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OPERA & MUSIC | WINTER 2015

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CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA/PAGLIACCI

NEW PRODUCTION

By Damiano Michieletto

3, 7, 10, 15, 18 and 29 December at 7.30pm, 13 December at 2pm, 21 December at 12.30pm and 1 January at 3pm

- **The performance on Thursday 10 December will be broadcast live in cinemas worldwide. For more information visit: <http://www.roh.org.uk/showings/cavalleria-rusticanapagliacci-live-2015>**
- Co-production with Opera Australia, La Monnaie, Brussels, and The Göteborg Opera
- Generous philanthropic support from The Royal Opera House Endowment Fund

The Royal Opera presents new productions of Mascagni and Leoncavallo's operatic masterpieces *Cavalleria rusticana* and *Pagliacci* directed by Italian director **Damiano Michieletto**. Music Director of The Royal Opera, **Antonio Pappano**, conducts these new productions, which, linked through Michieletto's skilful staging, draw on the realism and passion of the *verismo* tradition. These two tragic and passionate operas explore themes of romantic abandonment, uncontrollable emotions, jealous revenge and the harsh realities of life in rural southern Italy.

The one-act opera *Cavalleria rusticana* tells the story of the peasant Turiddu who is having an affair with the married Lola. His guilty secret is discovered by Santuzza, a woman he has seduced and then abandoned. Santuzza, after one last desperate attempt to win back Turiddu, tells Lola's husband Alfio of his wife's infidelity. She regrets her actions, but too late – Alfio challenges Turiddu to a duel. In the two-act *Pagliacci*, the hunchback clown Tonio loves Nedda, wife of Canio, who leads their acting troupe. Nedda rejects Tonio, and in revenge he brings Canio to spy on Nedda with her lover Silvio – though Silvio escapes before Canio can identify him. In the play the troupe perform that night, Canio as Pagliaccio interrupts Nedda as Columbina with her lover Arlecchino, played by fellow actor Beppe. Canio demands to know the name of Nedda's lover, and fiction and reality become horribly blurred as his jealous rage takes over in the performance.

Music Director of The Royal Opera **Antonio Pappano** conducted six productions in the 2014/15 Season for The Royal Opera (including four new productions, of *I due Foscari*, *Andrea Chénier*, *Król Roger* and *Guillaume Tell*), and one symphonic concert. Later in the 2015/16 Season he conducts a new production of *Boris Godunov* and a symphonic concert of Russian music with the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, along with a revival of *Werther*.

Director **Damiano Michieletto** made his Royal Opera debut with a new production of *Guillaume Tell* at the end of the 2014/15 Season, conducted by Antonio Pappano. He made his international

debut with an award-winning production of Weinberger's *Svanda Dudák* for Wexford Opera Festival in 2003. His productions have since been staged by opera companies and festivals around the world, including La Scala, Milan, Salzburg Festival, the Metropolitan, Opera, New York, Vienna State Opera and Santa Fe Opera. His recent work includes *Lucia di Lammermoor* for Zürich Opera and *Falstaff*, *La bohème* and *La Cenerentola* for Salzburg Festival. **Damiano Michieletto** is joined by set designer **Paolo Fantin**, costume designer **Carla Teti** and lighting designer **Alessandro Carletti**, all his regular collaborators, and all of whom worked on The Royal Opera's new production of *Guillaume Tell* in the 2014/15 Season.

Dutch soprano **Eva-Maria Westbroek** sings the role of Santuzza (*Cavalleria rusticana*), a role she recently sang for the Metropolitan Opera, New York. She made her Royal Opera debut as Katerina (*Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*) in 2006 and has since sung Sieglinde (*Die Walküre*), Minnie (*La fanciulla del West*), Elisabeth (*Tannhäuser*), Giorgetta (*Il tritico*), Dido (*Les Troyens*) and Maddalena di Coigny (*Andrea Chénier*) for The Royal Opera, as well as creating the title role in the world premiere of *Anna Nicole* (2011), a role that she reprised for the Company last Season. Her recent appearances elsewhere include Katerina for the Metropolitan Opera, New York, Katya Kabanova for Berlin State Opera and Sieglinde for the Liceu, Barcelona.

Latvian tenor **Aleksandrs Antonenko** sings the roles of Turiddu (*Cavalleria rusticana*) and Canio (*Pagliacci*). He made his Royal Opera debut in 2011 as Luigi (*Il tabarro*) and has since returned to sing the title role of Verdi's *Otello*, and Mario Cavaradossi (*Tosca*). Elsewhere he sings for major opera companies worldwide, with recent appearances including Calaf (*Turandot*) for La Scala, Milan, Dick Johnson (*La fanciulla del West*) for Deutsche Oper Berlin, Gherman (*Queen of Spades*) for Zürich Opera and Cavaradossi for Vienna State Opera.

Korean tenor **Yonghoon Lee** sings Turiddu only on 29 December. He made his Royal Opera debut in the 2012/13 Season as Mario Cavaradossi (*Tosca*) and has since sung Don José (*Carmen*) for The Royal Opera, a role he reprises in the 2015/16 Season. His recent appearances elsewhere include the title role in *Don Carlo* for the Metropolitan Opera, Andrea Chénier for Zürich Opera and Don José for Bavarian State Opera.

The role of Mamma Lucia (*Cavalleria rusticana*) is sung by Italian mezzo-soprano **Elena Zilio**. She made her Royal Opera debut in 2007 as Zita (*Gianni Schicchi*), and has since returned to sing Monitress (*Suor Angelica*), Zita (in 2009 and 2011) and Madelon (*Andrea Chénier*) for The Royal Opera. In the 2015/16 Season she also returns to sing Monitress (*Suor Angelica*) and Zita (*Gianni Schicchi*). Recent appearances elsewhere include Mistress Quickly (*Falstaff*) in Florence, Filipyevna (*Eugene Onegin*) for Bavarian State Opera and Zita for Teatro Real, Madrid.

Greek baritone **Dimitri Platanias** sings the roles of Alfio (*Cavalleria rusticana*) and Tonio (*Pagliacci*). He made his Royal Opera debut in 2012 as Rigoletto and has since returned to sing

Paolo Albiani (*Simon Boccanegra*) and Rigoletto (2014/15 Season) for The Royal Opera. In the 2015/16 Season he also sings Nabucco. Recent appearances elsewhere include Nabucco in Stuttgart, Simon Boccanegra for Bavarian State Opera, Tonio (*Pagliacci*) for Salzburg Easter Festival and Iago (*Otello*) in Frankfurt.

Italian mezzo-soprano **Martina Belli** makes her Royal Opera debut in the role of Lola (*Cavalleria rusticana*). Her operatic engagements have included Second Maid (*Elektra*) for Rome Opera, Third Lady (*Die Zauberflöte*) in Viterbo, Federica (*Luisa Miller*) at the Teatro di San Carlo, Naples, and Enrichetta (*I puritani*) and Linetta (*The Love for Three Oranges*) for the Teatro Comunale, Florence.

The role of Nedda (*Pagliacci*) is sung by Italian soprano **Carmen Giannattasio** for all performances except 29 December. She made her Royal Opera debut in 2012 as Mimì (*La bohème*) and has since returned to sing Elisabetta I (*Maria Stuarda*) for The Royal Opera. Recent appearances elsewhere include Leonora (*Il trovatore*) and Mimì for La Fenice, Venice, Amelia Grimaldi (*Simon Boccanegra*) for La Scala, Milan, and Liù (*Turandot*) for Arena di Verona.

Romanian soprano Simona Mihai sings Nedda on 29 December only. She is a former Jette Parker Young Artists for The Royal Opera, and since leaving the Programme in 2010 has returned to sing Frasquita (*Carmen*), Poussette (*Manon*) and Musetta (*La bohème*). Other appearances include Second Niece (*Peter Grimes*) for La Scala, Milan, and Adina (*L'elisir d'amore*) for Salzburg Landestheater.

British tenor **Benjamin Hulett** sings the role of Beppe (*Pagliacci*). He made his Royal Opera debut in 2014 as Edmondo (*Manon Lescaut*). His recent appearances elsewhere include Tamino (*Die Zauberflöte*) for Welsh National Opera, High Priest (*Saul*) for Glyndebourne Festival and Fenton (*Falstaff*) for Opera Holland Park.

The role of Silvio is sung by Greek baritone **Dionysios Sourbis** who made his debut with The Royal Opera in the 2013/14 Season as Ping in *Turandot* and has since sung Schaunard (*La bohème*) for the Company. He has sung many roles for Greek National Opera, including Guglielmo (*Così fan tutte*), Giorgio Germont (*La traviata*), Marcello (*La bohème*) and Sharpless (*Madama Butterfly*), and recently sang Mozart's Count Almaviva (*Le nozze di Figaro*) in Turin.

