opéra

National de Lorraine, Opéra Orchestre National Montpellier, Opéra National du Thin and The Bolshoi. Ms Wood received the UK's 2012 Knight of Illumination Opera Award for her design of *Suor Angelica* (Royal Opera House, Covent Garden).



**CORINA WÜRSCH**  
*Movement Director*

Corina Würsch graduated with a BA(Hons) in Contemporary Dance from Trinity Laban Conservatoire for Music and Dance and holds a postgraduate Diploma in Dance Pedagogy from the Royal Academy of Dance. Choreography credits: *The Peripheral* (S1), Costa Coffee advert, Pressant advert, work performed at the London Fashion week as well as

the London Cabaret Club. Staff Director credits: *La traviata* (ENO, 2023), *The Magic Flute* (ENO, 2024). Live performance credits: *Madame Butterfly* (Bregenz Festsspiele, 2023), *Die Zauberflöte* (Royal Opera House, 2019, 2021, 2022; The Grand Teatro Liceu Barcelona, 2022), tours with Deep Emotions Dance company (2016, 2017), *Friends to the Rescue* (Legoland Windsor, 2015) and the London Olympic ceremonies (2012).



**TOBY HESSION**  
*Assistant Conductor*

Toby Hession is a British conductor, composer and pianist, currently serving on the music staff of Scottish Opera, where he was formerly an Emerging Artist. He has conducted performances of *Carmen* and *La Traviata* for Scottish Opera. Other music staff credits include productions at Glyndebourne and Welsh National Opera.



**REBECCA WARREN**  
*Répétiteur*

Rebecca Warren is a répétiteur and collaborative pianist from Ireland. Recent opera credits include *La Ciociara* and *Lalla Roukh* (Wexford Festival Opera), *The Land of Might-Have-Been* (Buxton International Festival and Norwich Theatre), *Aida*, *Madama Butterfly*, *The Deadly World of Opera* and *Die Zauberflöte* (Irish National Opera).



**THE ORCHESTRA OF OPERA NORTH**

The Orchestra of Opera North holds a unique place amongst British orchestras. Universally praised by audiences and critics alike, it is the only ensemble in the country to have a year-round dual role in the opera house and concert hall. In addition to the Company's regular opera seasons, the Orchestra plays a significant part in the major concert series of the region, including working with Kirklees Council to curate the Kirklees Concert Season based in Huddersfield and Dewsbury Town Halls. The Orchestra is committed to nurturing the skills of the musicians of the future and regularly mentors members of the Opera North Youth Orchestra, a pre-professional ensemble for young instrumentalists.



**ROMAN ARNDT**  
*Ernani*

Roman Arndt was born in Omsk, Siberia, and lives in St Petersburg. He took part in the 2019 BBC Cardiff Singer of the World and was a finalist in the Song Prize. Other prizes include the José Carreras Grand Prix (2018) and the VII International Competition for Opera Singers 'St Petersburg' I. Bogacheva (2015). As a company soloist with St Petersburg

Zazerkalie Theatre roles have included: Rodolfo *La Bohème*, Ferrando, Lensky *Eugene Onegin*, Count Vaudémont *Iolanta* and Lykov *The Tsar's Bride*. For the Mariinsky Theatre he has sung Tamino *Die Zauberflöte*, Alberg Gregor *The Makropulos Case* and Walther *Tannhäuser*. In 2021 he sang the title role *The Tales of Hoffmann* on tour with the Syktyvkar Opera and Ballet Theatre, Komi Republic, and in 2022 he made his UK operatic debut as the Duke of Mantua *Rigoletto* for Opera North. In concert he has toured France, Switzerland, Germany, Belgium and the USA.



