

THE NEW AQUARIAN OPERA COMPANY

A Night At The Opera

**A concert of operatic favourites
including Puccini's hilarious one act masterpiece**

Gianni Schicchi

Friday 7th June

7:30pm

**Cecil Hepworth
Playhouse**

Walton-On-Thames

aquarianopera.com





**The Chairman's
Welcome**
Andrew
Claringbull



Honourary Patron
Lord Astor of Hever
PC DL

Welcome to The New Aquarian Opera's first performance at the historic Cecil Hepworth Playhouse (CHP). Aquarian were established at the East end of Surrey 26 years ago, and after the company lay dormant for 12 years, the present trustees were persuaded to "take it on" and The New Aquarian Opera Company was reborn! In 2021 we performed the English Premiere of "Gilbert and Sullivan's Improbable New Musical: Less Miserable!" and we have produced one major work and several concerts every year since then.

Our resident home is the Barn Theatre in Oxted, which is another community theatre. It takes a great deal of work to produce an opera, so when we were asked to perform a one-off as part of The Barn's Centenary, our cast asked if it would be possible to perform it at another venue, and the search for a suitable theatre ensued. The trustees became friends of the CHP during the handover last year, when our artistic director Melanie directed MMT's *Me And My Girl*, so the die was cast for our debut, and we hope to become CHP's resident opera company. We are returning on 27th November this year with Puccini's great tearjerker, *La bohème*, fully staged in English, with translation by Amanda Holden and chamber orchestra.

We are delighted to be here and hope that you enjoy this hilarious translation of 'Schicchi' by Amanda Holden and the first act opera favourites. Melanie and Guy have worked extremely hard to cast and assemble tonight's production from a large pool of talented young (and older) singers and musicians.

Andrew Claringbull – Chairman - New Aquarian Opera

Gianni Schicchi – Synopsis – Giacomo Puccini's Comic Masterpiece

The action takes place in Florence in the 1950's

The story is based on an episode from Dante's *Divine Comedy*, the greedy relatives gather around the deathbed of the wealthy Buoso Donati, with exaggerated demonstrations of grief as they expect to be amply compensated by their inheritance, but are horrified to find that he has left everything to a monastery! Rinuccio, Buoso's nephew, who truly loved his uncle, recommends asking Gianni Schicchi, who is the father of his fiancée, Lauretta, to come and see if anything can be done. The family are horrified, Schicchi is an outsider and frowned upon by the wealthy Donatis as being beneath them. Seeing no other solution, the scheming family eventually agree and ask Gianni Schicchi to help them falsify their wealthy relative's will, to "fix" the problem, each taking turns at bribing him into leaving them the most valuable assets, the house in Florence, the Windmill and the prize-winning donkey! But, hilariously, all does not go to plan!

Giacomo Puccini (1858–1924) - Composer

Puccini is one of opera's most popular composers, famed worldwide for the drama and pathos of their plots, wonderful melodies and for the fantastic roles for singers.

Born in 1880 Lucca to a family of church musicians he moved to Milan to study at the Milan Conservatory. Puccini wrote his first opera, the one-act *Le villi*, for the Sonzogno Competition; though rejected by the judges, its successful 1884 premiere led Giulio Ricordi to take Puccini on. His second opera, *Edgar* (1889) was a failure, but he scored a major triumph with *Manon Lescaut* (1893), his first mature work. While completing *Manon Lescaut*, Puccini began a fruitful collaboration with librettists Giuseppe Giacosa and Luigi Illica, with whom he wrote arguably his three greatest operas: *La bohème* (1896), *Tosca* (1900) and *Madama Butterfly* (1904). Following the death of Giacosa in 1906 Puccini struggled to find new subjects and collaborators. However, he continued to create impressive works, with the dramatic 'Wild West' opera *La fanciulla del West* (1910), the tender 'lyric comedy' *La rondine* (1917) and his most ambitious project, the three one-act operas, that make up *Il trittico* (1918) which includes Gianni Schicchi as the final instalment, based on Dante's *Divine Comedy*.