CREDITS

Director	Damiano Michieletto
Conductor	Antonio Pappano
Set designer	Paolo Fantin

Costume designer Carla Teti
Lighting designer Alessandro Carletti
Royal Opera Chorus
Orchestra of the Royal Opera House

CASTING

Cavalleria rusticana

Music Pietro Mascagni
Libretto Giovanni Targiono-Tozzetti
and Guido Menasci

Santuzza Eva-Maria Westbroek
Turidda Aleksandrs Antonenko
(except 29 Dec)
Yonghoon Lee (29 Dec)

Mamma Lucia Elena Zilio
Alfio Dimitri Platanias
Lola Martina Belli

Pagliacci

Music and Libretto Ruggero Leoncavallo

Canio Aleksandrs Antonenko
Tonio Dimitri Platanias
Nedda Carmen Giannattasio
(except 29 Dec)
Simona Mihai (29 Dec)

Beppe Benjamin Hulett
Silvio Dionysios Sourbis

Insight Event: Thursday 19 November at 7.30pm, Clore Studio Upstairs

Join Kasper Holten, Director of Opera, and transport yourself to southern Italy with the cast and production team to discover more about Mascagni and Leoncavallo's hot-blooded *verismo* pairing. For more information: <http://www.roh.org.uk/insights/insights-cavalleria-rusticana-pagliacci>

Pre-performance talks: Thursday 3 December at 6.30pm and Tuesday 15 December at 6.30pm, Clore Studio Upstairs

A fascinating introduction to the production before curtain up. Led by an expert, this Insight will ensure you get the most out of *Cavalleria rusticana/Pagliacci*. For more information: <http://www.roh.org.uk/insights/insights-cavalleria-rusticana-pagliacci-pre-performance-talk>

THE FIREWORK-MAKER'S DAUGHTER

Linbury Studio Theatre

David Bruce with libretto by Glyn Maxwell

10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23 and 30 December, 2 January at 7pm

12, 19, 21, 22, 23 and 30 December, 1 and 2 January at 2pm

28, 29, and 31 December at 12.30pm; 28, 29 and 31 December at 5pm

- Co-produced by The Opera Group and Opera North in association with The Royal Opera and Watford Palace Theatre.
- Generous philanthropic support from The Royal Opera House Endowment Fund

This entertaining family Christmas show, suitable for audiences aged six plus, is based on the novel by Philip Pullman, and has a libretto by Glyn Maxwell. Set in the Far East, the opera tells the story of Lila, a young girl who wants to be a firework-maker, like her father, and of her quest to achieve this dream.

The Firework-Maker's Daughter was first seen in 2013, and was nominated for the 2014 Olivier Award for Best New Opera Production following its performances at the Linbury Studio Theatre; it has since successfully toured the UK and been presented in New York. John Fulljames's production with designs by Dick Bird uses a mixture of puppetry and live projection to create effects inspired by Indonesia's shadow puppetry tradition.

British-American composer David Bruce's enjoyable lyrical score draws inspiration from folk and classical traditions from around the globe to create a unique sound world. It will be performed by a chamber orchestra from CHROMA, an ensemble well known for their performances of contemporary work. A cast of singers includes British soprano **Lucy Hall** and Australian soprano **Lauren Fagan** as Lila, Welsh baritone **Wyn Pencarreg** as Lalchand, British baritone **Ross Ramgobin** as Rambashi, British tenor **Peter Kirk** as Chulak, and American countertenor **Tai Oney** as Hamlet, the elephant.

CREDITS

Music	David Bruce
Libretto	Glyn Maxwell (Based on the short story by Philip Pullman)
Conductor	Alice Farnham
Director	John Fulljames
Designer	Dick Bird
Lighting designer	Guy Hoare
Choreography	Victoria Newlyn
Puppet direction	Indefinite Articles

CASTING

Lila	Lucy Hall/Lauren Fagan*
Lalchand	Wyn Pencarreg
Rambashi	Ross Ramgobin
Chulak	Peter Kirk
Hamlet	Tai Oney

***Jette Parker Young Artist**

Insight Event: Saturday 19 December at 11am, Linbury Studio Theatre

Join Sally Todd and Steve Tiplady of Indefinite Articles as they present a behind-the-scenes talk and demonstration, looking at the shadow puppets and techniques of the show...they might even share some of their secret firework effects with you. Volunteers may be needed to face the tiger, peer into Razvani's cave or dance with their own shadow! For more information: <http://www.roh.org.uk/insights/insights-behind-the-scenes-shadow-puppets-with-the-firework-makers-daughter>

EUGENE ONEGIN

Pyotr Il'yich Tchaikovsky

19 December at 7pm; 22 and 30 December at 7.30pm; 2 January at 7pm and 4 and 7 January at 7.30pm

- **Co-production with Teatro Regio, Turin, and Opera Australia**
- **Generous philanthropic support from The Danish Research Foundation**

The Royal Opera presents the first revival of **Kasper Holten's** 2013 production of **Tchaikovsky's** much-loved opera based on **Alexander Pushkin's** verse-novel of the same name. Described by Holten as 'full of poetry and melancholy, encapsulating the fragile and turbulent emotions of youth, self-realization and finally the yearning to go back and undo what cannot be undone', Tchaikovsky's opera, first performed in 1879, explores with tenderness and poignancy a young girl's ultimate choice of honour over true love. When the young Tatyana confesses her love to the dashing Eugene Onegin, he rejects her, little realizing that his decision will return to haunt him with devastating consequences.

Kasper Holten, Director of Opera for The Royal Opera bring his thought-provoking production back to the Royal Opera House following a successful run of performances with Opera Australia in the 2014/15 season, when the production won a Green Room Award in Australia. Holten's most recent productions for The Royal Opera include *Don Giovanni*, *L'Ormindo* at the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse and *Król Roger*.

Set designs are by **Mia Stensgaard**, costume designs are by **Katrina Lindsay**, lighting design is by **Wolfgang Göbbel**, projection designs are by **59 Productions** and choreography by **Signe Fabricius**. Leading the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House is Russian conductor **Semyon Bychkov** who made his Royal Opera debut in 2003 conducting *Elektra*. His most recent appearances with The Royal Opera include *Die Frau ohne Schatten*, *La bohème* and *Tannhäuser*.

Returning to the role of *Eugene Onegin* is Russian baritone **Dmitri Hvorostovsky** whose many roles for The Royal Opera include Count di Luna (*Il trovatore*), Francesco (*I masnadieri*), Giorgio Germont (*La traviata*), Silvio (*Pagliacci*), Rigoletto, Valentin (*Faust*), Eugene Onegin (in The Royal Opera's previous production) and most recently Renato (*Un ballo in maschera*) in the 2014/15 Season. Elsewhere he has recently sung Count di Luna for the Metropolitan Opera, New York.

Australian soprano **Nicole Car** sings the role of Tatyana which she also sang in this production's performances for Opera Australia in 2014. She recently made her Royal Opera debut as Micaëla (*Carmen*). She performs regularly for Opera Australia, where her roles have included Donna Anna and Donna Elvira (*Don Giovanni*), Pamina (*Die Zauberflöte*), Leïla (*Les Pêcheurs de perles*), Micaëla (*Carmen*), Tatyana, Mimì (*La bohème*), Valencienne (*Die lustige Witwe*) and Marguerite (*Faust*). Appearances elsewhere include Donna Anna for West Australian Opera, Countess Almaviva (*Le nozze di Figaro*) for Dallas Opera and Adalgisa (*Norma*) for Victorian Opera. She made her European debut in May 2015 as Tatyana with Deutsche Oper Berlin.

American tenor **Michael Fabiano** makes his Royal Opera debut in this production as Lensky. He made his professional stage debut in 2007 at Klagenfurt State Theatre as Alfredo Germont (*La*

traviata). His recent appearances include the title role of *Poliuto* and Alfredo Germont for Glyndebourne Festival, Rodolfo (*La bohème*) for the Metropolitan Opera, New York, San Francisco Opera and Seattle Opera, Alfred (*Die Fledermaus*) and Edgardo (*Lucia di Lammermoor*) for the Metropolitan Opera, New York, and the title role of *Faust* for Opera Australia and Paris Opéra.

Also making her Royal Opera debut is Belarusian mezzo-soprano **Oksana Volkova** in the role of Olga. She is a soloist of the National Academic Bolshoi Opera Theatre and a member of the Council of the President's Fund of Support for Culture and Arts in Belarus. Her international engagements include Olga for Teatro Real, Madrid, and the Metropolitan Opera, New York, Sonyetka (*Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*) for the Metropolitan Opera, Maddalena (*Rigoletto*) for Bavarian State Opera and Carmen, Olga and Lyubasha (*The Tsar's Bride*) for the Bolshoi Theatre, Moscow.