**ANDRÉ HEYBOER**  
*Don Carlo*

Since his debut at the Capitole of Toulouse in 2005, André Heyboer has sung in Paris, Hong Kong, Monte-Carlo, Amsterdam, São Paulo, Munich, Vienna, Valencia, and Salzburg under the baton of Marco Armiliato, Roberto Abbado, Fabio Carminati, Plácido Domingo, Dan Ettinger, Valery Gergiev, Alain Guingal, Daniel Oren, Carlo Rizzi,

Ulf Schirmer and Pinchas Steinberg. With his warm voice and splendid high notes, he excels on stage in roles such as Tonio *Pagliacci*, Sharpless *Madama Butterfly*, Athanael *Thaïs*, Zurga *Les Pêcheurs de Perles*, The High Priest *Samson and Dalila*, Germont *La Traviata*, Iago *Otello*, Nabucco and Macbeth. He recorded Les Bayadères de Catel and Cinq-Mars de Gounod for the Palazetto Bru Zane label, *La Métamorphose* by Levinas (Grand Prix of the Charles Cros Academy in 2012 and the Prize of the Lyric Academy of the disc).



**ALASTAIR MILES**  
*Don Ruy Gómez de Silva*

Described by The Guardian as 'The finest British bass of his generation', Alastair Miles appears regularly at London's Royal Opera House, most recently as Le Bailli *Werther*, and has sung for English National Opera, Glyndebourne Festival Opera, Grange Park Opera, Scottish Opera and Welsh National Opera. His repertoire includes the title

role in Boïto's *Mefistofele*, Claggart *Billy Budd*, Arkel *Pelléas et Mélisande*, Enrico *Anna Bolena*, Alfonso d'Este *Lucrezia Borgia*, Leporello *Don Giovanni*, Timur *Turandot*, King Philip II *Don Carlo*, Zaccaria *Nabucco* and Fiesco *Simon Boccanegra*. International engagements include the Metropolitan Opera, 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, the Dutch National Opera and the Teatro Real Madrid.



**NADINE BENJAMIN**  
*Elvira*

British soprano Nadine Benjamin MBE made her Royal Opera House debut in *A New Dark Age* and her Glyndebourne Festival debut in the title-role *Luisa Miller*. At English National Opera Nadine's roles have included Clara *Porgy & Bess* and Mimi and Musetta *La Bohème*. Other engagements include the title-role *Tosca* for Opera Australia and English

Touring Opera, Nadia *The Ice Break* for Birmingham Opera and Amelia *Un Ballo In Maschera* with Opera Holland Park. Nadine's concert appearances include Barber Knoxville: Summer of 1915 with the English Chamber Orchestra and Tippett's *Child of our Time* with the London Philharmonic Orchestra.



**JANE BURNELL**

*Giovanna*

British/Irish soprano Jane Burnell studied at the Royal Northern College of Music under the tutelage of Linda Richardson. Jane was the 2021 Sussex Young Musician of the Year, a 2022 finalist in the RNCM Strauss Competition and most recently a multiple Award Winner at the 2024 David Clover Festival of Singing.



**EMYR LLOYD JONES**

*Don Riccardo*

Emyr Lloyd Jones is a Welsh tenor who is in his final year on the Opera Course at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, under the tutelage of Susan Waters. Emyr has previously been in the chorus at Buxton International Festival in 2021 and 2022.



**THEO PERRY**

*Jago*

Hailing from Essex, Theo Perry is a lyric baritone, comfortable in both operatic and concert repertoire. He studied at Trinity Laban, where he won the Gold Medal, before joining the RCM Opera Studio. Past roles include John Proctor *The Crucible*, Don Giovanni, Marullo *Rigoletto*, Mercury *The Coronation of Poppea* and Ormonte *Partenope*.

**CHORUS**

- Rebecca Anderson
- Joshua Baxter
- Judy Louie Brown
- Jane Burnell
- Helen Maree Cooper
- Dominic Felts
- Elizabeth Findon
- Jonah Halton
- Emyr Lloyd Jones
- James Liu
- Steffan Lloyd Owen
- Theo Perry
- Erin Gwyn Rossington
- Richard Woodall

**YOUNG ARTISTS PROGRAMME**

- Brennan Alleyne
- Charlotte Baker
- James Connolly
- Sian Davies
- Ruby Hendry
- Hamish Garrity
- Olivia Hamblyn
- Kirsty McNaughton
- Anusha Merrin
- Yihui Wang.

**YOUNG INSTRUMENTALISTS PROGRAMME**

- Matthew Chin
- Emily Douglas
- Mungo Everett-Jordan
- Alex Hocknull
- Harvey Kelly
- Tom Pickles
- Lizzy Russell
- Joe Standley
- Elizabeth Webb
- Rees Webster

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