THE NEW
AQUARIAN
OPERA
COMPANY

The Marriage Of Figaro

English Translation by Amanda Holden



16-18th November 2023

Supported by

Con brio

HRTCT

The Humphrey Richardson Taylor Charitable Trust

Brewers
DECORATOR CENTRES

FREE DELIVERY*

Your choice for paint and wallpaper

and the very best in free advice



Concert Stone from Mini Moderns Culture! Wallpaper Collection

20% OFF



YOUR FIRST & SECOND PURCHASE

Pick up a Brewers Card in-store or register online

*Subject to availability, terms and conditions apply.

Over 190 stores nationwide. Visit brewers.co.uk to find your nearest.



The Chairman's Welcome

Andrew Claringbull

THE NEW AQUARIAN OPERA COMPANY

Honourary Patron
Lord Astor of Hever
PC DL

"The Marriage of Figaro" is one of Mozart's most popular operas and I think that you will agree that it is a true masterpiece.

Putting on a staged opera takes an immense amount of effort by the production team, theatre volunteers, and of course the cast. All those working behind the scenes deserve a huge amount of credit too. A production like this is also very expensive and filling the auditorium has become increasingly challenging.

The New Aquarian Opera Company has had a very busy year since the success of Lehar's "The Merry Widow" last November. During the spring we performed three Coronation themed concerts in Kenley, Lingfield and Limpsfield. These varied and popular concerts were to raise funds for us and awareness of what we do in our communities. We aim to do more of these in the future, in particular where we can invite local singers to join in with us and enjoy not just opera, but a more wide-ranging genre of popular music. Events where we can laugh, sing, act in a relaxed environment and truly engage with our audiences and participants.

Not only have we been well supported by our loyal audiences, we have many more generous advertisers and sponsors than before. We are exceedingly grateful to those advertisers in this programme, and to the Humphrey Richardson Taylor Charitable Trust for their incredible support. We have also benefitted from generous private and corporate donations, and we hope to build up a group of patrons for long term support. These much-appreciated funds give us the resources and confidence to employ a chamber orchestra for this production which will complement the fabulous principals and our talented chorus as they richly deserve.

Please do support our advertisers and sponsors. They have each been selected because we believe that they are well matched to our own values; a perfect marriage perhaps.

Aquarian Opera was created to develop amateur performers and provide a platform for young professionals to play leading roles.

We are exceedingly privileged to have an ensemble of extraordinary young professionals and seasoned amateurs to bring you Mozart's revolutionary, comic masterpiece. I invite you to sit back, relax and be transported to the court intrigue of 18th century Seville

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



LUNCH MENU

£13.95 including a drink.

SUNDAY MENU

2 Courses | £15.95

28-30 STATION ROAD EAST, OXTED, RH8 0BT
CUCINAOXTED.CO.UK
01883 713988

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 performed in Italy and the USA and regularly sang in Germany. Closer to home, Melanie has sung with London City Opera, Leitmotif Opera, Opera Piccola and Abbey Opera. She appeared in cabaret, was the guest soloist with the Croydon Male Voice Choir and has given recitals encompassing Opera, Lieder, French, Russian Song and Musical Theatre.
Melanie has provided the singing and speaking voices for radio and tv commercials and was the voice of the Opera Singer in Vodaphone's "It ain't over 'til the fat lady sings" campaign.
As a director, she and has worked with several companies including Guildford Opera Company, where she directed Offenbach's operetta La Belle Helene, and Westerham Amateur Dramatics, where she directed their panto Beauty and the Beast. She's directed three shows at The Barn Theatre for Oxted Operatic, The Pirates of Penzance, The Wizard of Oz and for the junior company, Curtain Up! Earlier this year she directed Me and My Girl for Molesey Musical Theatre. For The New Aquarian Opera Company, Melanie has directed the English premier of Gilbert and Sullivan's Improbable New Musical: Less Miserable! The Merry Widow and a series of concerts featuring Trial by Jury. Future plans include "Last Night at the Opera Proms!" as part of the Barn Theatre's centenary. The Marriage of Figaro is the first full opera for The New Aquarian Opera Company, 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 and last year for their first full-length production of The Merry Widow. He is delighted to be working with Melanie again and feels very privileged to be MD for such a major work in the opera repertoire. He hopes you enjoy the show.



The Haycutter

69 Tanhouse Rd, Oxted, Surrey, RH8 9PE

Come and join us throughout December for festive frivolities and winter warmers including

Wreath Making - 5th December, 7pm - 10:30pm
Christmas Jumper Dog Walk - 7th December, 9am (Start)
Christmas Bake Off - 15th December, 9am - 12pm

We look forward to seeing you all soon!

