

7.00pm Thursday 26 June Queen Elizabeth Hall



and the bird that would be free

## SOUTHBANK CENTRE

RESIDENT

## WELCOME

## to our 2024/25 season here at the Southbank Centre

The music that we love to play at the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment is a tangle of riddles and puzzles. Why did Bach choose the six concertos he did to become the Brandenburg Concertos? What is the secret theme hidden within the *Enigma Variations*? Why do certain works and composers achieve 'Greatness'? Why are others overlooked? Why did Beethoven scratch out the dedication to Napoleon of the 'Eroica' Symphony? Why did Bruckner never hear his Fifth Symphony? How does music decode human sentiment? Or express the ultimate enigma, humanity's relationship with the divine?

"I have come to believe that the whole world is an enigma, a harmless enigma that is made terrible by our own mad attempt to interpret it as though it had an underlying truth"

**UMBERTO ECO** 

These enigmas have always nourished the human imagination. The secret themes, lost manuscripts and broken celebrity crushes that tease us are all part of the thrill. The idea that we might solve the mystery drives us on. If we're honest, though, we can't promise to uncover all the answers for you. So that leaves us with a simple choice: go mad... or just decide to enjoy the music!

If there is an underlying truth to be found it is in the act of coming together to share this wonderful, messy cosmos of music – the gathering of the musicians of the OAE with our inspiring artistic partners and you, our audience. Together we might find the secret key: one that unlocks the door to joy, generosity and, of course, Enlightenment.

Thank you for being part of our enigmatic adventure.

## **5 Things to Know**

- 1. Tonight you will hear music by three composers who all lived at around the same time in the 18th Century. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 1791) is one of the most famous composers to have lived. There are many stories about his life, but be careful as not all of them are true! Marianna Martines (1744 1812) and Joseph Bologne (1745 1799) are less well known but their music is being more widely played than ever before. You can read more about all three of them on page 9.
- 2. In the 18th Century composers and musicians were likely to work for someone wealthy, like a King or Emperor, or the Church. They would work hard for a living (as they do now) and often add to their earnings by putting on their own events for the paying public or teaching.
- 3. Vienna and Paris were two of the most important cities in Europe. Paris, where Joseph

- Bologne worked, was the second largest city (after London) by 1800 with a population of about 600,000. Vienna, where Marianna Martines and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart lived and worked was sixth largest with a population of 240,000.
- 4. There was a lot going on in the 18th Century!

  It is where we get the term 'the Age of
  Enlightenment' from to describe discoveries
  and new ideas in science (think of Newton and
  gravity), philosophy, literature, music and other
  arts. It was also a time of ongoing struggles for
  freedom and equality, with events like the French
  Revolution, although many people continued to
  live in poverty, injustice and slavery.
- 5. The Magic Flute's title in German is *Die Zauberflöte.* Mozart wanted everyday working people to be able to enjoy his operas. There was quite an uproar when he wrote *The Magic Flute* to be performed in German because that is what most people in Vienna spoke rather than Italian which was considered the right language for opera to be performed in at the Emperor's court.

### Introduction

#### **Crispin Woodhead Chief Executive Officer**

The Magic Flute is a remarkable piece, bursting with provocation, complication and unforgettable tunes.

One of the most explosive moments of the work comes early in the opera. In the woodland encounter between prince and pauper, Tamino and Papageno, we hear the following:

**TAMINO** 

Sag mir, du lustiger Freund, wer du seyst? *Tell, me, jolly fellow, who are you?* 

**PAPAGENO** 

Wer ich bin?

Who am I?

für sich (quietly)

**Dumme Frage!** 

Silly question!

laut (aloud)

Ein Mensch, wie du.

A man like you.

BELINFANTE QUARTET

'Mensch' carries more than our 'man' – it has a unifying, equalising power in the way that we mean when we use words like 'humanity'.

It is daring and revolutionary. It taps into the social criticism, subversion and challenge that is in the waters already in the eighteenth century. It's a mark of the new world view where tales are told in German vernacular not patrician Italian, where the stage is common domestic rather than spangled royal. It's a world-on-its-head view of life where counts beg forgiveness and a high drama takes place in the lives of common people.

Above all, it is the primary language of levelling up, the call to action that we are in this together and that, with a common purpose, great things can be achieved.

How perfect that the inspiration of this masterpiece carries its energy forward in this new treatment: an all-encompassing community opera in the orbit of our residency in a north London comprehensive.

## Club OAE Mixtape

As a little thank you, we've put together a playlist inspired by tonight's concert. It features classic OAE recordings.