Singing the role of Prince Gremin (except on 7 January) is Italian bass **Ferruccio Furlanetto**. He made his Royal Opera debut in 1995 in the title role of *Le nozze di Figaro* and has returned to sing Don Giovanni, Count Walter (*Luisa Miller*), Padre Guardiano (*La forza del destino*), Jacopo Fiesco (*Simon Boccanegra*), Philip II (*Don Carlo*) and Don Basilio (*Il barbiere di Siviglia*). Recent appearances include Philip II for Opera Australia and Vienna State Opera, and Boris Godunov for Vienna State Opera and in Paris and Barcelona in concert.

Also singing the role of Prince Gremin (on 7 January) is British bass **Brindley Sherratt**. He made his Royal Opera debut in 2001 as Plutone (*L'anima del filosofo*) and has since sung roles including Sparafucile (*Rigoletto*), Prince Gremin, Narbal (*Les Troyens*), Ramfis (*Aida*), Blind Ballad Seller (*Gloriana*) and Sarastro (*Die Zauberflöte*) for The Royal Opera. Recent appearances elsewhere include Sarastro for Dutch National Opera and Vienna State Opera and John Claggart (*Billy Budd*) for Glyndebourne Festival.

British mezzo-soprano **Diana Montague** returns to the role of Madame Larina. She made her Royal Opera debut in 1979 as Tebaldo (*Don Carlo*) and has since sung many roles including Wellgunde (*Der Ring des Nibelungen*), Dorabella (*Così fan tutte*), Háta (*The Bartered Bride*), Magdalene (*Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*), Marcellina (*Le nozze di Figaro*), Gertrude (*Roméo et Juliette*), Madame Larina and Marthe Schwertlein (*Faust*) for The Royal Opera. Recent engagements elsewhere include Madame Larina for Glyndebourne Festival and Marta (*Iolanta*) in Aix-en-Provence.

Singing the role of Filipyevna is British mezzo-soprano **Catherine Wyn-Rogers**. She made her Royal Opera debut in 1989 as Schwertleite (*Die Walküre*) and has since made many appearances for The Royal Opera; most recently she performed *Song of the Earth* for The Royal Ballet and Mary (*Der fliegende Holländer*) for The Royal Opera in the 2014/15 Season. Recent

engagements elsewhere include Bianca (*The Rape of Lucretia*) for Glyndebourne Festival and Erda (*Das Rheingold*) in Munich.

French tenor **Jean-Paul Fouchécourt** sings the role of Monsieur Triquet. He made his debut with the Company in 1997, singing the title role of *Platée* in a performance at the Barbican with the Mark Morris Dance Group. He has since sung Astrologer (*The Golden Cockerel*), the four servants (*Les Contes d'Hoffmann*), Le Remendado (*Carmen*) and Don Basilio (*Le nozze di Figaro*) for The Royal Opera. Recent appearances elsewhere include Monsieur Triquet in Paris, Bardolfo (*Falstaff*) in Lucerne, Le Remendado for Salzburg Festival and King Ouf I (*L'Étoile*) for Berlin State Opera.

Singing the role of Captain is British bass **David Shipley** who joined the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme at the start of the 2015/16 Season. For The Royal Opera in the 2015/16 Season he also sings Arthur/Third Officer (*The Lighthouse*, part of Meet the Young Artists Week), Sciarrone (*Tosca*), Guccio (*Gianni Schicchi*) and High Priest of Baal (*Nabucco*). Engagements elsewhere include *Billy Budd* for Glyndebourne Festival, at the BBC Proms and in New York, and Colline (*La bohème*) for the Verbier Festival Academy.

British bass **James Platt** sings the role of Zaretsky in this production. Platt joined The Royal Opera's Jette Parker Young Artists Programme at the start of the 2014/15 Season. In his first Season his roles included Second Man in Armour (*Die Zauberflöte*) and Doctor Grenvil (*La traviata*) on the main stage, Blansac (*La scala di seta*, Meet the Young Artists Week) in the Linbury Studio Theatre and Charon (*Orfeo*) at the Roundhouse. In the 2015/16 Season he also returns to the role of Doctor Grenvil and sings Frontier Guard (*Boris Godunov*).

CREDITS

Music	Pyotr Il'yich Tchaikovsky
Libretto	Pyotr Il'yich Tchaikovsky
Libretto	Konstantin Stepanovich Shilovsky
Director	Kasper Holten
Conductor	Semyon Bychkov
Set designer	Mia Stensgaard
Costume designer	Katrina Lindsay
Lighting designer	Wolfgang Göbbel
Video designer	Leo Warner for 59 Productions
Animation	Lawrence Watson for 59 Productions
Choreography	Signe Fabricius

CASTING

Eugene Onegin	Dmitri Hvorostovsky
Tatyana	Nicole Car
Lensky	Michael Fabiano
Olga	Oksana Volkova
Prince Gremin	Ferruccio Furlanetto (except 7 Jan)
	Brindley Sherratt (7 Jan)
Madame Larina	Diana Montague
Filipyevna	Catherine Wyn-Rogers
Monsieur Triquet	Jean-Paul Fouchécourt
Captain	David Shipley*
Zaretsky	James Platt*

Royal Opera Chorus

Orchestra of the Royal Opera House

***Jette Parker Young Artist**

Insight Event: Wednesday 9 December at 7.30pm, Clore Studio Upstairs

In celebration of the revival of Kasper Holten's *Eugene Onegin* and produced in partnership with Poet in the City, we explore the life and works of Alexander Pushkin, one of Russia's greatest poets and the founder of modern Russian literature. For more information: <http://www.roh.org.uk/insights/insights-pushkin-an-evening-of-poetry-and-performance>

TOSCA

Giacomo Puccini

9, 11, 12, 15, 18, 21, 25 and 29 January at 7.30pm; 2 and 5 February at 7.30pm

The Royal Opera presents **Jonathan Kent's** classic production of **Puccini's** fifth opera, *Tosca*. First performed in 1900 to great acclaim, *Tosca*, with its dramatic plot of love, political instability and revenge, remains one of the most performed of all operas. Based on the French playwright Victorien Sardou's popular and lurid play *La Tosca*, the opera tells the story of the opera singer

Floria Tosca and the artist Mario Cavaradossi. The couple's happiness is threatened by the machinations of the sadistic Scarpia, Chief of Police in Rome, who wants Tosca for himself. When Cavaradossi helps a fugitive escape, Scarpia sees his chance – but even he cannot imagine the dramatic consequences of his actions.

Director **Jonathan Kent** places the action in Rome in 1800. First seen at the Royal Opera House in 2006, this naturalistic production, now revived for the sixth time, conveys both the complexity of the three central characters and the urgency of the drama as it hastens towards its fatal conclusion. **Paul Brown**'s imposing designs and **Mark Henderson**'s luminous lighting designs include a shadowy crypt with beautiful frescoes, a dark study with its hidden torture chamber and the great battlements of the Castel Sant'Angelo in the eerie light of a Roman dawn.

Sharing the baton are French conductor **Emmanuel Villaume** and British conductor **Paul Wynne Griffiths**. **Emmanuel Villaume** made his Royal Opera debut in 2000 with *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* and has since returned to conduct *La rondine* and *Manon* for The Royal Opera. **Paul Wynne Griffiths** is on the music staff of The Royal Opera and has conducted many operas for the Company, including *Rigoletto*, *Norma*, *Don Giovanni*, *La bohème*, *Turandot*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Tosca*, *Il barbiere di Siviglia* and *L'Heure espagnole/Gianni Schicchi*.

This production is predominantly double cast. Sharing the title role of Floria Tosca are Romanian soprano **Angela Gheorghiu** (9, 12, 15, 18 and 21 January) and **Amanda Echalaz** (11, 25 and 29 January and 2 and 5 February).

Angela Gheorghiu made her debut for The Royal Opera in 1992 as Zerlina (*Don Giovanni*). Since then she has returned to sing Mimì (*La bohème*), Nina (*Chérubin*), Micaëla (*Carmen*), Violetta Valéry (*La traviata*), Tosca, Adina (*L'elisir d'amore*), Amelia Grimaldi (*Simon Boccanegra*), Adriana Lecouvreur, Marguerite (*Faust*) and Magda (*La rondine*). For The Royal Opera she most recently sang Mimì (*La bohème*) in the 2013/14 Season. She sings regularly for the world's leading opera houses, including the Metropolitan Opera, New York, La Scala, Milan, Vienna State Opera, Liceu, Barcelona, and Paris Opéra, and in many concert performances. Recently she made her stage role debut as Charlotte (*Werther*) with Vienna State Opera. Her appearances in film include singing the title role in Benoît Jacquot's *Tosca*.