01883 776955
haycutter@brunningandprice.co.uk
www.brunningandprice.co.uk/haycutter

FOBS – Friends Of The Barn Theatre

The Barn Theatre is entirely run by volunteers - We need you!

The Barn is a community theatre run purely on good will of the volunteers. We own the building and no one gets paid, 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!

For 40 years the Friends Of The Barn Theatre (FOBS) have played a vital dual role of fundraising to maintain and improve the theatre and providing volunteers to staff all the Front Of House roles to make every performance possible.

If you wish to become involved with The Barn Theatre as a FOBS volunteer or help behind the scenes, speak to the Front Of House staff or email *fobs.membership@barntheatreoxted.co.uk* or come along to the Barn Sunday Club between 12pm and 2pm on the first Sunday of every month and meet the Friends.

The FOBS volunteers are the living soul of The Barn and the busy calendar means we are always looking for new friends', whatever skills you may have

A SMILE IS THE ONLY QUALIFICATION

Production Team

Elena Vinall – Choreographer



Elena is nineteen years old and has been dancing since the age of two.

Elena played the role of Young Fiona in the UK tour of Shrek the Musical and has been a regular at the Barn Theatre from a very young age. After two years training in Musical Theatre at The BRIT School, she completed a Diploma in MT at Emil Dale Academy in Hitchin and has recently started a three-year degree Course in Musical Theatre at Laine Theatre Arts in Epsom.

Caro Rowley – Lighting Design and Lighting Engineer



Caro has been lighting shows at the Barn Theatre since 1981 and has been instrumental in bringing the latest advances in technology for the benefit of audiences and performers.

Caro is a Barn Theatre Trustee and takes a leading role in the management of the theatre. Aquarian Opera are extremely grateful for Caro's ingenuity, advice and support on so many levels, as she makes it all look so easy.

Alison Grogan – Stage Manager



Alison has worked with Aquarian Opera on many occasions and is delighted to be working with them once more on their latest venture.

A regular at the Barn Theatre for many years. Alison's last acting roles were for the Oxted Players Fringe in the summer of 2022. Alison particularly enjoyed playing Jamie Plum, an antiques expert from Swansea, where she could indulge her love of the Welsh accent. Other roles include Grace Farrell in Annie, Nellie Forbush in South Pacific and Crystal in Little Shop of Horrors, as well as many chorus roles. Alison is now more often than not found backstage helping husband Richard with lighting or working front of house.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 - 1791)
Composer

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is one of the most famous composers of all time. Working mostly in Vienna, he wrote over 800 concertos, symphonies, string quartets, piano sonatas, and operas. Mozart was a child prodigy, beginning composing at the age of three and was a talented pianist and violinist. He toured Europe with his father, playing for the most prominent royal courts, theatres and public houses of the day. Mozart's operas earned him considerable fame in Vienna, ingratiating him with both the public and the Emperor Joseph II. Indeed, the Emperor was so delighted with The Marriage of Figaro that he requested a performance at court soon after the opera premiered at the public theatre in 1786.
As a pinnacle of Mozart's genius, The Marriage of Figaro is considered one of the greatest pieces of music ever written and the most widely performed opera in the world. The melodies are widely known by those with no knowledge of opera, such is Mozart's reach. It is one of the sublime masterpieces of operatic comedy, whose rich sense of humanity shines out from Mozart's miraculous score.

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.

Aquarian Opera are extremely grateful to have been given permission to perform Amanda's translation.



thai pad

Thai Tapas Bar & Restaurant

LUNCH SET MENU
FROM £10.95

SUNDAY 2 COURSE SET MEAL £16.95

5-6 Hoskins Walk, Oxted, RH8 9HR
thaipadoxted.co.uk
01883 71 71 90

The Marriage of Figaro Synopsis

The Marriage of Figaro is the second play in a trilogy written by Pierre Caron de Beaumarchais which centres on servants getting the better of their employers.

In the first play, The Barber of Seville, Dr. Bartolo, is a wealthy doctor in Seville. Marcellina is his housekeeper, and Rosina, his young ward. Dr. Bartolo employs Figaro as his barber and the nosy Basilio to give Rosina singing lessons. Figaro is, at this point in his life, the barber of Seville. Bartolo intends to marry Rosina but Rosina is in love with a young man who is courting her in secret. That young man is Count Almaviva, and he pays Figaro to help him steal Rosina from Bartolo's clutches. Figaro does this and Rosina marries Almaviva and becomes the Countess. Bartolo, furious with Figaro, is left fuming and sputtering. The Marriage of Figaro takes place all on one day, three years later at Count Almaviva's estate outside of Seville.

