

Dani Howard's opera *The Yellow Wallpaper* to receive its Czech premiere at the Opera Nova Festival, Prague, on **Tuesday 18 June**



Tuesday 18 June 2024, 20:00

Opera Nova Festival, Prague
ABC Theater, Vodičkova 699/28

The Yellow Wallpaper **CZECH PREMIERE**

An Opera by **Dani Howard** and **Joseph Spence**

Amy Lane Stage Director

Johannes Stepanek Director of the Czech premiere

Charlie Morgan Jones Lighting Designer

Damien Stanton Sets

Clare Presland Mezzo-soprano

Hana Baboráková-Shabuová Cello

Terezie Fialová Piano

Valerie Ebuwa Dancer

"Howard's less-is-more opera creates a space for that truth to peer unsettlingly through"

Financial Times on Howard's *The Yellow Wallpaper*

On **Tuesday 18 June**, *The Yellow Wallpaper*, an opera with music by **Dani Howard** and libretto by **Joseph Spence**, will receive its **Czech premiere** at the **Opera Nova Festival, Prague**.

The chamber opera was written based on the literary work of **author Charlotte Perkins Gilman**, whose eponymous short story quickly became a bestseller in the world of feminist literature since its **first publication in 1891**. The story is written as a collection of journal entries narrated in the first person by a young woman who is suffering from postpartum depression. The woman has been confined to a single room by her physician husband where she is separated from all others, including her child, and is forbidden to write or engage in any other activity. Her attention turns to the hideous yellow wallpaper that cover the walls of the room, eventually becoming a kind of projection screen where her fears, horrors, and anxieties, as well as the deep frustration of her forced isolation, are all materialised.

The opera was premiered at the **Copenhagen Opera Festival** in **August 2023** and was given its **UK Premiere** at **Sadler's Wells Lilian Baylis Studio** in **September 2023**. Howard comments,

"This project was a long time in the making, and began with early discussions with librettist Joseph Spence, whose idea it was to turn this iconic novella by Charlotte Perkins-Gillman into an opera. I went away and read the book (several times) and was immediately drawn to it, the simplicity, the subject matter, and knew I wanted to be a part of this wonderful project."

The score keeps the musical forces to a minimum, reflecting the intimacy of the set and story. For its Czech premiere, Mezzo-soprano **Clare Presland**, cellist **Hana Baboráková-Shabuová**, pianist **Terezie Fialová**, and dancer **Valerie Ebuwa** will join forces for the work. Howard comments,

"I was interested in how I could create a wide range of sound worlds with just three instruments and found myself exploring various ways in which all three can combine to create enough interest within the 45-minute work. I enjoyed exploring percussive sounds played by the cellist, as well as natural harmonics in combination with various piano textures covering the wide range of the instrument."

All in all, 2024 is a thrilling year for Dani Howard, who was announced as **Artist in Residence with the National Youth Orchestra** (NYO) following the critically-acclaimed premiere of *Ascent* at the Barbican in **January 2024**, and will premiere a **new commission** at the **BBC Proms** in **August 2024**. Furthermore, her **debut symphonic album** was released on **Friday 22 March** on the **Rubicon Label**. Recorded by the **Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra** and conducted by **Pablo Urbina** and **Michael Seal**, the album includes the **RPS award-winning Trombone Concerto for Peter Moore**, which The Times described as *"an instant classic"*. Peter Moore gave the **US premiere** of Howard's Trombone Concerto with The Orchestra Now conducted by **Chloé van Soeterstède** at the Frederick P. Rose Hall in New York on **Sunday 19 May**.

"This opera was a remarkable, confident step for both Dani Howard and The Opera Story... This felt very much like a personal project, the opera was the shape it was because the creators felt it should be like

that, and this was a terrific evening in the theatre.
Planet Hugill on *The Yellow Wallpaper*

"Bold, exuberant music that manages to be at once complex and likeable."
Financial Times

Season listings

Sunday May 26 2024, 11.00 & 14.00

Nottingham Royal Concert Hall

The CBeebies: Ocean Adventure Prom on Tour

BBC Concert Orchestra
Featuring composers such as Eleanor Alberga, Dani Howard, Telemann, Ravel, Elgar and Britten.

Dani Howard Argentum

Dani Howard: Ostara

Angus McCall Cello
Poppy Beddoe Clarinet
Roelof Temmingh Piano

Wednesday June 12 2024, 19.00

Clifton Festival 2024

Dani Howard: Ostara

Angus McCall Cello
Poppy Beddoe Clarinet
Roelof Temmingh Piano

Saturday June 1 2024, 15.00

St Davids Hall, Cardiff

The CBeebies: Ocean Adventure Prom on Tour

BBC National Orchestra of Wales
Featuring composers such as Eleanor Alberga, Dani Howard, Telemann, Ravel, Elgar and Britten.

Dani Howard Argentum

Thursday June 27 2024, 19.30

Amaryllis Fleming Concert Hall, Royal College of Music, London

Korngold Violin Concerto in D major op 35

Druschetzky Concerto in F
Dani Howard The Butterfly Effect
Bartók Suite from The Miraculous Mandarin op 19 Sz 73

Royal College of Music Symphony Orchestra

Martyn Brabbins conductor
Polina Makhina violin
Colin Lawson basset horn
Hannah Shimwell basset horn
Timothy Lines basset horn

Friday June 7 2024, 20.00

Nevill Holt Festival

Dani Howard Heads or Tails

Britten Sinfonia

Sunday June 30 2024

Cambridgeshire, UK

Britten Sinfonia
Dani Howard JIGSAW

Saturday June 8 2024, 19.30

Berkshire Chamber Music Festival 2024

Saturday August 10 2024, 19.30
BBC Proms - London, UK

Dani Howard *New Work World*
Premiere **BBC PROMS COMMISSION**

Tess Jacskon Conductor

**National Youth Orchestra of
Great Britain - PROM 30**

Dani Howard



Dani Howard is a British composer and orchestrator who is quickly gaining international recognition with regular performances across Europe, the US and Asia. Winner of a Royal Philharmonic Society Award for her Trombone Concerto, Howard has had works commissioned and performed by over forty orchestras worldwide, including the London Symphony Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, and five BBC orchestras.

Howard's Trombone Concerto was premiered in 2021 by Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and soloist Peter Moore. Dubbed "**an instant classic... lush... riveting...**" (Richard Morrison, *The Times*), the work received a Royal Philharmonic Society Award in the Large-Scale Composition category. The concerto was nominated in the Classical Music category at the 2022 South Bank Sky Arts Awards, where Howard was also nominated for The Times Breakthrough Artist of the Year Award. The concerto has since received performances with London Symphony Orchestra, Ulster Orchestra and Gävle Symfoniorkester among others; the US premiere will take place in May 2024 with Peter Moore, The Orchestra NOW and conductor Chloé van Soeterstède.

danihoward.com

For more information on any of the above, please contact:

Nicky Thomas Media

Unit 12, The Stableyard, Broomgrove Road, London SW9 9TL
+44 (0)20 3714 7594 | +44 (0)7768 566 530

info@nickythomasmedia.com

www.nickythomasmedia.com