Amanda Holden (1948-2021) - Musician, lyricist and translator

"Translating a text for performance in the theatre is like doing a vast multi-dimensional crossword puzzle while going on a long scenic journey. Its purpose is to sweep away a communication obstruction, but its art is elusive and complex"

Amanda Holden was a celebrated British pianist, librettist, translator, editor and academic teacher. She is best known for translating opera librettos to more contemporary English for the English National Opera, and for writing new librettos, especially in collaboration with Brett Dean. Amanda contributed to encyclopaedias such as the *New Penguin Opera Guide*. She also translated Mozart's *Don Giovanni* for Jonathan Miller in 1985. For the ENO, she also translated Handel, Donizetti, Rossini and Puccini.

Amanda's is the only librettist to have received the Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in Opera (2001), as well as the only translator to receive an Olivier nomination (2012) in the same category. She wrote more than 60 English texts for stage and concert performance, mostly opera.

Many English translations of opera have clunky diction, don't quite fit the music or flow smoothly for the singer. Aquarian Opera chose Amanda's translation because she clearly understands singers and the voice, as the libretto flows beautifully with the added bonus of being very funny.

Production Team

Melanie Vinall – Artistic Director

Melanie began her musical training whilst at school, where she was chosen to take a lead role in a festival musical at The National Theatre. She later trained and performed as an operatic soprano. Her operatic stage experience includes Violetta (La Traviata), Micaela (Carmen), the Dew Fairy (Hansel and Gretel), Donna Elvira (Don Giovanni) (Contessa), The Marriage of Figaro and Cio-Cio-San (Madame Butterfly).



Melanie has provided the singing and speaking voices for radio and tv commercials and was the voice of the Opera Singer in Vodafone's "It ain't over 'til the fat lady sings" campaign.

As a director, she has worked with several companies including Guildford Opera Company, where she directed Offenbach's operetta La Belle Helene. She has also directed Panto and Musicals, including three shows at The Barn Theatre for Oxted Operatic, The Pirates of Penzance, The Wizard of Oz and for the junior company, Curtain Up! In 2023 she directed Me and My Girl for Molesey Musical Theatre.

Melanie is now Artistic Director of The New Aquarian Opera Company, where she directed The Merry Widow, Trial by Jury, The Marriage of Figaro and the English premier of Gilbert and Sullivan's Improbable New Musical: Less Miserable!. Melanie is delighted to be working with Guy again, directing Gianni Schicchi along with the two concerts "The Last Night at the Proms!" (as part of the Barn Theatre's Centenary), and "A Night at the Opera" at The Cecil Hepworth Playhouse, and she hopes you enjoy the show!

Guy Middlemiss – Musical Director

Guy has been on the musical theatre scene for the last 30 years. Gilbert and Sullivan was one of his first engagements, with the Imperial College Operatic Society (London). He has subsequently been repetiteur, orchestral keyboard player and musical director for a number of companies in the London area, including SEDOS, BROS Theatre Company, Questors Theatre, Wallington Operatic & Dramatic Society, Younger Generation Theatre Group, Oxted Musical Theatre Company (with my director for this show, Melanie Vinall, The Pirates of Penzance, 2014), Hashtag Opera, Harrow Opera, Brent Opera, Creative Minds Academy, Camberley Musical Society and Lost for Words Theatre Company. In 2021 he was MD for Aquarian Opera's revival launch show, Less Miserable, their first full-length production of The Merry Widow in 2022 and The Marriage of Figaro in 2023. He is delighted to be working with Melanie again and feels honoured to be entrusted with these two performances, especially since one of them is to celebrate the 100th anniversary of The Barn Theatre, Oxted. He hopes you enjoy the concert.





WHAT'S ON AT THE CECIL HEPWORTH PLAYHOUSE



HOUSE GUEST

Friday 14th, and Saturday 15th June

7.30pm. Doors open 7.00pm.

Tickets: ticketsource.co.uk/desborough

DESBOROUGH PLAYERS

The Desborough Players' spring play this year is *House Guest* - an exciting mystery thriller.

A kidnap, a murder, a duo of daring detectives, but who can be trusted?



MATILDA JR

Friday 21 June at 7pm

Saturday 22 June at 2pm & 7pm

Tickets: ticketsource.co.uk/thembatheatre

THEMBA THEATRE

Matilda Jr is based on the popular book by Roald Dahl. Our cast of performers is aged between 8 and 13. *Themba Theatre* is raising money for Compassion, UK.