ACT ONE

It is the wedding day of Figaro, Count Almaviva's valet, and Susanna, the Countess's maid. Figaro's satisfaction with their future quarters turns to apprehension upon hearing from Susanna that the Count has offered them the apartment next to his own, making it easier to press his unwelcome attentions on Susanna (Duettino: Supposing the Countess might call). If the Count wants to dance, he, Figaro, will call the tune (Cavatina: Lead me a dance).

Marcellina and Bartolo plot to prevent Figaro's marriage. Eager to marry Figaro herself, Marcellina hopes to enforce the terms of an unpaid loan she had made to him. Bartolo joins her cause, longing to avenge himself for Figaro's past offenses (Aria: Time for Vengeance). Susanna and Marcellina exchange insults (Duettino: Delighted to meet you Madame Sycophantic).

Cherubino, the Count's page, is miserable because the Count dismissed him after catching him in a tête-à-tête with Barbarina, the gardener's daughter. He confesses to Susanna that he trembles at the sight of any woman (Aria: I don't know what I'm doing or thinking).

When the Count approaches, Cherubino hides and overhears him wooing Susanna. Upon hearing Basilio approach, the Count also hides. Basilio has been acting on the Count's behalf in his pursuit of Susanna. When Basilio hints that Cherubino is pursuing the Countess, the Count emerges from hiding and demands that the page be dismissed (Trio: How outrageous). As he tells how he caught Cherubino hiding at Barbarina's house, the Count inadvertently uncovers him from yet another hiding place. Immediate reprisals are avoided by Figaro's appearance with a group of peasants (Chorus: Scatter your flowers). To save face, the Count awards Cherubino a commission in his own regiment. Figaro sings the praises of military life encouraging the dejected Cherubino (Aria: It's goodbye to the local Narcissus).

ACT TWO

The Countess laments the loss of her husband's love (Cavatina: Help me love). She and Susanna are discussing the morning's events when Figaro arrives with a plan: They will confuse the Count by sending him an anonymous letter alleging that the Countess is receiving a lover, but meanwhile Susanna will agree to meet the Count in the garden. Attending in Susanna's place will be Cherubino, disguised as a girl. The Countess will interrupt the tryst and force the Count to withdraw all opposition to Figaro's marriage.

Cherubino sings a ballad to the Countess and Susanna (Canzonetta: Show me what love is). The maid dresses him for his role in the plot (Aria: Come here and kneel in front of me). When the Count knocks on the locked door, Cherubino hides in the closet. The Count is confronting his wife with the letter when a noise issues from the closet. The Countess claims that it is Susanna but refuses to unlock the door (Trio: Come out at once Susanna).

The Marriage of Figaro - Synopsis continued

Accompanied by his reluctant wife, the Count leaves to fetch tools to force the closet door open, locking the boudoir door on his way out. Once the two have left, Cherubino jumps out the window and Susanna takes his place in the closet.

When the closet door opens (Finale: Out you come you little reptile) Susanna steps out, to the Almavivas' astonishment. The Count's suspicions are nearly assuaged, excepting the anonymous letter. The ladies reply that this was Figaro's little joke, but Figaro arrives and denies any knowledge of it. The Count becomes doubly suspicious when Antonio, the gardener, reports that he saw a man jump out the window, leaving behind a military commission as evidence. Assisted by Basilio and Bartolo, Marcellina attempts to present her case to marry Figaro before the Count.

ACT THREE

Now with a plan of her own, the Countess orders Susanna to lure the Count to a rendezvous, to be kept by the Countess in disguise. Susanna carries out her mission (Duettino: You're cruel, why did you leave me languishing). Upon overhearing Susanna whisper to Figaro that they have won their case, the Count vows to punish them both (Aria: You've won the case already, what does that mean?). While awaiting Susanna's reply, the Countess is saddened to be reduced to these intrigues. Recalling happier days (Aria: What is keeping Susanna), she vows to warm the Count's heart.

With their lawyer Don Curzio, Marcellina and Bartolo entreat the Count for justice, but Figaro insists that he cannot marry without his parents' consent. Unfortunately, since he was kidnapped in infancy, their identity remains a mystery to him. A birthmark reveals that Marcellina and Bartolo are the parents (Sextet: Let me throw my arms around you). Arriving with money to pay Figaro's debt, Susanna discovers him embracing Marcellina. Fury turns to joy when Susanna learns the truth – now there will be a double wedding.