Mozart: The Magic Flute – The Queen of the Night's Aria

Mozart: The Magic Flute - 'Ach ich fühl's' (Ah, I can feel it)

Mozart: Cosi fan tutte – 'What Every Girl Fifteen or Older Needs to Know'

Mozart: The Magic Flute – 'Oh don't tremble, my dear son'

Bologne: String Quartet No. 4 – 1st movement

Bologne: String Quartet No. 4 – Rondeau (2nd movement)

Bologne: Violin Concerto Op. 8 No. 2 – 1st movement

Martines: Sinfonia in C – 1st movement

Mozart: Horn Concerto No. 4 – Rondo (3rd movement)







oae.co.uk/club

## **Tonight's Music**

Thursday 26 June 2025
7.00pm at the Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall

#### **Grand Overture**

Inspired by Mozart, composed by students from Acland Burghley School (Camden), Northgate High School (Ipswich) and James Redwood

#### Rondeau from String Quartet No. 4

by Joseph Bologne (1745 - 1799)

## Rising, Falling and Going Round: Rondo on a theme by Martines

Composed by students from Acland Burghley School (Camden), Northgate High School (Ipswich) and James Redwood

#### Sinfonia in C

by Marianna Martines (1744 – 1799)

I. Allegro con spirito (Cheerful with spirit)

#### The Magic Flute and The Bird That Would Be Free

Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 – 1791) and James Redwood

Overture

A great bird catcher's what I am

The Queen of the Night I

Hm! Hm! Hm! Hm!

Ach, ich Fühl's (Ah, I can feel it)

The Queen of the Night II

Let's be silent

The Queen of the Night III

Don't Give Up

March of the Priests

And If You Fall (Don't Give Up)

You Have Gifts (Don't Give Up)

We're Walking Safely Through The Fire

Pa Pa Pa

Finale

#### ORCHESTRA OF THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT

**Huw Daniel** leader

Kirsty Hopkins The Bird
Timothy Dickinson The Bird Catcher
Adam Courting Narrator

James Redwood conductor

Huw Daniel violin
Dominika Fehér violin
Kate Heller viola
Ruth Alford cello

Musicians from Acland Burghley School and Northgate High School

Dancers from Acland Burghley School (leader: Jordan Williams)

Choirs from Netley Primary School, West Hampstead Primary School & Hawley Primary, Camden (leader: Sheena Masson) and Northgate High School, Ipswich (leader: Chloe Rutter)

This project is supported by Sir Martin and Lady Elise Smith OBE, The Neville Abraham Foundation, Paul Hamlyn Foundation and John Lyon's Charity

## **Tonight's Performers**

#### **Creative Team**

**Ruth Paton** stage designer **Brett Kasza** lighting designer

#### **Acland Burghley School musicians**

Gilbert Chapman, Juno Chatwin, J'Zon Craigie, Buddy Ellis, Anna Glayser-Smyth, Kaireece Nevins, Tam Nicholls, Zain Saeed, Oscar Szalwinski

#### Northgate High School musicians and singers

Sophia Ayers, Arthur Baggett-Lahav, Antoni Buczek, Max Buczek, Henry Cooke, Isaac Gisby, Megan Green, Samuel Green, William Herbert, Elijah Joyson, Billy Sillis, Izabela Wolinska, Fran Birch, Seren Bloor, Martha Brookes, Evie Carr, Oshinka Fonseka, Leigh Fox, Emma Fox, Kitty Gray, Chloe Loock, Katie Ramsey, Mary Rogers, Ayla Saglam, Indira Stasilaityte, Eliza Storey, Olha Volhina, Claudia Webb

#### **Acland Burghley School dancers**

Stella Aklog, Ella Combes, Oscar Fichelson, Lilah Hetherington, Leah Lymbouri, Crystal Stephenson, Emily Strange

#### ORCHESTRA OF THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT

#### **Violins I**

Huw Daniel\* Claire Holden Daniel Edgar Henry Tong Alice Poppleton

#### **Violins II**

Dominika Fehér Rebecca Livermore Jo Lawrence Mark Seow

#### Violas

Kate Heller Annette Isserlis Hannah Gardiner

#### Cellos

Ruth Alford Carina Drury Miriam Nohl

#### **Double basses**

Cecelia Bruggemeyer John-Henry Baker

#### **Flutes**

Lisa Beznosiuk\* Rosie Bowker

#### **Clarinets**

Fiona Mitchell Sandra Pérez Romero

#### **Bassoons**

Zoe Shevlin Rebecca Hammond

#### **Horns**

Ursula Paludan Monberg Peter Moutoussis

#### **Trumpets**

William Russell Brendan Musk

#### **Trombones**

Philip Dale Ed Hilton Martyn <u>Sanderson</u>

#### Timpani and Percussion

Charlie Hodge

\*OAE principal players

## **Synopsis**

risty is a bird. Tim is a bird catcher. Every day he must catch a new bird to take to the terrifying Queen of the Night, for her collection. In return for the birds, she gives Tim food and drink.

One day Tim catches Kirsty – he is about to take her to The Queen – but Kirsty does not want to be caught or to live in a palace. She wants to be free. Tim is frightened of The Queen, but is moved by Kirsty's plight. He agrees to let her free, but is caught by The Queen.

They beg her for mercy, and while The Queen won't let them free, she agrees to give them a chance to free themselves.

First she gives them a challenge of silence. They don't think they can do it, and decide to give up, but they hear a song in the distance which encourages them to keep going. Nevertheless, Tim can't manage it and they fail the challenge. Kirsty begs for another chance.

The Queen agrees, and gives them trials of fire and water. She offers them weapons, a flute and some bells, which Tim and Kirsty see as useless objects. They attempt the trials, and at first they get nowhere, but again the song in the distance gives them the strength to carry on. They decide to try their flute and bells – and immediately the fire and water are calmed.