LET'S ALL GO TO THE MUSIC HALL

Friday 12th July at 7pm

Saturday 13th July at 2pm & 7pm

POND-GRAINGER PERFORMING ARTS

Song and dance variety show.

pondgraingerperformingarts.co.uk/events



SUMMER WORKSHOP: MATILDA

Monday 29th July - Friday 2nd August

9.30am - 3.30pm (Breakfast Club from 09.00)

Aquarus: 07951 768301

AQUARIUS PERFORMING ARTS

A fabulous 5-day musical theatre workshop with a "*Matilda*" theme. Singing, dancing, acting, arts & crafts for children aged 4-12.

claire@aquariusperformingarts.co.uk



SUMMER WORKSHOP: MOVIE MAKERS

5th - 6th August

SUMMER WORKSHOP: ENCANTO

7th - 9th August

DRAMACUBE

Calling all budding movie makers! This Summer, 5-7 and 8-12 year olds can create, shape and star in their own movie. Dramacube's *Movie Makers* workshops are bursting with drama games, screen make-up and acting. Including an interactive screening experience and a digital link of the film, these unique summer holiday workshops book up fast!

Something enchanting for young performers - Dramacube's *Encanto* inspired Musical Theatre Workshops! Over 3 days, 5-7 & 8-12 year olds will enjoy drama games, creative activities, explore the magical story and learn performance techniques. Together with professional Choreographers & Musical Theatre Teachers they create and perform on stage in a vibrant mini showcase for family to enjoy.



LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

6th - 9th November 2024

7.30pm, plus Saturday Matinée 2.30pm

HMOS THEATRE COMPANY

After a sell-out run of *RENT* in March, HMOS Theatre Company returns to the Playhouse with the ever-popular *Little Shop of Horrors*.

Tickets: ticketsource.co.uk/hmos



ROBINSON CRUSOE

21st - 24th November inc. three matinées

Get involved: launch night 12 June 8pm, @Vine Hall.
moleseymusicaltheatre.com

MOLESEY MUSICAL THEATRE

MMT will return this winter with pantomime fun for all the family. Oh yes they will!

boxoffice@moleseymusicaltheatre.com

A Night at the Opera

The Marriage of Figaro – Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Overture – Orchestra

Letter duet – Sull 'aria - Anna Goodhew & Vicki Hodges

Non Piu Andrai - Will O'Brien, Jon Openshaw & Peter Snowdon

Thunder and Lightning Polka – Johann Strauss II Op. 324 – Orchestra

Die Fledermaus - Johann Strauss II

Champagne: Hannah Taylor, Janette Cattell & Jon Openshaw with chorus

The Merry Widow – Franz Lehar

Vilja – Janette Cattell & chorus

Così fan tutte - Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Soave sia il vento - Anna Goodhew, Deborah Holborn & George Coates

La Bohème – Giacomo Puccini

Musetta's Waltz song – Julia McCullough

Carmen Suite No.2 - Based on the opera Carmen by Georges Bizet, compiled and edited by Fritz Hoffmann

Marche des Contrebandiers - orchestra

Habanera: Carmen – Hannah Taylor

Nocturne: Micaela – Anna Goodhew

Chanson du Toreador: Will O'Brien & Jon Openshaw with chorus

Danse Bohème: Carmen – Deborah Holborn, Mercedes – Julia McCullough, Frasquita – Janette Cattell

La Traviata – Giuseppe Verdi

Brindisi – Janette Cattell, Richard Milnes & chorus

Orchestral arrangements for Die Fledermaus, Così fan tutte, La Bohème & La Traviata produced by Kenneth Roberts at SmallScores

Gianni Schicchi by Giacomo Puccini

Chamber orchestra version by Matthias Weigmann G. Ricordi & Co. Bühnen- und Musikverlag GmbH (Universal Music Publishing Group, Classics & Screen)
By arrangement with G. Ricordi & Co. (London) Ltd.