South African soprano **Amanda Echalaz** made her Royal Opera debut as Ker in the world premiere of Harrison Birtwistle's *The Minotaur* in 2008. She returned to The Royal Opera later that Season, and in 2013, to sing Tosca, a role she has also sung for companies including Berlin State Opera, Opera Australia, Santa Fe Opera, Opéra national du Rhin, La Fenice, Venice, and in Brazil. Other recent roles include Cio-Cio-San (*Madama Butterfly*) for the Metropolitan Opera, New York, and Lyric Opera of Chicago, and Puccini's *Manon Lescaut* in Warsaw and for La Monnaie, Brussels.

Italian tenor **Riccardo Massi** and Uzbek tenor **Najmiddin Mavlyanov** share the role of Mario Cavaradossi.

Riccardo Massi made his Royal Opera debut in 2014 as Mario Cavaradossi (*Tosca*), and reprises the role in this production. He has performed for the world's major opera companies, including La Scala, Milan, the Metropolitan Opera, New York, Berlin State Opera, Bavarian State Opera, Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, Paris, Paris Opéra, Opera Australia, Canadian Opera Company and Royal Swedish Opera. Aside from Cavaradossi, his repertory includes Manrico (*Il trovatore*), Radames (*Aida*), B.F. Pinkerton (*Madama Butterfly*), Calaf (*Turandot*) and Don José (*Carmen*).

Najmiddin Mavlyanov makes his Royal Opera debut in this production. Elsewhere he has performed with the Stanislavsky Opera, Moscow (where he became a member in 2010), Opera Vlaanderen, Deutsche Oper am Rhein and Finnish National Opera, in roles including Alfredo Germont (*La traviata*), Manrico (*Il trovatore*), Don José (*Carmen*), Rodolfo (*La bohème*), Lensky (*Eugene Onegin*), Hoffmann (*Les Contes d'Hoffmann*) and the title role of *Werther*.

The role of Baron Scarpia is shared by Korean bass-baritone **Samuel Youn** and Italian baritone **Roberto Frontali**.

Samuel Youn makes his Royal Opera debut in this production and returns later in the Season as Créon (*Oedipe*). His recent appearances elsewhere include the Dutchman (*Der fliegende Holländer*) for Bayreuth Festival and Deutsche Oper Berlin, Iago (*Otello*) and Escamillo (*Carmen*) for Cologne Opera, Spirit Messenger (*Die Frau ohne Schatten*) for Bavarian State Opera and Méphistophélès (*La Damnation de Faust*) and Kurwenal (*Tristan und Isolde*) for Deutsche Oper Berlin.

Roberto Frontali made his Royal Opera debut in 1997 as Figaro (*Il barbiere di Siviglia*) and has since sung Ford (*Falstaff*), Duke of Nottingham (*Roberto Devereux* in concert) and Stankar (*Stiffelio*) for The Royal Opera. Recent appearances include Scarpia for the Metropolitan Opera, New York and La Fenice, Venice, Michonnet (*Adriana Lecouvreur*) for Vienna State Opera, Giorgio Germont (*La traviata*) for Arena di Verona and Sir John Falstaff (*Falstaff*) for Los Angeles Opera.

Ukrainian baritone **Yuriy Yurchuk** sings the role of Cesare Angelotti. He joined The Royal Opera's Jette Parker Young Artists Programme at the start of the 2014/15 Season. In his first Season his roles included Steersman (*Tristan und Isolde*), Dumas (*Andrea Chénier*), Prince Yamadori (*Madama Butterfly*) and Baron Douphol (*La traviata*). In the 2015/16 Season his other roles include Blazes/Second Officer (*The Lighthouse*, Meet the Young Artists Week), Baron Douphol and Johann (*Werther*).

Australian tenor **Hubert Francis** sings the role of Spoletta. He is a former member of The Royal Opera's Young Artists Programme. His roles for The Royal Opera since leaving the Programme have included Hunchback Brother (*Die Frau ohne Schatten*), Spoletta (*Tosca*), Trin (*La fanciulla del West*) and Toby Higgins (*Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny*). He returns to sing Laïos (*Oedipe*) later in the Season. Recent appearances elsewhere include Herod (*Salome*) for State Opera of South Australia.

Scottish baritone **Donald Maxwell** sings the role of Sacristan. He made his Royal Opera debut in 1987 as English Archer (*The King Goes Forth to France*) and has returned regularly to The Royal Opera, his many roles including Herald (*Lohengrin*), Gunther (*Götterdämmerung*), Faninal (*Der Rosenkavalier*), Krušina (*The Bartered Bride*), Fritz Kothner (*Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*), Lockit (*The Beggar's Opera*), Alcindoro (*La bohème*), Hortensius (*La Fille du régiment*) and Second Priest (*Die Zauberflöte*).

British bass and Jette Parker Young Artist **David Shipley** sings the role of Sciaronne. He joined the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme at the start of the 2015/16 Season. In his first Season he also sings Arthur/Third Officer (*The Lighthouse*, Meet the Young Artists Week), Captain (*Eugene Onegin*), Guccio (*Gianni Schicchi*) and High Priest (*Nabucco*).

CREDITS

Music	Giacomo Puccini
Libretto	Giuseppe Giacosa
Libretto	Luigi Illica
Director	Jonathan Kent
Designer	Paul Brown
Lighting designer	Mark Henderson
Conductor	Emmanuel Villaume (excl. 2 and 5 February) Paul Wynne Griffiths (2 and 5 February)

CASTING

Floria Tosca	Angela Gheorghiu (9, 12, 15, 18 and 21 January) Amanda Echalaz (11, 25 and 29 January; 2 and 5 February)
Mario Cavaradossi	Riccardo Massi (9, 12, 15, 18 and 21 January) Najmiddin Mavlyanov (11, 25 and 29 January; 2 and 5 February)

Baron Scarpia

Samuel Youn (9, 12, 15, 18 and 21 January)

**Roberto Frontali (11, 25 and 29 January;
2 and 5 February)**

Cesare Angelotti

Yuriy Yurchuk*

Spoletta

Hubert Francis

Sacristan

Donald Maxwell

Sciarrone

David Shipley*

*** Jette Parker Young Artist**

**Pre-performance talks: Monday 11 January, Monday 18 January and Friday 29 January at
6.30pm, Clore Studio Upstairs**

Join us in the Clore Studio Upstairs for a fascinating introduction to the production before curtain up. Led by an expert, this Insight will ensure you get the most out of *Tosca*. For more information: <http://www.roh.org.uk/insights/insights-tosca-pre-performance-talk>

LA TRAVIATA

Giuseppe Verdi

Cast A: 16, 19, 22, 27, 30 January at 7pm | 4 February at 7pm and 6 February at 12pm

Cast B: 1, 4, 7, 9, 12, 16 and 19 March at 7pm

- **The performance on Thursday 4 February will be broadcast live in cinemas worldwide. For more information visit: <http://www.roh.org.uk/showings/la-traviata-live-2016>**
- **Production sponsored by Coutts**

Richard Eyre's classic production of **Verdi's** most romantic opera returns to the Royal Opera House for its thirteenth revival since its premiere in 1994. This much-loved opera explores the life of a courtesan who sacrifices her one chance of true love for her lover's family, and movingly explores themes of love, scandal, generosity and forgiveness.

Alfredo Germont and the courtesan Violetta Valéry fall passionately in love. But Alfredo's father Giorgio Germont disapproves of their relationship. Germont convinces Violetta that she must leave Alfredo, for his family's sake – Alfredo's sister's marriage is jeopardized by Alfredo's association with a courtesan. Violetta reluctantly agrees to leave Alfredo, without telling him why. Alfredo is distraught, believing that Violetta has left him out of self-interest. Germont finally confesses all to his son, and Alfredo and Violetta are reunited at her deathbed.

Making their Royal Opera debuts are Russian soprano **Venera Gimadieva** in the role of Violetta (following sensational performances in the role at Glyndebourne Festival), Korean tenor **Ho-Yoon Chung** in the role of Alfredo Germont, Italian baritone **Luca Salsi**, Greek baritone **Tassis Christoyannis** and American baritone **Quinn Kelsey** in the role of Giorgio Germont and Canadian mezzo-soprano **Andrea Hill** as Flora Bervoix. Mexican tenor **Rolando Villazón** sings the role of Alfredo for the first time for The Royal Opera, having sung it internationally and for DVD, and American soprano **Nicole Cabell** and Italian soprano **Maria Agresta** (a sensational Lucrezia Contarini in *I due Foscari* for The Royal Opera last Season) also make Royal Opera role debuts as Violetta Valéry. Albanian tenor **Saimir Pirgu** (a much-praised Shepherd in *Król Roger* and Duke of Mantua in *Rigoletto* for The Royal Opera in the 2014/15 Season) sings Alfredo Germont for the January and February performances. The cast also includes several Jette Parker Young Artists. The conductors are Italian opera specialists **Yves Abel** and **Nicola Luisotti**, and Royal Opera Music Staff member **Richard Hetherington**.