The Count learns from Antonio that Cherubino is still in the vicinity. A letter is dictated by the Countess to Susanna (Duettino: Song to the breezes) and sealed with a pin. Susanna will deliver it to the Count, who will return the pin to her as a sign that the rendezvous will be kept.

When the disguised Cherubino appears with some village girls, Antonio detects his identity. Barbarina saves the day by claiming Cherubino as her promised reward for a kiss she had given the Count. Seeing the Count prick his finger while reading the letter, Figaro surmises that a love intrigue is involved.

ACT FOUR

Later that night, Barbarina searches for the pin, having dropped it in the garden (Cavatina: I have lost it). She explains to Figaro and Marcellina that the Count asked her to deliver the pin to Susanna "as the seal to the pine grove," thus informing Figaro of the location of the tryst and the identity of the lady. Figaro rushes off to avenge all husbands, while Marcellina resolves to warn Susanna.

Returning with Basilio, Bartolo, and a group of workmen, Figaro instructs them to hide until he gives the signal to surprise the Count and Susanna. Figaro rails against womankind (Aria: It's time you looked around youi). Marcellina informs Susanna that Figaro is waiting in ambush. Susanna exaggeratedly longs for her beloved – fully aware that he is listening (Cavatina: At last comes the moment).

Disguised as Susanna, the Countess is visited first by Cherubino (Finale: Softly I'll creep up behind her), then by her own husband, who offers a ring as a token of his love for "Susanna." At the sound of Figaro's arrival, the Countess flees. Disguised as her mistress, Susanna meets Figaro, and once he recognizes her voice, they reconcile their differences. The Count interrupts, thinking he has caught his wife with Figaro. Everyone emerges from hiding, and when the real Countess appears, the Count realizes that it is his own infidelities that have been revealed. The Countess forgives him and Figaro's wedding celebration commences, finally unencumbered.

H_2O Plumbing

General Plumbing Services

Alterations & Installations

Long Established In Oxted

No Job Too Small

Tel: 01 883 712523
Mobile: 07876 450420



INGLEDALE
THERAPY CENTRE

Ingledale Therapy Centre

has

regular time slots currently available

for new Therapists, Consultants, Classes and Meetings

We can manage referrals, bookings, arrivals and payment

Ingledale Therapy Centre provides multidisciplinary treatments to improve both physical and mental health in a relaxed setting in a sensitively restored 15th century barn, close to Oxted

The centre boasts 10 treatment rooms, 2 studios and a fully equipped hydrotherapy pool, ideal for one-to-one consultations or communal teaching or meetings.

To enquire about room, studio hire or any other enquiries- Please contact reception

Ingledale Therapy Centre
1 Tanhouse Road
Old Oxted
RH8 9PE

01 883 717277
info@ingledale-centre.co.uk
www.ingledale-centre.co.uk

Acupuncture, Body Stress Release, Chiropractic, Clinical Psychology, Counselling, Homeopathy, Manual Lymphatic Drainage, Massage, Nutritional Therapy, Osteopathy, Physiotherapy, Podiatry/Chiropody and Foot Health, Reflexology, Talk, Embody & Heal, Vaser/Liposuction/Cosmetic Surgery-MLD

Alexander Technique, Body Control Pilates, Core Strength, Dynamic Ashtanga Yoga a Moving Meditation, Mindful Yoga Gentle Yoga, Polestar Pilates, Pregnancy Yoga, Yoga and Meditation

The Marriage Of Figaro

Opera buffa in four acts by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Adapted from the play *La Folle Journée, ou Le Mariage de Figaro* by Pierre Beaumarchais
Libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte
English translation by Amanda Holden

CAST

Count Almaviva – *baritone*	George Rice
Countess Almaviva – *soprano*	Anna Goodhew
Susanna, *her maid, betrothed to Figaro - soprano*	Isolde Roxby
Figaro, *valet to Count Almaviva – baritone*	Alex Riddell
Cherubino, *the Count's page - soprano*	Vicki Hodges
Bartolo, *a doctor from Seville- bass-baritone*	George Coates
Marcellina, *Bartolo's housekeeper - mezzo-soprano*	Charlotte Collier
Don Basilio, *music master*/ **Don Curzio**, *lawyer – tenor*	Richard Milnes
Antonio, *gardener, Susanna's uncle – bass*	Adam Gammie
Barbarina, *Antonio's daughter – soprano*	Jacqueline Turner
First Bridesmaid - *soprano*	Janette Cattell
Second Bridesmaid – *soprano*	Caitlin Carey
Chorus:	Julie Carson Melinda Cherrett Andrew Claringbull Doug Fisher Nancy Fisher Jane Gould Smith John Tolley
Footmen	Richard Seagroatt James Vinall