Music has saved the day! Tim and Kirsty are set free, and Tim goes with Kirsty to live life as a bird, flying around the world.



## Our Journey

## Richard Bratby speaks to Education Director Cherry Forbes, composer James Redwood and writer Hazel Gould

When Mozart wrote *The Magic Flute* in 1791 he was having the time of his life, and you can tell. He was 35 years old, and he knew a thing or two about operas (he'd written his first at the age of eleven). Now, 24 years and 18 operas later, he did something completely different. *The Magic Flute* is a show for the whole family, more like panto than grand opera, and packed with seriously catchy tunes. True, it's a tale of rescue and adventure, but there are clowns, dancers and fabulous monsters too. It's a story of friendship and self-discovery, set in a fantastic world where the greatest prize is goodness, and the most powerful magic is the kind that we can all create: music itself.



James Redwood credit Charlie Kirkpatrick



**Cherry Forbes** 

In other words, it's perfect for the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment; an orchestra that's found an endless source of creative energy in its work with communities and young people. After turning Purcell's *Dioclesian* and *The Fairy Queen* into exuberant community operas, *The Magic Flute* is a natural next step for the creative team of composer James Redwood, writer Hazel Gould and the OAE's Education Director, Cherry Forbes.

"We're now regularly doing these big community operas" explains Cherry. "They started small, and they've just grown! Now it's very normal for us to be doing a project like this at the Queen Elizabeth Hall. What we really like doing is taking the core music of the OAE, and asking, 'where could that go?'. In the case of *The Magic Flute*, obviously it's one of Mozart's finest operas, but it's really important that every performer has a voice – whether playing, or in the case of *The Magic Flute*, singing or dancing as well. So we get to work. James is a fantastic composer, Hazel is a fantastic writer and director, and between us, we start creating something magical."

She makes it sound easy, but in truth it takes a special kind of imagination. Mozart's opera has more than 20 different characters and a famously topsy-turvy story. Hazel and James' challenge was to recreate it with just two singers, a multi-tasking narrator, and, of course, enjoyable and rewarding parts for a team of inspirational young singers, dancers and instrumentalists from lpswich and Camden. That's where the imagination comes in. The OAE has taken care to keep Mozart's full 30-piece orchestra, so it's a question of staying true to his spirit while finding a new and enjoyable way to tell the story. As always in opera, the words are crucial, as Hazel explains.

"I love *The Magic Flute*" she says. "The music is wonderful, but I think it's widely recognised that the story is bananas! So I chose a few ideas that I thought were central to the opera, and some of the characters that I think are inspiring. It was important to make something that would speak to both parents and children, and so I asked myself: which are the characters that I'd most like to work with? And since I knew we had a lovely baritone, Tim, it seemed really right to base it around Papageno's story".

That makes a lot of sense. Mozart's wisecracking bird-catcher Papageno isn't your typical hero, exactly, but he's huge fun to be around. "He's completely charming, and he's a real everyman" says Hazel - who's renamed him Tim, to match the singer who plays the role.

"For young audiences, the experience of being put in a situation which is much bigger than you are is very relatable. So in *The Magic Flute and The Bird That Would Be Free*, there are goodies and baddies. Tim catches a bird and she wants to be free - but if he lets her free, they're both going to be in trouble with the Queen of the Night. They have to try and escape, and as a joke, the Queen gives them a flute and some bells. They say, 'This is useless. This is rubbish. We need proper tools'. But then they have a go at playing them, and it turns out that it's music that helps them get through"

That sounds like a cue for a composer. James Redwood has collaborated with Hazel and Cherry on the OAE's Purcell projects. Still, for any composer, the prospect of working with Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart has got to be daunting. "Cherry's brief to me was that we should create a song that the children could sing to encourage Tim and Kirsty not to give up in their trials" he says. "And so Hazel wrote the lyrics for this song, 'Don't Give Up'. I've done quite a lot of work with the OAE, but always with Baroque composers. Mozart's harmony is a lot harder to interrupt, so I went through *The Magic Flute* finding chord progressions that I liked, and then I put a new melody on top of them. It was an interesting musical challenge for me – it's a new song but I didn't want it to sound like it had nothing to do with Mozart".

Though of course, Mozart isn't the only show in town tonight. Cherry was keen to include music by two of his less familiar contemporaries. As she explains, "We started thinking about other composers who were around at the time of Mozart. We've got a movement of a quartet written by Joseph Bologne, also known as the Chevalier de Saint-Georges, who was writing at the same time and and was also a renowned fencer! We've also been exploring work by Marianna Martines, who was the first woman known to have written a symphony."

These neglected works have provided starting points for the young performers' own creativity. The results will be showcased in the first half of the evening, and Cherry relishes the prospect. "Overall, we'll have 30 OAE players, our three soloists, nine dancers, and 90 primary school children, plus over 40 secondary instrumentalists and singers as well", she says. The aim, after all, is to let the music of the 18th Century inspire and unlock the creativity of a new generation. "This gives the young performers a sense of real-world purpose" says Anna Rimington of Acland Burghley School, the Tufnell Park comprehensive that the OAE calls home. For Jordan Williams, Dance and Music Subject Leader at Acland Burghley, it gives teenage dance students "a chance to grow as choreographers" on a truly world-class platform.