The performance on 4 February 2015 will be relayed live to cinemas worldwide: <http://www.roh.org.uk/showings/la-traviata-live-2016>

Director	Richard Eyre
Designer	Bob Crowley
Lighting designer	Jean Kalman
Movement Director	Jane Gibson
Conductor	Yves Abel (16, 19, 22, 27, 30 January 4 February) Richard Hetherington (6 February) Nicola Luisotti (1, 4, 7, 9, 12, 16, 19 March)
Violetta Valéry	Venera Gimadieva (16, 19, 22, 27, 30 January 4, 6 Feb) Maria Agresta (1, 4, 7, 9, 12 March) Nicole Cabell (16, 19 March)
Alfredo Germont	Saimir Pirgu (16, 19, 22, 27, 30 January 4, 6 February) Rolando Villazón (1, 4, 7 March)

	Ho-Yoon Chung (9, 12, 16, 19 March)
Giorgio Germont	Luca Salsi (16, 19, 22, 27, 30 January 4, 6 February)
	Quinn Kelsey (1, 4, 7, 9, 12 March)
	Tassis Christoyannis (16, 19 March)
Baron Douphol	Yuriy Yurchuk* (except 19 March)
	Samuel Dale Johnson* (19 March)
Doctor Grenvil	James Platt*
Flora Bervoix	Andrea Hill (16, 19, 22, 27, 30 January 4, 6 February)
	Sarah Castle (1, 4, 7, 9, 12, 16, 19 March)
Gastone de Letorières	Luis Gomes (16, 19, 22, 27, 30 January 4, 7 March)
	Samuel Sakker* (4, 6 February 1, 9, 12, 16, 19 March)
Marquis D'Obigny	Jeremy White
Annina	Sarah Pring (16, 19, 22, 27, 30 January 4, 6 February)
	Gaynor Keeble (1, 4, 7, 9, 12, 16, 19 March)

***Jette Parker Young Artist**

Insight Event: Wednesday 13 January at 7.30pm, Clore Studio Upstairs

A heart-rending tale of a Parisian courtesan who sacrifices all for love. Filled with Verdi's much-loved melodies, *La traviata* is the perfect introduction to opera. For more information:

<http://www.roh.org.uk/insights/insights-a-beginners-guide-to-la-traviata>

Pre-performance talks: Friday 22 January, Monday 7 March and Wednesday 9 March at 6pm, Clore Studio Upstairs

Join us in the Clore Studio Upstairs for a fascinating introduction to the production before curtain up. Led by an expert, this Insight will ensure you get the most out of *La traviata*. For more information: <http://www.roh.org.uk/insights/insights-la-traviata-pre-performance-talk>

L'ÉTOILE

Emmanuel Chabrier

NEW PRODUCTION

1, 3, 6, 15, 18, 24 February at 7.30pm and 20 February at 7pm

The Royal Opera presents a new production of Emmanuel Chabrier's *opera bouffe*, *L'Étoile*, for the first time at Covent Garden. First performed in Paris in 1877, *L'Étoile* (The Star) is an anarchically comic fairytale, in which *The 1,001 Nights* meets *Monty Python*.

King Ouf I always celebrates his birthday with a public impalement and has gone in disguise among his people to find a suitable victim. Meanwhile, Princess Laoula, her father's ambassador Hérissou de Porc-Epic and Hérissou's wife Aloès are travelling to meet Ouf and arrange his marriage to Laoula. As the mission is a secret, Laoula is disguised as Hérissou's wife. The forthright young pedlar Lazuli meets the party and falls in love with Princess Laoula; unfortunately, due to her disguise he assumes she is married, and is overwhelmed with frustration. Unknowingly Lazuli insults Ouf, who thinks he has found his victim – until court astrologer Siroco reveals that the stars of Lazuli and Ouf are so closely bound that if Lazuli dies so will Ouf, 24 hours later. Lazuli is accordingly brought to the palace to be pampered. The plot becomes increasingly confused, with numerous misunderstandings (not helped by at least half the cast being in disguise). Eventually Hérissou de Porc-Epic makes an attempt to shoot Lazuli when he tries to run away from the palace with Laoula. Lazuli survives, but Ouf is unaware of this, and, terrified of his own potential death, gets drunk with Siroco on green chartreuse. Eventually, all is resolved, and Ouf gives his blessing to Laoula and Lazuli's marriage and declares that the couple will succeed him.

French director **Mariame Clément** makes her Royal Opera debut with *L'Étoile*. Clément works regularly for Opéra National du Rhin, where her productions have included *Platée*, *La Belle Hélène*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *Werther* and *Der Rosenkavalier*. Other productions include *Hänsel und Gretel* (Paris Opéra), *Don Pasquale* and *Poliuto* (Glyndebourne Festival), *Il viaggio a Reims* (Opera Vlaanderen and others), *Castor et Pollux* (Theater an der Wien), the world premiere of Hurel's *Les Pigeons d'argile* (Théâtre du Capitole de Toulouse), Haydn's *Armida* (French tour), *Agrippina* and *Il barbiere di Siviglia* (Oviedo), *La bohème* (Bern), *Le nozze di Figaro* and *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* (Dortmund) and *Le Grand Macabre* (Essen).

German set and costume designer **Julia Hansen** also makes her Royal Opera debut. She has collaborated with director **Mariame Clément** on a number of productions including *Poliuto* and *Don Pasquale* (Glyndebourne Festival), *Der Rosenkavalier*, *La Belle Hélène*, *Werther* and *Platée* (Opéra National du Rhin) and the world premiere of Hurel's *Les Pigeons d'argile* (Théâtre du Capitole de Toulouse). The creative team is completed by English lighting designer **Jon Clark** and French choreographer and Artistic Director of Ballet Nacional Chileno, **Mathieu Guilhaumon**, who makes his Royal Opera debut as the production's choreographer.

English conductor **Mark Elder** conducts Chabrier's score for the first time with The Royal Opera. He appears regularly with The Royal Opera, most recently conducting *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, *Wozzeck*, *La bohème*, *Fidelio*, *The Tsar's Bride* and *Adriana Lecouvreur* for the Company. Other recent opera engagements include *La traviata*, *Falstaff* and *Billy Budd* (Glyndebourne), *Parsifal* (BBC Proms) and *Tannhäuser* (Paris Opéra).

French tenor **Christopher Mortagne** sings King Ouf I. Mortagne made his Royal Opera debut in 2010 as Guillot de Morfontaine (*Manon*), a role he reprised in 2014. He has also sung Monsieur Triquet (*Eugene Onegin*) for The Royal Opera, recorded for DVD. He sang King Ouf I for Frankfurt Opera in 2011 and 2013 and for Dutch National Opera in 2014. Other recent appearances include Guillot de Morfontaine for La Scala, Milan, and Lyonnel (*Le Roi Arthur*) for Opéra National du Rhin.

English bass-baritone **Simon Bailey** sings Siroco. He made his Royal Opera debut in the 2014/15 Season as Leporello (*Don Giovanni*). He is a member of Frankfurt Opera, where recent roles include Leporello, Don Magnifico (*La Cenerentola*), Figaro (*Le nozze di Figaro*) and Peter (*Hänsel und Gretel*). Other recent appearances include Kaspar (*Der Freischütz*) for Stuttgart Opera.

French tenor **François Piolino** makes his Royal Opera debut as Hérisson de Porc-Epic. He is a specialist in character tenor roles, including Don Basilio (*Le nozze di Figaro*), Monsieur Triquet (*Eugene Onegin*), Guillot de Morfontaine (*Manon*), the four servants (*Les Contes d'Hoffmann*), Black Wedgwood Teapot/Arithmetic/Frog (*L'Enfant et les sortilèges*) and Valzacchi (*Der Rosenkavalier*). He has performed for opera companies including Paris Opéra, Dutch National Opera, Opéra National du Rhin and for Glyndebourne Festival. Later in the 2015/16 Season he returns as Schmidt (*Werther*).

French baritone Aimery Lefèvre sings Tapioca, in his Royal Opera debut. He performs regularly with Les Talens Lyriques and Christophe Rousset, and with Le Concert d'Astrée and Emmanuelle Haïm. His recent operatic appearances include Pollux (*Castor et Pollux*) for Théâtre du Capitole de Toulouse, Arcas/Parque II (*Hippolyte et Aricie*) for Glyndebourne Festival and Frédéric (*Lakmé*) in Santiago.