We are grateful to OperaWords Ltd for the provision of Amanda Holden's delightfully witty English translation

Musical Director – Guy Middlemiss **Artistic Director** – Melanie Vinall

CAST

Gianni Schicchi
Lauretta (his daughter)
Zita (called The old woman) Buoso's cousin
Rinuccio, Zita's nephew, in love with Lauretta
Gherardo, Buoso's nephew
Nella, Gherardo's wife
their children

Betto di Signa, Buoso's brother-in-law
Simone, Buoso's cousin
Marco, his son
La Ciesca, Marco's wife
Maestro Spinelloccio, the physician
Amantia di Nicolao, the notary
Pinellino, a shoemaker
Guccio, a dyer
Buoso Donati

George Coates
Vicki Hodges
Deborah Holborn
Richard Milnes
Owen Winter
Anna Goodhew
Isla Gracie Reynolds
Ella Goodhew
Will O'Brien
Jon Openshaw
Peter Snowdon
Julia McCullough
Andrew Claringbull
Jane Gould Smith
John Tolley
Andrew Claringbull
Tom Littleford

ORCHESTRA

Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola
Cello
Double Bass
Flute/piccolo
Clarinet
Trumpet
Percussion
Keyboard

Andy Laing
Rachel Hess
Nicky Goodwin
Catherine Brooker
Frances Preston
Gavin Morrison
Kate Fish
Eddie Maxwell
Peter Ashwell
Caitlin Carey

Cast

Janette Cattell – Concert Soloist

Janette has very much enjoyed performing with New Aquarian Opera since the company's revival, with roles including Aline in *Less Miserable*, the title role in the *Merry Widow* and the Plaintiff in *Trial by Jury*. She combines a career as a city lawyer with her love of singing and has performed as a soloist with many operatic and choral groups in London and the South East in roles as diverse as Mozart's Queen of the Night and the title role in *Kiss Me Kate*. She has also performed all of the lead soprano roles in the thirteen Savoy operas. Last summer she fulfilled her ambition to perform at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, as Madame Goldentrill in Mozart's *Der Schauspieldirektor*. Her solo choral repertoire includes Handel's *Messiah*, Faure's *Requiem*, Haydn's *Nelson Mass* and, later this month, Vivaldi's *Gloria* with Gravesham Choral Society.



Andrew Claringbull – Maestro Spinelloccio the physician and Guccio the dyer

Andrew is delighted to back performing with The New Aquarian Opera Company after having taken the role of Sullivan in the English premier of Gilbert and Sullivan's *Improbable New Musical*, *Less Miserable!* and the cameo role of Petro Prichich in *The Merry Widow*. He has enjoyed performing principal roles at The Barn Theatre for the past 16 years in operas, musicals, pantomimes and plays. For very many years a chorister, Andrew is enjoying stretching his vocal cords and once again singing opera. Previously with Aquarian he has also performed in *Carmen* and *Die Fledermaus* and is really looking forward to *Gianni Schicchi*.



George Coates - Gianni Schicchi

George is delighted to join forces again with New Aquarian Opera, having performed with them in 2023 in *The Marriage of Figaro* (Bartolo) and *Trial by Jury* (Judge). Recent productions with Guildford Opera have included *Eugene Onegin* (Gremin), *Die Fledermaus* (Frank) and *Lakmé* (Frederick). He has been training with Prof Alison Wells (RCM) and David Cowan (Opera North) at the National Opera Studio. Originally a choral scholar at Christ's College Cambridge, he then joined the Bach Choir under Sir David Willcocks before progressing onto the stage with City Opera. Performing in London, Isles of Scilly and Yorkshire, George undertook roles in *Gianni Schicchi* (title role), *La Bohème* (Marcello), *Marriage of Figaro* (Count, Bartolo, Antonio), *The Tales of Hoffman* (Dr Miracle), *Carmen* (Dancairo), *A Hand of Bridge*, Samuel Barber (David) and *Il Tabarro*, Puccini (Michele). He also sung with Aquarian Opera in *The Tales of Hoffman* (Lindorf and Dappertutto).



Cast

Anna Goodhew – Nella

Anna made her operatic debut at the age of 19, singing the role of Barbarina in Opera Brava's production of The Marriage of Figaro. She was a scholarship student at Guildhall School of Music and Drama, achieving both her BMus (1st class honours) and Guildhall Masters there. Since graduating, some of her favourite roles have included Contessa in Le Nozze de Figaro (NAO, Debut), Violetta in La Traviata (Brent Opera), Musetta in La Boheme (Amick Productions) Rosalinda in Die Fledermaus (Guildford Opera Company), Clorinda in Cenerentola (GOC). In recent years, Anna has enjoyed bringing her joy of music to a wider audience such as participating in dementia friendly concerts with Songhaven, delivering opera workshops in schools and organising concerts for babies and young children with her company FunKey Foundations.