Best of all, we get to share the adventure too – enjoying, in new and surprising ways, Mozart's enduring power to entertain, enlighten and delight. "The pleasure for me is hearing all the work come to life" says James. "There was an idea that was in my head, and now I get to hear it! That's just very joyful." Hazel sums it up. "What's really amazing about working with young people is they connect to the music without the cultural barriers that we put in the way. Young people hear fascinating, interesting things in music that those of us who have more experience might not. You get a different perspective. And more than with any other composer, really, the music of Mozart just goes straight in. It's so human, it's so character-led. It's just so full of heart!"

## Meet the composers

#### **Richard Bratby**

## Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges (1745 – 1799)



Portrait of Joseph Bologne de Saint-Georges, 1788. One of the earliest musicians of African ancestry in the world of European classical music. Painted by William Ward, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

When you're talented and famous, people tell stories about you. Many stories have been told about Joseph Bologne, but the facts are amazing enough. He was born in the Caribbean island of Guadeloupe where his father was a landowner and his mother was an enslaved woman. When he was seven. he travelled to France, and by the time he was 17 he was already a star. He was a champion fencer (the sport of fighting with swords). He was also a great dancer, and it's said that he was so quick with a pistol that if you flipped a coin in the air, he could hit it with a bullet while it spun.

Well, like we said, people tell all sorts of stories! Joseph certainly had some incredible adventures. The Queen of France became his friend; later, when France was at war, he fought as a soldier. At one point he was even thrown in prison by his enemies. Somehow, between all this, he trained as a violinist and a composer, and by the 1780s he was the leader of the best orchestra in Paris, where only prejudice prevented him from getting the top job in French music, the head of the Paris Opera. Today, we're enjoying his music all over again – and getting to know one of the 18th Century's bravest and brightest talents.

#### Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 - 1791)



Painting of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart by Barbara Krafft, 1819 Public domain via Wikimedia Commons

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was small in stature, he was good company and he was never rich, but for many people he was one of the greatest musicians who ever lived. In fact, he was writing music and playing the violin and piano by the age of ten. His father Leopold was a composer himself, and he could tell that little Wolfgang was something special. Leopold took him on tour all over Europe - including a

trip to London, where audiences rushed to see this "prodigy of nature" performing with his older sister Anna.

As an adult, Wolfgang settled in Vienna and dived headfirst into every kind of music. He knew he was good, and he worked hard – composing, teaching, and playing the piano. But he loved dancing too. He enjoyed relaxing with friends over coffee and a game of billiards, and he adored his wife Constanze, their young children and their pet dog. Everyone agrees that he died far too young (he was only 35 – medicine was not as advanced then as it is now), but in his short life he wrote more than 700 pieces including operas – like *The Magic Flute* – that are still performed all over the world today.



Marianna Martines born in Vienna circa 1780 Anton von Maron, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

## Marianna Martines (1744 – 1812)

News travelled slowly in the 18th Century (because nothing moved faster than the fastest horse) but even so. Marianna Martines was famous across Europe. Her family was originally from Spain but she was born in Vienna, the Austrian capital where Mozart also lived and worked (he knew her well, and was a big fan). When she was visited in 1772 by the English music historian Charles Burney, he was so dazzled by her skill as a composer,

pianist and singer that he called her "Saint Cecilia Martines" (Saint Cecilia is the patron saint of music).

Like Mozart and Bologne, Martines showed huge talent as a child, and she was encouraged by a family friend – the poet Metastasio, who wrote the words for some of the 18th Century's most famous operas. It was difficult for a woman to make a career as a musician in those days, but she was determined to succeed. And she did: she sang before the Empress of Austria, and composed music for some of the biggest churches in Vienna. Meanwhile, fellow composers and music-lovers flocked to her lively musical parties. Her symphony (which we're playing tonight) might be the first symphony ever written by a woman: a glimpse into a truly brilliant musical mind.

## Opera anywhere

One might think that the concert hall or theatre is the place for opera but our *Magic Flute* show has been performed in schools and even at a street party in Camden to the delight of local residents!



'Absolutely wonderful – *The Magic Flute* as never heard before and so accessible!' – CAMDEN RESIDENT

'Inspiring Stuff – delightful and special – who would imagine anything SO LOVELY for ALL the families at a street party.' – CAMDEN RESIDENT

'It's just so amazing to have a whole orchestra at our street party! How many people have that where they live? We love it that you are part of our community now.' – CAMDEN RESIDENT





'Your concert at the street party was amazing! We loved everything about it. It was wonderful to see everyone of all ages and sections of our community listening. The Mozart was so beautiful, I loved it that you made complete sense of an opera that doesn't, really, so that even the small children could understand it. The acting was very engaging and the singing and playing were like you'd just walked out of the Royal Opera House and onto our street. We are really lucky. And it was so funny. The moment you stood up with the hosepipes was just priceless. We all certainly need more fun and more culture in these times and this was both'. – CAMDEN RESIDENT

WATCH OUT – you might find us on your street corner next!