French-Canadian soprano **Hélène Guilmette** makes her Royal Opera debut as Laoula, a role she has also sung for Dutch National Opera. Her other recent appearances include Sophie (*Werther*) for La Scala, Milan, Soeur Constance (*Dialogues des Carmélites*) for Canadian Opera Company, Mélisande (*Pelléas et Mélisande*) for Opéra de Lyon and Euridice (*Orfeo ed Euridice*) for the Maggio Musicale, Florence.

French-Canadian mezzo-soprano **Julie Boulianne** makes her Royal Opera debut as Aloès, a role she has also sung for Dutch National Opera. Her other recent appearances include Annio (*La clemenza di Tito*) for the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, Paris, Siébel (*Faust*) and Stéphan (*Roméo et Juliette*) for the Metropolitan Opera, New York, Prince Orlofsky (*Die Fledermaus*) and Stéphan for Vancouver Opera and Marguerite (*La Damnation de Faust*) in Québec.

American mezzo-soprano **Kate Lindsey** sings Lazuli. She made her Royal Opera debut as Zerlina (*Don Giovanni*) in 2012, and earlier this Season sang Cherubino (*Le nozze di Figaro*) for The Royal Opera. Her recent appearances include Zerlina and Nicklausse (*Les Contes d'Hoffmann*) for the Metropolitan Opera, New York, the Composer (*Ariadne auf Naxos*) for Glyndebourne Festival and Rosina (*Il barbiere di Siviglia*) for Bavarian State Opera.

Jette Parker Young Artist and Australian tenor **Samuel Sakker** sings Patacha. Sakker joined the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme in September 2014, and in the 2014/15 Season sang roles including Barbarigo (*I due Foscari*), Minister of Justice (*Un ballo in maschera*) and Gastone de Letorières (*La traviata*) for The Royal Opera. He sang the tenor solo in Mozart's Requiem and Malcolm (*Macbeth*) for The Royal Opera's Japan tour in September 2015. This Season he also sings Sandy/Officer I (*The Lighthouse*, Meet the Young Artists Week), Gastone de Letorières, Heinrich der Schreiber (*Tannhäuser*) and Abdallo (*Nabucco*) for the Company.

Jette Parker Young Artist and Australian baritone Samuel Dale Johnson sings Zalzal. Johnson joined the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme in September 2014. In the 2014/15 Season his roles for The Royal Opera included Silvano (*Un ballo in maschera*), Baron Douphol (*La traviata*) and Leuthold (*Guillaume Tell*). This Season he also sings Wig-maker (*Ariadne auf Naxos*), Moralès (*Carmen*), Baron Douphol and Thésée (*Oedipe*) for The Royal Opera.

CASTING

Music	Emmanuel Chabrier
Libretto	Eugène Leterrier
Libretto	Albert Vanloo
Director	Mariame Clément
Designer	Julia Hansen
Lighting designer	Jon Clark
Choreographer	Mathieu Guilhaumon
Conductor	Mark Elder
King Ouf I	Christophe Mortagne
Siroco	Simon Bailey
Prince Hérisson de Porc-Epic	François Piolino
Tapioca	Aimery Lefèvre
Lazuli	Kate Lindsey
Princesse Laoula	Hélène Guilmette
Aloès	Julie Boulianne
Patacha	Samuel Sakker*

Royal Opera Chorus

Orchestra of the Royal Opera House

*Jette Parker Young Artist

Insight Event: Thursday 14 January at 7.30pm, Clore Studio Upstairs

Join leading conductor Mark Elder as he explores Emmanuel Chabrier's comic opera *L'Étoile*. Chabrier was a master of the *opéra-bouffe* genre, and his wacky operatic delight promises not to disappoint! For more information: <http://www.roh.org.uk/insights/insights-mark-elder-on-the-music-of-letoise>

Pre-performance talks: Monday 1 February, Monday 15 February and Wednesday 24 February at 6.30pm, Clore Studio Upstairs

Join us in the Clore Studio Upstairs for a fascinating introduction to the production before curtain up. Led by an expert, this Insight will ensure you get the most out of *L'Étoile*. For more information: <http://www.roh.org.uk/insights/insights-letoise-pre-performance-talk>

THE MIGHTY HANDFUL: ANTONIO PAPPANO AND THE ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE IN CONCERT

8 February 2016 at 7.30pm

- **The Orchestra of the Royal Opera House take centre stage in this, the second in a series of annual concert performances that celebrate the Orchestra and its work with Music Director Antonio Pappano.**

To coincide with The Royal Opera's new production of *Boris Godunov* this spring, Antonio Pappano and the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House perform a programme that takes its lead from music by 'The Mighty Handful'. This circle of five St Petersburg composers were devoted to bringing a particular Russian identity to their music. Each of the 'Handful' features in this programme, which displays their fascination with portraying the Russian character and national spirit, their sense of drama and their virtuoso instrumental writing.

Nikolay Rimsky-Korsakov: From *The Legend of the Invisible City of Kitezh and the Maiden Fevroniya*:
 'Prelude'
 'The Battle of Kerzhenets'

Rimsky-Korsakov:	From <i>The Tale of Tsar Saltan</i> : 'The Flight of the Bumble Bee'
Aleksandr Borodin:	Symphony no.2
Interval	
Modest Musorgsky:	<i>Night on a Bare Mountain</i> (original version)
César Cui:	<i>Oriental</i> (arr. Carmen Dragon)
Mily Balakirev:	<i>Islamey</i> (arr. Alfredo Casella)

Conductor **Antonio Pappano**

Orchestra of the Royal Opera House

IL TRITTICO

IL TABARRO / SUOR ANGELICA / GIANNI SCHICCHI

Giacomo Puccini

25, 29 February; 3, 5, 8, 15 March 2016 at 6.30pm

Puccini's *Il trittico* consists of three one-act, contrasting operas rather than a single evening-length narrative. The Royal Opera's production of *Gianni Schicchi* was first performed in 2007 as part of a double bill with Ravel's *L'Heure espagnole*; it was performed again with the two other operas that make up *Il trittico* – *Il tabarro* and *Suor Angelica* – in 2011. This 2016 revival marks the first revival of the complete production of Richard Jones's *Il trittico* since its 2011 premiere. **Richard Jones**'s other Royal Opera productions are *Der Ring des Nibelungen* (1990s production), *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*, *The Gambler*, *Gloriana* and *Anna Nicole*. Later this Season he directs a new production of *Boris Godunov* for The Royal Opera.

The first opera, *Il tabarro* (The Cloak), is set on a barge on the Seine, and explores an unusually dark and violent tragedy, which begins in adultery and ends in a murder, while *Suor Angelica* looks at the themes of redemption and motherhood within a repressive religious life. The triptych ends with *Gianni Schicchi*, Puccini's sole comic opera, which is based on a humorous story of greed and conniving that has its origins in a passage in Dante's *The Divine Comedy*.

All performances will be conducted by Italian conductor **Nicola Luisotti**. He made his Royal Opera debut in 2007, conducting *Il trovatore*, and has since returned to conduct *Madama Butterfly*, *Turandot*, *Aida*, *Nabucco* and *Don Giovanni* for The Royal Opera. In March this Season he will return to conduct *La traviata*.

British designer **Utz** (*Il tabarro* sets) previously worked with Richard Jones on *Gloriana* in 2013 for The Royal Opera, and has worked with Richard Jones at English National Opera and Glyndebourne Festival. German designer **Miriam Buether** (*Suor Angelica* sets) designed Richard Jones's *Anna Nicole* for the Royal Opera, and will design sets for The Royal Opera's *Boris Godunov* in March 2016. British designer **John Macfarlane** (*Gianni Schicchi* sets) worked with Richard Jones on designs for *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk* and *L'Heure espagnole*. Later this Season he creates the designs for Liam Scarlett's new full-length narrative ballet for The Royal Ballet, *Frankenstein*. He has designed many other productions for The Royal Opera, including *Die Zauberflöte*.

Costume designer **Nicky Gillibrand** has worked regularly with Richard Jones on a number of his Royal Opera productions. Her previous designs also include *The Wind in the Willows* for the former ROH2, and *Billy Elliot The Musical* in the West End. Lighting design is by **D.M. Wood** (*Il tabarro*, *Suor Angelica*) and **Mimi Jordan Sherin** (*Gianni Schicchi*), with choreography by **Sarah Fahie** (*Il tabarro*, *Suor Angelica*) and **Lucy Burge** (*Gianni Schicchi*). All are regular collaborators of Richard Jones.

IL TABARRO

Italian baritone **Lucio Gallo** reprises the role of Michele in *Il tabarro*, which he performed in 2011. Austrian soprano **Martina Serafin** will make her role debut as Giorgetta. American tenor **Carl Tanner** sings Luigi, a role he has previously sung in Buenos Aires and for New York City Opera. Russian mezzo-soprano **Irina Mishura** returns to sing La Frugola in *Il tabarro* (and also Abbess in *Suor Angelica*). Korean tenor **David Junghoon Kim** makes his Royal Opera House main stage debut in the role of Ballad Seller. He joined the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme at the start of the 2015/16 Season.