Anna is grateful for the support of her husband and two children, the youngest of which will be joining her on stage tonight!



Ella Goodhew – Gherardo & Nella's daughter

Ella attends Staines Preparatory School where she enjoys taking part in the school plays, singing in the choir and representing her house in the inter-house poetry competition! She is a keen musician; learning the drums, singing and piano. She studies dancing with The Performance Academy and received distinction for her most recent exams in ballet and modern. Above all, Ella loves practicing gymnastics; in the garden, at school, in the rehearsal room...you name it! She is very excited to be making her operatic debut in Gianni Schicchi, especially as she gets to share the stage with her mum for the first time!

Jane Gould Smith – Ser Amantia di Nicolao – The Notary

Jane trained at the Royal College of Music. After graduation, she pursued a career in business and the charity sector, rehabilitating former prisoners. Since retirement, she's reconnected with her musical roots and former RCM friends, retraining from scratch with older voice specialist Dr Rebecca Moseley Morgan and working with singer and composer Susannah Self, while rediscovering the joy of singing and performing. She also leads vocal workshops for older people locally. She was delighted to join the chorus of Aquarian Opera in 2023 for their production of The Marriage of Figaro.

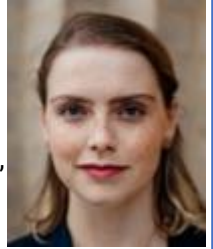


Cast

Victoria Hodges – Lauretta

Soprano Vicki is thrilled to be back with Aquarian Opera as the pouting daddy's girl, Lauretta.

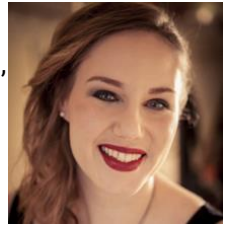
She has sung previously for Aquarian Opera, New London Opera Group, Hampstead Garden Opera, Surrey Opera and Betchworth Operatic as Cherubino (Marriage of Figaro), Mercedes (Carmen) and Valencienne (Merry Widow) to name a few.



Vicki is also the founder of Sing out Sutton, a wellbeing choir for people of all abilities, and works as a life coach helping creatives to find sustainable career paths.

Deborah Holborn – Zita

Hailed for her "rounded, well-sung characterization" (Opera Magazine, December 2021) of "Mama" in Madeleine: British mezzo-soprano Deborah Holborn is enjoying success on the opera and concert platform.



She has performed a wide range of repertoire, both internationally and within the UK for several companies including: Longborough Festival Opera, Merry Opera, Fulham Opera, Opera de Bauge, Rogue Opera, Random Opera Company, Hampstead Garden Opera, St. Paul's Opera, Aylesbury Opera, Haddington Wagner Society and Opera in the Meantime. She is also an exciting oratorio and concert singer and has enjoyed creating opera world premieres with Surrey Opera, Edinburgh Studio Opera and HomoPromos. She has recently been awarded the Wagner Scholarship from the UK society and is looking forward to exploring, studying and singing in Bayreuth this summer.

She is delighted to be singing with New Aquarian Opera in her favourite type of role - the "Old Bag"! deborahholbornsinger.wordpress.com

Richard Milnes – Rinuccio

Richard spent many years singing in chamber choirs, especially the award winning Joyful Company of Singers. Richard now focuses on opera and oratorio as a soloist and studies with Cathy Pope.

Richard debuted with Aquarian Opera in 2023 as Don Basilio/Curzio in the Marriage of Figaro. In the last year Richard has also appeared as Don Ottavio (Don Giovanni) at the Weimar Lyric Opera Studio, and Nemorino (L'Elisir D'Amore) for Brent Opera.