## Biographies



## ADAM COURTING Narrator

Adam Courting is a Kenyan storyteller and Forest School facilitator (*The Garden Classroom, Greenwise People*), born and raised in Camden, north London. He currently co-hosts a monthly community storytelling event around a fire circle in Bethnal Green, East London under the banner 'Tongues in Trees.'

His interests lie in the exploration of identity, communication through narrative, and theories of change and development in the professional, social and natural worlds. Creatively he has enjoyed a decade of work as an actor, improviser, writer, puppeteer, voice actor, producer, and deviser.

As a practitioner he is keen to promote and support more inclusive understanding and practice, diversity of thought, and expression of creativity. He began working with the OAE as a narrator in 2022 and has thoroughly enjoyed each and every minute! Previous productions with the OAE include: *The Magic Flute, King of the Sea, Life of the Sea.* He is also a trustee of Green Shoes Arts.



## TIMOTHY DICKINSON Bass-baritone

British Bass-Baritone
Timothy Dickinson has been
noted for his "wonderfully
warm, round, powerful tone"
(Early Music Today). His work
ranges from recitals across
the UK to Operatic roles
at Glyndebourne, Scottish
Opera, Longborough, Buxton
and elsewhere. He has toured
internationally with Silent

Opera, in their groundbreaking production of *Vixen*, and has also been a regular guest at the St Endellion Festivals in Cornwall.

Timothy is also very active as an Oratorio soloist, embracing a broad repertoire including Bach's Passions; the Requiems of Verdi, Faure and Duruflé, and Haydn's *The Creation*. He has also sung with various ensembles, including The Sixteen, Dunedin Consort and La Nuova Musica, with whom he appears on *Sacrifices* (Harmonia Mundi).

In November 2021, Timothy released *The Holy Boy: Christmastide in Albion*, a recital album of songs and piano music inspired by the Christmas season with pianist Duncan Honeybourne.

Timothy was the recipient of the 2013 Wessex Glyndebourne Award, and is an Alumnus of the National Opera Studio, London.



## HAZEL GOULD Director

Hazel Gould is an award winning writer, director and workshop leader who specialises in the creation of new opera. At the core of all of Hazel's work is her belief that art has the power to change and enhance lives. She has worked with thousands of diverse participants both in the UK and internationally to

explore and create art over a 25 year career.

As a librettist, Hazel's work has been performed by Glyndebourne, Garsington Opera, The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Streetwise Opera and English National Opera amongst others.

Current projects include a new opera for Key Stage 1 audiences with the Britten Sinfonia, the national composition project *Finish This* or ENO, and a community song cycle based on ideas of Winter for the Ryedale Festival (comp. John Barber). This summer her new youth opera *Uprooted*, composed by Hannah Conway, will be premiered by Garsington Opera. With Sound Voice, Hazel has worked closely with composer Hannah Conway to create *The Sound Voice Project* a digital installation exploring lived experience of voice loss. This work received both the European FEDORA Digital Prize & The Sheffield Doc-Fes, Alternate Realities Award (best non-fiction work). They have just created and launched *100 Voices* an immersive experience around listening and being heard in the NHS.

She regularly runs songwriting and co-creation projects in schools, with choirs and students. Her work has twice won the RPS award for Learning and Participation: *We are Shadows* (Spitalfields Festival – 2011) and *Seven Seeds* (Royal Albert Hall – 2015).



conductors and ensembles.

## KIRSTY HOPKINS Soprano

Kirsty Hopkins read Music at Manchester University and then continued her post-graduate vocal training at Trinity College of Music where she won the Elizabeth Schumann Lieder Prize. She enjoys a versatile career performing all over the world for some of today's most exciting and renowned

Recent performances on the stage include First witch in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* at Grange Festival; Purcell's *The Fairy Queen:* 

Three Wishes and the Teacher in The Moon Hares for OAE at Queen Elizabeth Hall, the immersive one-woman show The Apple Tree for OAE Tots; soprano soloist in The Sixteen and Streetwise Opera's The Passion – a staged version of Bach's St Matthew Passion working with homeless and vulnerable people, receiving rave reviews and broadcast on BBC4; the title role in John Barber's The Nightingale; playing Ruth Ellis in Charlotte Bray's opera Entanglement; Betrayal, I Fagiolini's murderous fusion of renaissance music and contemporary dance and Thomas Tallis at The Sam Wanamaker Playhouse at Shakespeare's Globe.

Concert performances include the European premiere of Howard Goodall's *Invictus: A Passion*; Handel's *Dixit Dominus* for The Sixteen at the Palace of Versailles and Sydney Opera House and Soprano Evangelist in Arvo Pärt's *Passio* for Eric Whitacre conducting Hamburg Symphony Orchestra.

When not singing, Kirsty is a freelance producer, working with opera companies and ensembles to create vibrant, exciting new productions for tomorrow's audiences.



#### BRETT KASZA Lighting designer

Brett was born in Guelph, Canada and graduated from Rose Bruford College with a BA in Lighting Design previously graduating with honours in Technical Production for Theatre and Live events from Sheridan College in Oakville, Canada. Brett's goal in theatre and

the arts is to work with others who want to challenge normal conventions. Whether this is through the people, and stories told on stage or in production meetings, he wants to ensure that every voice is heard to create the best art possible. Having worked and studied in multiple countries, Brett's Lighting Design continues to evolve to be ever more creative and inspiring.