Conductor	Nicola Luisotti
Michele	Lucio Gallo
Giorgetta	Martina Serafin
Luigi	Carl Tanner
Tinca	Carlo Bosi
Talpa	Jeremy White
Ballad Seller	David Junghoon Kim*
Frugola	Irina Mishura
Lover	Lauren Fagan*
Lover	Luis Gomes
Chorus	Royal Opera Chorus
Orchestra	Orchestra of the Royal Opera House

***Jette Parker Young Artist**

SUOR ANGELICA

Albanian soprano **Ermonela Jaho** reprises the role of Sister Angelica, which she performed here in 2011. Swedish contralto **Anna Larsson** also returns to sing *The Princess*. Irish soprano **Jennifer Davis** will make her main stage debut in the roles of Nursing Sister (*Suor Angelica*) and Ines (*Il trovatore*). She joined the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme at the start of the 2015/16 Season and appeared in October 2015 in Rossi's *Orpheus* (Sam Wanamaker Playhouse, Shakespeare's Globe). Australian mezzo-soprano **Emily Edmonds** makes her main stage debut as Alms Sister (*Suor Angelica*). She joined the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme at the start of the 2015/16 Season and appeared in October 2015 in Rossi's *Orpheus* (Sam Wanamaker Playhouse, Shakespeare's Globe). Other members of the cast include Russian mezzo-soprano **Irina Mishura** as Abbess, and Jette Parker Young Artist Australian soprano **Lauren Fagan** in her role debut as Sister Genovieffa.

Conductor	Nicola Luisotti
Sister Angelica	Ermonela Jaho
The Princess	Anna Larsson
Abbess	Irina Mishura
Monitress	Elena Zilio
Mistress of the Novices	Elizabeth Sikora
Nursing Sister	Jennifer Davis*
Alms Sister	Emily Edmonds*
Sister Genovieffa	Lauren Fagan*
Chorus	Royal Opera Chorus (women only)
Orchestra	Orchestra of the Royal Opera House

***Jette Parker Young Artist**

GIANNI SCHICCHI

Italian baritone **Lucio Gallo** returns as Gianni Schicchi, a role he last sang for The Royal Opera in 2011. English soprano **Susanna Hurrell** makes her main stage Royal Opera debut in the role of Lauretta. She made her Royal Opera debut in 2014 as Music/Erisbe in *L'Ormindo* at the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse, a role she reprised in 2015, and also sang Nymph in *Orfeo* at the Roundhouse in 2015. Italian tenor **Paolo Fanale** sings the role of Rinuccio (a role which he has also sung at Theater an der Wien), in his Royal Opera debut. Also making their Royal Opera debuts are Welsh baritone **David Kempster** as Marco and Italian bass **Matteo Peirone** as Maestro Spinelloccio. Many other members of the cast sang in the 2011 performances.

Gianni Schicchi

Lucio Gallo

Lauretta	Susanna Hurrell
Rinuccio	Paolo Fanale
Zita	Elena Zilio
Gherardo	Carlo Bosi
Nella	Rebecca Evans
Simone	Gwynne Howell
Betto di Signa	Jeremy White
Marco	David Kempster
La Ciesca	Marie McLaughlin
Maestro Spinelloccio	Matteo Peirone
Ser Amantio di Nicolao	Tiziano Bracci
Pinellino	Simon Wilding
Guccio	David Shipley*
Orchestra	Orchestra of the Royal Opera House

***Jette Parker Young Artist**

Insight Events:

Monday 29 February and Thursday 3 March at 5.30pm, Clore Studio Upstairs

Join us in the Clore Studio Upstairs for a fascinating introduction to the production before curtain up. Led by an expert, this Insight will ensure you get the most out of *Il trittico*. For more information: <http://www.roh.org.uk/insights/insights-il-trittico-pre-performance-talk>

Saturday 5 March at 10am, Clore Studio Upstairs

Join BBC broadcaster and journalist, Christopher Cook as he guides you through the works of Giacomo Puccini, in particular focussing on Puccini's trio of operas *Il trittico*. For more information: <http://www.roh.org.uk/insights/insights-spotlight-on-puccini>

Pre-performance talks: Monday 29 February and Thursday 3 March at 5.30pm, Clore Studio Upstairs

For more information: <http://www.roh.org.uk/insights/insights-il-trittico-pre-performance-talk>

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

Barbican, London

Music and libretto by Gerald Barry

29, 30 March at 7.30pm

1, 2 April at 7.30pm, 3 April at 2.30pm

- Performance at Barbican, London

Ramin Gray's staged production of *The Importance of Being Earnest* returns for a second London run of performances, this time in the Barbican Theatre. **Gerald Barry's** adaptation received its European premiere in a concert version in the Barbican Hall in 2012, and the work received its UK stage premiere in June 2013 with **Ramin Gray's** production enjoying a sell-out run in the Linbury Studio Theatre.

In this first revival, **Tim Murray** conducts the **Britten Sinfonia** and a returning cast including British baritone **Benedict Nelson** as Algernon, British tenor **Paul Curievici** as Jack Worthing, Canadian mezzo-soprano **Stephanie Marshall** as Gwendolen Fairfax, Irish bass **Alan Ewing** as Lady Bracknell, British contralto **Hilary Summers** as Miss Prism and British bass **Simon Wilding** as Lane/Merriman. New to the cast and making her Royal Opera debut is Irish soprano **Claudia Boyle** as Cecily Cardew.

British baritone **Benedict Nelson** reprises the role of Algernon, in which made his Royal Opera debut in 2013. He has since returned to the Royal Opera House to sing in Britten's *Canticles* a co-production with The Royal Opera, Aldeburgh Music and Brighton Festival for the Britten Centenary. Recent appearances elsewhere include Ned Keene (*Peter Grimes*) for Opera North and Aeneas (*Dido and Aeneas*) for Teatro Regio, Turin.

British tenor **Paul Curievici** will sing Jack Worthing, the role in which he made his Royal Opera debut in 2013. He has since returned to sing Eames (*The Virtues of Things*). Other recent performances at the Royal Opera House include Titorelli/Flogger/Student (*The Trial*) and Stephen (*In the Locked Room*) for Music Theatre Wales.

Irish soprano **Claudia Boyle** makes her Royal Opera debut as Cecily Cardew. Her previous operatic roles include Mabel (*The Pirates of Penzance*) for English National Opera, Gilda (*Rigoletto*) for Rome Opera, Adina (*L'elisir d'amore*) for Dresden State Opera and Lucia (*Lucia di Lammermoor*) for Danish National Opera.

Canadian mezzo-soprano **Stephanie Marshall** sings Gwendolen Fairfax, the role with which she made her Royal Opera debut in 2013. She has since returned to sing Susannah (*The Crackle*) and Girl (*Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny*) with The Royal Opera. Other recent appearances include Nancy (*Albert Herring*) and Erika (*Vanessa*) for Pacific Opera, Victoria.

Irish bass **Alan Ewing** will sing Lady Bracknell. He made his Royal Opera debut in 1993 as Hans Schwarz (*Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*). He has since sung Second Man in Armour (*Die Zauberflöte*), Agravain (*Gawain*), Foka (*The Enchantress* in concert), Second Soldier (*Salome*),

Zuniga (*Carmen*), Hotel Manager/Duke (*Powder Her Face*), Lord Fortune (*Miss Fortune*) and Archbishop (*Król Roger*) for The Royal Opera. Other recent appearances include Prince Gremin (*Eugene Onegin*) for Grange Park Opera.

British contralto **Hilary Summers** reprises the role of Miss Prism, which she sang in the Linbury Studio Theatre in 2013. She has since sung Mrs Darling/Tiger Lilly (*Peter Pan*) for Welsh National Opera on the main stage of the Royal Opera House. Other recent operatic appearances include Tisbe (*La Cenerentola*) for Salzburg Festival.

British bass **Simon Wilding** will sing Lane/Merriman. He made his Royal Opera debut in 1997 as a Noble of Brabant (*Lohengrin*) and has since sung Cappadocian (*Salome*), Hans Foltz (*Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*) and Sciarrone (*Tosca*) for The Royal Opera. This Season he sang the role of Lackey (*Ariadne auf Naxos*), and will sing Pinellino (*Gianni Schicchi*) in 2016.