Cast

Julia McCullough – La Ciesca

Born in Montreal, Canada, Julia studied Music at McGill University graduating with distinction in Vocal Performance and in Milan, Italy. She is delighted to be playing the role of Ciesca in this production of Gianni Schicchi. Roles performed include Gianetta in L'elisir d'amore, (Little Venice Music Festival) Countess in Marriage of Figaro (Rottingdean Music Festival) Micaela in Carmen (First Act Opera, London), Alisa in Lucia di Lammermoor (Guildford Opera), Annina in La Traviata (Candlelight Opera, Windsor), Adina and Susanna in concert performances of L'elisir D'amore and Le Nozze di Figaro in Milan, Poppea L'incoronazione di Poppea (Montreal Music Festival)



Julia has sung in the ensemble at Opera Holland Park and Opera de Bauge, France, Montreal Symphony Orchestra Chorus, the FACE treble choir (the children's chorus of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra).

She performs for the musical charities Music in Hospitals and Lost Chord. She has a busy teaching practice.

Will O'Brien – Betto di Signa

Will is delighted to be making his debut with New Aquarian Opera. He has previously performed in three different productions of Gianni Schicchi and played Marco, Beto and Gianni Schicchi on those occasions. Other roles he has performed include Guglielmo and Don Alfonso (Così Fan Tutte), Leporello and Masetto (Don Giovanni), Papageno (The Magic Flute), Sergeant Belcore (L'Elisir d'Amore), The Father (Hansel and Gretel), Lindorf and Coppélius (Les Contes d'Hoffmann), Publio (La Clemenza di Tito), Alfio (chicchi) The Marquis (La Traviata) and Koko (The Mikado). Will has sung bass solos in The Messiah (Handel) and Mozart's Requiem. In July 2023, Will played Richard Hannay in The 39 Steps (just a play, not an opera) at the Oast Theatre, Tonbridge. Will is originally from Finchley in North London; he now lives in Tunbridge Wells. Will studied Opera performance at Morley College and later at the Associated Studios (both in London). Will has a degree in astrophysics and teaches science. As well as performing on stage, Will enjoys stargazing, playing tennis, playing football, playing poker, socialising, travelling, skiing and many other things.



Cast

Jon Openshaw – Simone

John has performed professionally with Longborough Festival Opera, Garsington Opera, Opera South East, Opera Up Close, Barefoot Opera, Surrey Opera and Heritage Opera among others. Roles performed include Escamillo (Carmen), Don Giovanni (Don Giovanni), Guglielmo (Cosi Fan Tutte), Bartolo (Barbiere di Siviglia), Dulcamara (Elisir d'Amore).



Jon's professional concert engagements have so far included Pilate in Bach's St John Passion, Beethoven's Choral Symphony, Brahms' Requiem, Faure's Requiem, Handel's Messiah and Samson (Harapha), Haydn's Creation, Nelson Mass and Harmoniemesse, Mozart's Requiem, Puccini's Messa di Gloria, Rossini's Petite Messe Solenelle, Stainer's Crucifixion and Vaughan Williams' Five Mystical Songs and Fantasia on Christmas Carols.

Jon continues to study singing privately with Neil Baker, having previously studied with Susan McCulloch.

Jon is based in Horsham and works as a singing teacher and choir director, as well as a freelance performer.

www.jonopenshaw.co.uk

Isla Gracie Reynolds - Gherardo & Nella's daughter

Isla is 10 years old and has had the theatre bug from a young age. Her most recent role being Alex the Lion in Madagascar the Musical jr. Her hobbies outside of the theatre include horse riding, tennis and making jewelry. Her dream is to perform on the West End stage.

Peter Snowdon – Marco

This is Peter's first production with New Aquarian Opera, playing opposite his wife Julia (Ciesca). They live in Old Oxted. He has performed in Don Carlos (Fulham Opera), Carmen (West London Opera), Pastoral Messiah (Unexpected Opera), Turandot (Kentish Opera) and Salvator Rosa (Dorset Opera). Peter studied with the baritone Russell Smythe, attended the opera course at Morley College in London and the AIMS summer school in Sussex for many years. Following fifteen years working on BBC Radio 4's Today Programme as well as producing and presenting radio documentaries, he recently joined POLITICO Europe as Senior Audio Producer.