Selected credits include: 855-FOR-TRUTH (The Bridge Productions / Gentlewomen Production House); Heathers: The Musical (Theatre Sheridan); Macbeth, Chopped Logic (Action to the Word); The Hunt, Traveling Light, Abigail's Party (Rose Bruford College); Amelie, Once Upon a Mattress (Guildford School of Acting); Wendy and Peter Pan (Watermill Theatre); Animal Farm (Rose Bruford College Wigan); Human Nurture (Theatre-Centre); The Moon Hares (Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment); Ghost Train (The Assembly Project); Daylighting (Royal Academy of Music); Epic Love and Pop Songs (Tiny Wife Productions); Katzenmusik (London School of Dramatic Arts); The Returned (Portal Dance Company), Romeo and Juliet (Notorious Theatre Company); Hamlet, A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Tempest (Urban Arts Project); Macbeth (Notorious Theatre Company).



## RUTH PATON Stage designer

Ruth Paton is a stage and costume designer who has created work for I Fagiolini, Longborough Opera Festival, If Opera, Princeton University, and the Academy of Ancient Music. As an Artistic Associate at Blind Summit Theatre, Ruth has designed productions for

Bregenz Festival, Spoleto Festival and the Hollywood Bowl, LA.

Community engagement and education is a key part of Ruth's practice. Work as a creative educator and facilitator include projects for English National Opera, the Grange Festival, Garsington Opera and the Royal Ballet and Opera, where Ruth is Lead Artist for the Design Challenge Programme and for whom she recently designed *The Sapling* in the Linbury. Ruth holds a lectureship in Theatre Design at the University for the Creative Arts.



## JAMES REDWOOD Composer

James Redwood is an award winning composer and music leader whose practice thrives on collaboration and partnership. He has a hugely varied career, working with orchestras, opera companies and arts organisations to create new music with and for

non-professional groups. He has a special interest in writing music which incorporates material composed by participants and his flexible style always seeks out musical material which is both challenging and engaging to perform.

In 2009 he orchestrated material for Gorillaz' *Plastic Beach* whose title track was nominated for a Grammy. In 2013 he won a BASCA award for *Pass the Torch – An Olympic Symphony*, a commission for the RPO which was devised and performed by 350 young instrumentalists and sung by 3,500 young singers from across North London.

In addition to composition and creative music leading, James has a range of experience leading training and CPD for school teachers, Hub musicians, orchestral players and emerging music leaders.

He has a long-standing relationship with the OAE, leading creative composition workshops in schools and with community groups for over 15 years including three community operas. *The Magic Flute* is the latest collaboration with Hazel Gould for the OAE.

## An interactive concert for 2 – 5 year olds and their grown ups

Join us at the Royal Festival Hall on these dates, plus there are events taking place around the year at our home at Acland Burghley School.

Strike out on more adventures with tunes and rhythms from the Baroque era.

#### **Enchanted Tots**

10.30am & 12.00 noon Saturday 28 June Royal Festival Hall

Travel back in time for a family concert featuring beautiful music from the 17th and 18th Centuries, singing, dancing and interactive wizardry.

Get inspired by the rhythms and tunes of Baroque music – "it's even better than pizza!"

#### **OAE Tots**

10.30am & 12.00 noon Sunday 18 January 2026 Royal Festival Hall

Bring your clapping hands and stamping feet to the melodies of Baroque music.

Upbeat OAE Tots concerts give families the chance to share the stage with a cast of occasionally weird – and always wonderful – instruments.



oae.co.uk/tots



Southbank Centre Season 2025/26

# FAINTASTIC SYMPHONIES

**Celebrating 40 years of the OAE** 

1986. It was the year of the Westland Affair, the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, the infamous 'Hand of God' goal at the World Cup in Mexico, the premiere of Harrison Birtwistle's opera *The Mask of Orpheus...* and in late June Wham! were at number 1 in the UK charts with *The Edge of Heaven*.

On 26 June, the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment first stepped on to a stage.

Sunday 12 October **SOLOMON** 

Thursday 27 November
HAYDN:
FROM ESTERHÁZA
TO HANOVER SQUARE

Sunday 1 February

MOZART'S WORLD:

A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC

**Sunday 8 February** 

IT SHALL CERTAINLY
NOT BEND AND CRUSH
ME COMPLETELY

Beethoven Symphonies Nos. 4 & 5

Thursday 26 February
MOZART'S WORLD:
THE LAST SYMPHONIES

Sunday 29 March **ST JOHN PASSION** 

Wednesday 27 May

THE CREATION

Wednesday 3 June LIFE OF THE SEA

Wednesday 10 June **SYMPHONIE** 

FANTASTIQUE

Wednesday 24 June
VIENNA 1897: BRAHMS'
LAST CONCERT

**NOW ON SALE OAE.CO.UK/40** 

## **LEAVE A GIFT IN YOUR WILL**



#### Mozart left his legacy to us, and you can do the same.

By including us in your will, you can support the OAE for years and decades to come. All legacy gifts enable us to perform at the highest level on concert stages and in schools across the country.

Everyone who chooses to leave a gift to the OAE in their will is invited to join the 1986 Society. The name of the Society pays tribute to our history and the year the Orchestra was founded.