CREDITS

Music	Gerald Barry
Libretto	Gerald Barry
Conductor	Tim Murray
Director	Ramin Gray
Associate Set Designer	Ben Clark
Costume designer	Christina Cunningham
Lighting designer	Franz Peter David
Movement	Leon Baugh
Orchestra	Britten Sinfonia

CASTING

Algernon Moncrieff	Benedict Nelson
John Worthing	Paul Curievici
Cecily Cardew	Claudia Boyle
Gwendolen Fairfax	Stephanie Marshall
Lady Bracknell	Alan Ewing
Miss Prism	Hilary Summers
Lane/Merriman	Simon Wilding

OTHER EVENTS

LUNCHTIME RECITALS

The regular free lunchtime recitals feature the rising stars of the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme, members of the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House and the Royal Opera Chorus and Southbank Sinfonia.

- **Monday 7 December at 1pm:** Christmas-themed recital featuring members of the Royal Opera Chorus. Programme to include Saint-Saëns' *Christmas Oratorio*.
- **Monday 14 December at 1pm:** Recital featuring members of the Jette Parker Young Artist Programme: Australian baritone **Samuel Dale Johnson** and Ukrainian baritone **Yuriy Yurchuk**.
- **Monday 11 January at 1pm:** Recital featuring members of the Jette Parker Young Artist Programme: Australian mezzo-soprano **Emily Edmonds** and Australian soprano **Lauren Fagan**.
- **Monday 18 January at 1pm:** Recital featuring members of the Jette Parker Young Artist Programme: Korean tenor **David Junghoon Kim** and British bass **James Platt**.
- **Monday 25 January at 1pm:** See a stage director at work, in a performance featuring members of the Jette Parker Young Artist Programme including British stage director **Richard Gerard Jones** and Italian conductor, répétiteur and pianist **Jonathan Santagada**.
- **Monday 1 February at 1pm:** A selection of secular songs from Wolf's *Spanisches Liederbuch* and Schumann's *Spanisches Liederspiel* performed by members of the Royal Opera Chorus.
- **Monday 8 February at 1pm:** Southbank Sinfonia perform in the Crush Room.

For further information please visit <http://www.roh.org.uk/recitals/lunchtime-recitals>

PROGRAMME OF INSIGHT EVENTS AND PRE-PERFORMANCE TALKS

CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA/ PAGLIACCI

Insight Event: Thursday 19 November at 7.30pm, Clore Studio Upstairs

Join Kasper Holten, Director of Opera, and transport yourself to southern Italy with the cast and production team to discover more about Mascagni and Leoncavallo's hot-blooded *verismo* pairing. For more information: <http://www.roh.org.uk/insights/insights-cavalleria-rusticana-pagliacci>

Pre-performance talks: Thursday 3 December at 6.30pm and Tuesday 15 December at 6.30pm, Clore Studio Upstairs

For more information: <http://www.roh.org.uk/insights/insights-cavalleria-rusticana-pagliacci-pre-performance-talk>

EUGENE ONEGIN

Insight Event: Wednesday 9 December at 7.30pm, Clore Studio Upstairs

In celebration of the revival of Kasper Holten's *Eugene Onegin* and produced in partnership with Poet in the City, we explore the life and works of Alexander Pushkin, one of Russia's greatest poets and the founder of modern Russian literature. For more information: <http://www.roh.org.uk/insights/insights-pushkin-an-evening-of-poetry-and-performance>

THE FIREWORK-MAKERS DAUGHTER

Insight Event: Saturday 19 December at 11am, Linbury Studio Theatre

Join Sally Todd and Steve Tiplady of Indefinite Articles as they present a behind-the-scenes talk and demonstration, looking at the shadow puppets and techniques of the show...they might even share some of their secret firework effects with you. Volunteers may be needed to face the tiger, peer into Razvani's cave or dance with their own shadow! For more information: <http://www.roh.org.uk/insights/insights-behind-the-scenes-shadow-puppets-with-the-firework-makers-daughter>

TOSCA

Pre-performance talks: Monday 11 January, Monday 18 January and Friday 29 January at 6.30pm, Clore Studio Upstairs

LA TRAVIATA

Insight Event: Wednesday 13 January at 7.30pm, Clore Studio Upstairs

A heart-rending tale of a Parisian courtesan who sacrifices all for love. Filled with Verdi's much-loved melodies, *La traviata* is the perfect introduction to opera. For more information: <http://www.roh.org.uk/insights/insights-a-beginners-guide-to-la-traviata>

Pre-performance talks: Friday 22 January, Monday 7 March and Wednesday 9 March at 6pm, Clore Studio Upstairs

Join us in the Clore Studio Upstairs for a fascinating introduction to the production before curtain up. Led by an expert, this Insight will ensure you get the most out of *La traviata*. For more information: <http://www.roh.org.uk/insights/insights-la-traviata-pre-performance-talk>

L'ÉTOILE

Insight Event: Thursday 14 January at 7.30pm, Clore Studio Upstairs

Join leading conductor Mark Elder as he explores Emmanuel Chabrier's comic opera *L'Étoile*. Chabrier was a master of the *opéra-bouffe* genre, and his wacky operatic delight promises not to disappoint! For more information: <http://www.roh.org.uk/insights/insights-mark-elder-on-the-music-of-lettoile>

Pre-performance talks: Monday 1 February, Monday 15 February and Wednesday 24 February at 6.30pm, Clore Studio Upstairs

Join us in the Clore Studio Upstairs for a fascinating introduction to the production before curtain up. Led by an expert, this Insight will ensure you get the most out of *L'Étoile*. For more information: <http://www.roh.org.uk/insights/insights-lettoile-pre-performance-talk>

Other

Stage Fighting Insight Event: Tuesday 24 November at 7pm, Clore Studio Upstairs

Join Fight Director Natalie Dakin for an exciting and unique interactive workshop to learn the techniques required to create and perform convincing fight sequences for the stage. For more information: <http://www.roh.org.uk/insights/insights-do-it-yourself-stage-fighting>

Big Sing Christmas Carols Insight Event: Thursday 17 December at 7.30pm, Clore Studio Upstairs

Spice up your Christmas and warm up those vocal chords with leading vocal coach and mezzo-soprano Mary King as she coaches you to find your voice and practise your favourite carols before Christmas Day! For more information: <http://www.roh.org.uk/insights/insights-big-sing-christmas-carols>

Hats and Jewellery Insight Event: Thursday 28 January at 7.30pm, Clore Studio Upstairs

A fascinating insight into what it takes for the four members of the Hats and Jewellery department to adorn the heads, necks, wrists, ankles and even the feet of The Royal Ballet and The Royal Opera companies. For more information: <http://www.roh.org.uk/insights/insights-behind-the-scenes-hats-and-jewellery>

National Opera Studio Masterclass Insight Event: Wednesday 3 February at 7.30pm, Clore Studio Upstairs

See internationally-renowned conductor Nicola Luisotti and young artists from the National Opera Studio work together as they tackle repertoire in rehearsal. For more information: <http://www.roh.org.uk/insights/insights-national-opera-studio-masterclass>

The Art and Science of Theatre Acoustics Insight Event: Tuesday 1 March at 7.30pm, Clore Studio Upstairs

Is there a perfect design for a lyric theatre or concert hall? In partnership with the Institute of Physics, join leading scientists and artists as they discuss how acoustics can make or break a performance. For more information: <http://www.roh.org.uk/insights/insights-the-art-and-science-of-theatre-acoustics>

Battle of the Arias Insight Event: Tuesday 22 March at 7.30pm, Clore Studio Upstairs

What's the greatest aria ever written? Hear from experts from the Royal Opera House Music Staff David Syrus, Paul Wynne Griffiths and Susanna Stranders as they go head-to-head to win your vote. For more information: <http://www.roh.org.uk/insights/insights-battle-of-the-arias>

BIG SING FRIDAYS

TICKETS £3 - 5

Paul Hamlyn Hall

Big Sing Fridays are one-hour lunchtime taster sessions, which give members of the public the opportunity to sing alongside The Royal Opera's music staff and guest artists in the Paul Hamlyn Hall at the Royal Opera House.

- **Friday 22 January at 1pm**

For more information: www.roh.org.uk/functions/big-sing-fridays

TEA DANCES

TICKETS £11

Paul Hamlyn Hall

We continue to celebrate the days when the Royal Opera House was one of the most popular dance venues in London. Our Tea Dances take place throughout the Season in the Paul Hamlyn Hall and give you the opportunity to waltz, tango, cha cha cha and quickstep to the Royal Opera Dance Band.

- **Friday 15 January at 1pm**
- **Friday 5 February at 1pm**

For more information: www.roh.org.uk/functions/tea-dance

FAMILY SUNDAYS

TICKETS £3–5

Family Sundays are a new regular event for families to come and explore the Royal Opera House, its artists and the world of opera and ballet. Each Family Sunday will be packed full of different creative and practical activities for all the family, as well as space to relax and enjoy live music in an informal setting.

- **Sunday 31 January at 12 noon**

For more information: <http://www.roh.org.uk/functions/family-sundays>

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