Cast

Hannah Taylor – Concert Soloist

Hannah is Mezzo-Soprano currently studying with Neil Baker. She recently completed her undergraduate degree Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, and is a current student at Morley Opera School. She has undertaken various roles in opera scenes, most recently Frau Reich in “Die Neugerigen Frauen”, Secretary in “The Consul”, and choruses including Eugene Onegin, Anna Bolena and La Boheme. She debuted the role of Veronica in Trinity Laban’s “Strozzi!”. She has just completed taking part in Sestina Music’s “Next Generation Cohort 23/24”, singing a variety of works by Purcell and Charpentier in Ireland. Upcoming engagements include singing in the chorus at Dorset Opera Festival in “Madama Butterfly” and “Under the Greenwood Tree”.



John Tolley – Pinellino, shoemaker

John has performed in all the shows of the relaunched NAO. John was an original member of Aquarian Opera, taking part in several shows including the final production Die Fledermaus in 2011. John also sings with several local and not so local choirs and takes part in other community activities.



Owen Winter – Gherardo

Owen has recently started as a tenor Lay Clerk at Southwark Anglican. As this is his first time working in London, he has decided to venture into the world of Opera, and where better to start than with Aquarian Opera and doing Gianni Schicchi?

Graduating from The University of York in 2014 with a music degree, he went straight in to the fourth outfit of Genesis Sixteen and has since forged a career in the choral world, singing with Caius and Jesus Choirs in Cambridge, and then going on to Peterborough Cathedral, where he sang from 2018-2023.



Production Team

Director	Melanie Vinall
Musical Director	Guy Middlemiss
Repetiteur	Caitlin Carey
Stage Manager	Peter White
Stage Crew	Tom Littleford, James Vinall
Lighting Design & Engineer	Nigel Tyler
Band Fixer	Nicky Goodwin
Props	Muriel Lister
Programme	James Vinall
Costumes	Melanie Vinall assisted by Monica Mickels, Mike McKenzie, Kris Benjafield

Acknowledgements

St. Peters Limpsfield - The Musicians Church - for rehearsal space
Justine and Guy Middlemiss - for hosting rehearsals
The Trustees of The Cecil Hepworth Playhouse for making us feel so welcome
The Barn Theatre Trustees
Our Anonymous Donors
Bruce Reed and Caro Rowley for the continual support
John Tolley – for always looking after us so beautifully

Keep in touch with Aquarian Opera

If you want to be kept in touch about future shows, email melanie@aquarianopera.com with your details or look on our website www.aquarianopera.com

Be in the next show

If you want sing with Aquarian Opera or help out behind the scenes, email melanie@aquarianopera.com with your details or give us a call on 07501 984135

Future Productions

The next planned show is Puccini's La bohème, fully staged in English, with translation by Amanda Holden and chamber orchestra at The Barn Theatre, Oxted on 21st – 23rd November and 27th November at The Cecil Hepworth Playhouse, Walton on Thames

Aquarian Opera UK Charity No 1080942
Honourary Patron – Lord Astor of Hever PC DL

Trustees

Chairman - Andrew Claringbull
Secretary – Melanie Vinall
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melanie@aquarianopera.com 01 883 715126
www.aquarianopera.com



Aquarian Opera is registered as a charity with HMRC for tax purposes



Volunteer at the Cecil Hepworth Playhouse We need your talent & help

The Cecil Hepworth Playhouse is a community theatre run purely on good will of the volunteers. Elmbridge Council own the building and all the trustees and volunteers give their time for free, which is why local groups can afford to put on fully staged shows at a fraction of the cost of a commercial theatre. It also explains why the bar prices are so affordable!

Volunteers are the living soul of The Cecil Hepworth Playhouse and the busy calendar means we are always looking for new friends', whatever skills you may have. Can you help with Day-to-Day Management, Fundraising, Publicity, Marketing, Technical Support/Shadowing, Equipment Maintenance, Building Maintenance including the outside areas, Front of House Support and Bar staff for events?

If you could spare an hour or two, you could be of immense help with the running of the Theatre and help build our community, we'd love to hear from you – please email volunteer@cecilhepworthplayhouse.co.uk

A SMILE IS THE ONLY QUALIFICATION

SPECIAL NOTICE

By order of Surrey County Council, no obstructions, whether permitted or temporary, shall be allowed in any Exit Doors, Exit Ways (whether corridors or staircases), external passageways, gangways, foyers, lobbies or entrance hall. Persons seeking admission shall not be allowed to form queues which obstruct exit doors etc.

SMOKING IS NOT PERMITTED IN THE THEATRE

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