As a member of the Society, you will help us support our next 40 years. Members of the Society enjoy exclusive benefits, including an invitation to an annual behind-the-scenes event where you can see how your support brings exceptional musical experiences to life.

If you would like to discuss leaving a legacy with someone from the OAE, please contact Hattie at hattie.rayfield-williams@oae.co.uk or call 020 8159 9318.



"I have remembered the OAE in my will, confident that the future will be a bright one."

MARGARET FAULTLESS, OAE VIOLINIST AND LEADER





In 1986, a group of inquisitive London musicians took a long hard look at that curious institution we call the Orchestra, and decided to start again from scratch. They began by throwing out the rulebook. Put a single conductor in charge? No way. Specialise in repertoire of a particular era? Too restricting. Perfect a work and then move on? Too lazy.

The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment was born.

nd as this distinctive ensemble playing on period-specific instruments began to get a foothold, it made a promise to itself. It vowed to keep questioning, adapting and inventing as long as it lived. Residencies at the Southbank Centre and the Glyndebourne Festival Opera didn't numb its experimentalist bent. A major record deal didn't iron out its quirks. Instead, the OAE examined musical notes with ever more freedom and resolve.

That creative thirst remains unquenched. The Night Shift series of informal performances are redefining concert formats. Its former home at London's Kings Place has fostered further diversity of planning and music-making. The ensemble has formed the bedrock for some of Glyndebourne's most ground-breaking recent productions.

In keeping with its values of always questioning, challenging and trailblazing, in September 2020, the OAE became the resident orchestra of Acland Burghley School, Camden. The residency – a first for a British orchestra – allows the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment to live, work and play amongst the students of the school.

Now nearly 40 years old, the OAE is now part of the UK's musical furniture. It has even graced the outstanding conducting talents of John Butt, Elder, Adam Fischer, Iván Fischer, Vladimir Jurowski, Sir Simon Rattle and Sir András Schiff with a joint title of Principal Artist. But don't ever think the ensemble has lost sight of its founding vow. Not all orchestras are the same. And there's nothing quite like this one.

**Andrew Mellor** 

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Crispin Woodhead **CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER** 

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Caroline Steane

#### **FANTASTIC SYMPHONIES** at the Southbank Centre

#### 12 October

**SOLOMON** 

with John Butt (conductor)

#### 27 November

HAYDN: FROM ESTERHÁZA TO HANOVER SQUARE with Sir András Schiff (fortepiano / director)

#### **OAE TOTS**

for 2 - 5 year olds with their parents or carers at the Southbank Centre

28 June **ENCHANTED TOTS** 

#### THE NIGHT SHIFT Chamber music down a local pub

New season coming in September 2025

#### **BACH, THE UNIVERSE** AND EVERYTHING at Kings Place

Mission: to explore our place in the cosmos guided by the intergalactic genius of JS Bach. Each monthly event features one of Bach's cantatas, and other choral and instrumental works, alongside a talk by an eminent astronomer.

New season coming in Autumn 2025



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The Southbank Centre is made up of the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room, Hayward Gallery, National Poetry Library and Arts Council Collection. We're one of London's favourite meeting spots, with lots of free events and places to relax, eat and shop next to the Thames.

We hope you enjoy your visit. If you need any information or help, please ask a member of staff. You can also write to us at Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, London SE1 8XX, or email hello@southbankcentre.co.uk

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Thank you to OAE Friends, Supporting Friends and supporters who wish to remain anonymous.









## PATRONS OF THE PAST

Joanna Wyld explores how the composers in our season were supported by a cast of generous and often quirky patrons.



George II of Great Britain (1683 – 1760), 18th century (oil on canvas) © Heini Schneebeli / Bridgeman Images

ew who have read Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* could forget Mr Collins waxing lyrical about his patroness, Lady Catherine de Burgh. In music history, the dynamic between patrons and those they support is usually more nuanced, often resulting in real friendship. Even so, composers sometimes had to resort to similar tactics: JS Bach showed Mr Collinsesque levels of flattery in the dedication of his Brandenburg Concertos to Christian Ludwig, Margrave of Brandenburg-Schwedt, in which he referred modestly to his own 'little talents'. Barbara Strozzi, meanwhile, was determined to make a living for herself, and did so by dedicating compositions to patrons including Ferdinand II of Austria and Eleanor of Mantua.

Handel's royal patrons made some elaborate requests: his Water Music was written for George I's boat party on the Thames, while the Music for the Royal Fireworks was for George II's display in Green Park. The music went well, the fireworks less so: some were rained on, some flew off, and others set fire to the stage.

Felix Mendelssohn was a favourite with Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, writing vivid accounts of visiting them and their pet parrot: 'It was a delightful day! Just as the Queen was going to sing she said: "The parrot must be taken out or he will scream louder than I can sing". Some of Beethoven's patrons even knew each other; Count Razumovsky said of Prince Lobkowitz: 'He played music from dusk to dawn and spent a fortune on musicians. Innumerable musicians gathered in his house, whom he treated regally.'



