

New AQUARIAN OPERA

# Last Night of the Proms

and

## Puccini's Gianni Schicchi

A comic opera in one act

English translation ~ Amanda Holden

**Saturday 8 June**

**7.30 pm**

Part of The Barn Theatre's Centenary Festival Celebrations





**The Chairman's  
Welcome**  
**Andrew  
Claringbull**



Honourary Patron  
Lord Astor of Hever  
PC DL

Welcome to The New Aquarian Opera's celebration performance for the Barn Theatre Oxted's Centenary Festival month.

The year 1924 saw the opening of the Barn Theatre, which we are celebrating tonight with our latest production; Giacomo Puccini's comic opera, Gianni Schicchi. 1924 was also the year of the death of Puccini and, to continue the theme in November this year, we will be performing another of his most loved operas, La Boheme.

We are delighted to be part of centenary celebrations and hope that you enjoy this hilarious translation of 'Schicchi by Amanda Holden. 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.

Please join in with the second act when we will be performing a number of opera favourites with a last night of the proms theme. We are expecting hearty singing and enthusiastic flag waving at by end!

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 Inferno, the greedy relatives gather around the deathbed of the wealthy Buoso Donati, with exaggerated demonstrations of grief, they expect to be amply compensated by their inheritance, and are horrified to find that he has left the lot to a monastery! Rinuccio, Buoso's nephew, who truly loved his uncle, recommends asking Gianni Schicchi, who is the father of Lauretta, the girl he loves, to look into the matter to 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 all does not go to plan!

### **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**

## **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.

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# 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.



# Production Team

## **Alison Grogan – Stage Manager**

A regular at the Barn Theatre for many years. Alison splits her time between backstage, Front of House and treading the boards - her last acting role being Jamie Plum, an antiques expert from Swansea for one of Oxted Players Fringe productions.

Favourite roles include Grace Farrell in Annie, Nellie Forbush in South Pacific and Crystal in Little Shop of Horrors for the Barnstormers. Alison has previously worked as Aquarian's stage manager and is delighted to be doing so once again



## **Richard Grogan – Lighting Design and Lighting Operation**

Richard has worn many hats for the Barn Theatre over the decades, including stage manager, set builder, stage crew, technology whisperer and pretty much everything else in between, although lighting and special effects are his favourites. Aquarian Opera is very grateful for his invaluable assistance on this production

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www.aquarianopera.com



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

# 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 Vinnall

## 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



# Last Night Of The Proms

## A Quick Trip to Vienna!

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

**Die Fledermaus** - Johann Strauss II

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

**The Merry Widow – Franz Lehar**

**Vilja** – Janette Cattell & chorus

**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 bohème – Giacomo Puccini**

**Musetta's Waltz song** – Julia McCullough

**Pomp and Circumstance March No.1** in D major Op. 39 – Sir Edward Elgar

**Fantasia on British sea songs** by Sir Henry Wood arranged by Peter Lawson, selected highlights including:

**Tom Bowling; Jack's The Lad** (Hornpipe); **Home, Sweet Home; See, the Conquering Hero and Rule, Britannia!**

With Owen Winter, Deborah Holborn, Peter Snowdon, Janette Cattell and Vicki Hodges

**Jerusalem** – Sir Hubert Parry/William Blake

Orchestral arrangements for Die Fledermaus and La bohème produced by Kenneth Roberts at Smallscores

***Land of Hope and Glory*** - A.C. Benson (1862-1925)

Land of Hope and Glory, Mother of the Free,  
How shall we extol thee who are born of thee?  
Wider still and wider shall thy bounds be set;  
God, who made thee mighty, make thee mightier yet.

***Rule Britannia!***

When Britain first at Heaven's command, Arose from the azure main,  
This was the Charter of the Land, And Guardian Angels sang this strain:

*Rule, Britannia! Britannia, rule the waves! Britons never will be slaves.*  
*Rule, Britannia! Etc*

Still more majestic shalt thou rise, More dreadful from each foreign stroke.  
As the loud blast that tears the skies, Serves but to root the native oak.  
*Rule, Britannia! Etc*

Thee haughty tyrants ne'er shall tame; All their attempts to bend thee down  
Will but arouse thy gen'rous flame, But work their woe and thy renown  
*Rule, Britannia! Etc*

The Muses still with Freedom found, Shall to thy happy coast repair.  
Blest Isle with matchless beauty crown'd, Any many hearts to guard the fair.  
*Rule, Britannia! Etc*

***Jerusalem*** William Blake (1757-1827)

And did those feet in antient time  
Walk upon England's mountains green?  
And was the Holy Lamb of God  
On England's pleasant pastures seen?  
And did the Countenance Divine  
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?  
And was Jerusalem builded here  
Among these dark Satanic mills?

Bring me my bow of burning gold!  
Bring me my arrows of desire!  
Bring me my spear! O clouds unfold!  
Bring me my Chariot of Fire!  
I will not cease from mental fight;  
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand  
Till we have built Jerusalem  
In England's green and pleasant land.



# 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.

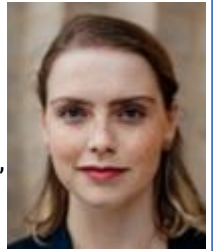


# Cast

## Victoria Hodges – Lauretta

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

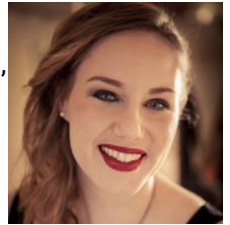
She has sung previously for Aquarian Opera, New London Opera Group, Hampstead Garden Opera, Surrey Opera and Betchworth Operatic as Cherubino (Marriage of Figaro), Mercedes (Carmen) and Valencienne (Merry Widow) to name a few.



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](https://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](http://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

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Director</b>                       | Melanie Vinall   |
| <b>Musical Director</b>               | Guy Middlemiss   |
| <b>Repetiteur</b>                     | Caitlin Carey  |
| <b>Stage Manager</b>                  | Alison Grogan  |
| <b>Stage Crew</b>                     | Richard Grogan, Tom Littleford,<br>James Vinall                              |
| <b>Lighting Design &amp; Engineer</b> | Richard Grogan   |
| <b>Band Fixer</b>                     | Nicky Goodwin  |
| <b>Props</b>                          | Muriel Lister  |
| <b>Programme</b>                      | James Vinall   |
| <b>Costumes</b>                       | Melanie Vinall assisted by Monica Mickels, Mike<br>McKenzie, Kris Benjafield |

## Acknowledgements

St. Peters Limpsfield - The Musicians Church - for rehearsal space  
Justine and Guy Middlemiss - for hosting rehearsals  
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](mailto:melanie@aquarianopera.com) with your details or look on our website [www.aquarianopera.com](http://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](mailto: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



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