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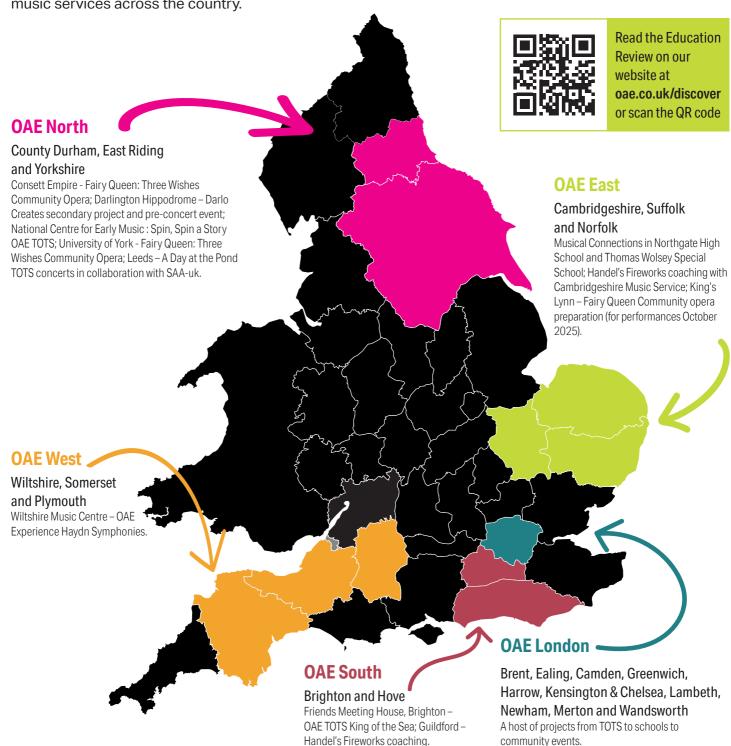


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## Welcome to wherever you are

At the OAE we love embedding ourselves in the communities where we work. Our national residencies involve teacher training, workshops and concerts where local people of all ages have the opportunity to hear the OAE and perform alongside us. From theatres to pubs and schools to care homes, we delight in being right at the heart of every community we work in. During 2024 / 25 we have enjoyed residencies in County Durham, Leeds, York and King's Lynn and also performed concerts or run coaching projects and workshops in Guildford, Cambridge, Ipswich and Brighton. We are ever grateful to Orchestras Live who are our partners in producing projects in County Durham, Darlington and Norfolk, the National Centre for Early Music for partnering with us in York and the Wiltshire Music Centre in Bradford on Avon as well as numerous music services across the country.













Clockwise from top left: Dreamchasing Young Producers at our season launch event; Year 7 Introduction to the Orchestra; Enchanted Tots concert in the school hall; Musical Connections; Young Producers working on Little Shop of Horrors school musical

## **ACLAND BURGHLEY SCHOOL**

In 2020 the OAE moved into Acland Burghley School, and since then we have had the pleasure of having our office, our library and rehearsal space on site. But there is so much more to us being in the school from music being the soundtrack to the playground to our now established programmes of Musical Connections, Ground Base and Dreamchasing Young Producers to dance and cross arts projects, curriculum support and evergrowing relationships with staff and students.

As we end year 5 of our residency at Acland Burghley it feels truly wonderful and natural for us as an organisation to be based in a school. Our relationships with staff and students are

deepening and the branches of our tree are growing, but most importantly we are going on this journey together.

"It is a reminder of what the job really is to speak to the individual. When we look out at an audience at a big concert hall it's all to easy to see the mass of faces and play to the audience. But by working with our children at our school we see every single day the impact music has on the individual. It's important and it changes lives and we are there to change the lives of every individual in our audiences too ... "

Katherine Spencer, Principal Clarinet

## The Magic Flute Wordsearch

Find the words in the grid below to free the musical magic! Remember words could be backwards or diagonal... and if you're not sure what one of the words means ask if your adults know.

Quartet
Mozart
Night
Martines
Bells
Trombones
Water
Sinfonia
Vienna
Magic
Magic Bird
· ·
Bird
Bird Fire
Bird Fire Fencing
Bird Fire Fencing Catcher
Bird Fire Fencing Catcher Day

Α	Q	0	Т	R	S	R	Т	Т	D	I	R	Т	S
N	U	U	N	0	U	Ε	1	В	G	Ε	Т	L	Ε
М	Ε	В	Q	Т	Т	U	0	Т	Т	Н	F	М	N
S	Е	0	Α	R	G	F	Z	U	G	S	E	N	G
I	N	В	Α	Ε	R	N	L	1	Ε	N	N	N	0
N	U	U	N	R	В	F	N	N	L	F	С	N	L
F	Q	В	N	Е	М	Е	0	Q	U	М	I	Т	0
0	М	U	E	G	Α	В	L	U	С	Α	N	R	В
N	Α	Α	1	Α	М	0	Q	L	F	R	G	R	Е
I	G	W	V	0	С	Α	М	Т	S	Т	N	R	М
Α	I	Α	R	Е	Н	С	Т	Α	С	I	0	L	D
I	С	Т	М	I	Т	N	G	R	Α	N	Е	1	Α
I	E	E	Α	Т	R	Α	Z	0	М	E	Н	Q	Υ
V	М	R	L	Т	R	В	I	R	D	S	F	С	D











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