Band members:	*Violins:*	Rachel Hess and Andy Laing
	Viola:	Nicky Goodwin
	Cello:	Catherine Brooker
	Double Bass:	Adrian Ball
	Piano:	Neil Shrimpton
	MD & Continuo:	Guy Middlemiss

The BARN THEATRE Oxted

Centenary FESTIVAL

1924-2024

Centenary GALA DINNER

Coltsford Mill

Oxted, RH8 9DG

Tuesday 21st May 2024

from 7.15pm





£65.00 per person

Tickets: www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk

Welcome drink of Prosecco on arrival

Three course meal followed by tea, coffee and hand made chocolates

Half bottle of wine per person

An Audience with Henry VIII after dinner

Cast

Caitlin Carey – 2nd Bridesmaid



Caitlin is thrilled for her first production with New Aquarian Opera, which is also her first performance in a full-length opera. She studied music (piano performance) at the University of Notre Dame, then changed tack and became a lawyer – a career she recently left to return to music. She has sung in various choirs, including the Harvard-Radcliffe Collegium Musicum and the Peterhouse Chapel Choir at Cambridge, and has performed in plays and musical theatre productions with various London amdram groups. Caitlin will be playing Ophelia in Southside Players' production of Hamlet in January 2024 and music directing The Wizard of Oz for Woodmansterne Operatic and Dramatic Society in May

Janette Cattell – 1st Bridesmaid



Janette has performed as a soloist with many operatic and choral groups in London and the South East with roles as diverse as Mozart's Queen of the Night and the Mother Superior in 'Sister Act'.

This year she fulfilled her ambition of performing at the Edinburgh Fringe as Madame Goldentrill in Mozart's 'The Impresario'. Previous roles for New Aquarian Opera include Aline (Less Miserable), the Plaintiff (Trial by Jury) and the title role in 'The Merry Widow'.

George Coates – Dr. Bartolo



George returns the Barn Theatre, having previously sung with Aquarian Opera in The Tales of Hoffman (Lindorf and Dappertutto). Recent productions with Guildford Opera have included Eugene Onegin (Gremin), Die Fledermaus (Frank) and Lakmé (Frederick), as well as Trial by Jury, The Judge with New Aquarian Opera. He has been training with Prof Alison Wells (RCM) and last year with 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).

Cast

Charlotte Collier - Marcellina



Charlotte Collier (contralto) has worked with a Scottish Opera, OHP and Carl Rosa as well as toured extensively in the UK and abroad, she has a broad repertoire and is in demand as a recitalist and concert performer, of note, she performed in the presence of Royalty at RAH as soloist in the Care for Casualties concert raising funds for the Rifles Charity supporting veterans from Afghanistan.

With her Ensemble Absolutely Opera! she worked exclusively for Swan Hellenic on their ships Minerva and Minerva 2.

Educated at Trinity Laban and University of London, she currently studies privately with Neil Baker. Recent roles include First Norn (Gotterdamerung) for Cardiff Opera.

On 25th November 2023 she will perform Messiah with Chanconbury Chorus in Steyning, West Sussex.

Plans include Dido and Aeneas in the Summer as well as concert work and Viva Voce Opera Festival in Rothbury Northumberland.

Adam Gammie – Antonio the gardener



Bass-Baritone Adam Gammie began his musical journey in Scotland before moving to London to study under Eamonn Mulhall at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance.

Recent engagements include Count Almaviva in Le nozze Di Figaro, Shakespeare in Trinity Laban's Try Me Good King as well as chorus roles in Verdi's Macbeth and La Traviata. Adam also takes a keen interest in alternative vocal techniques and conducts research work for the International Society for Metal Music Studies (ISMMS).

Vicki Hodges – Cherubino – page to the Count



Vicki is thrilled to be back with Aquarian Opera as Cherubino, the dapper young lad with a passion for romancing and being where he shouldn't... She has sung previously for Aquarian Opera, New London Opera Group, Hampstead Garden Opera, Surrey Opera and Betchworth Operatic, but this will be her first outing as a boy!

When not on stage, you can find Vicki running choirs and coaching creatives. www.vickihodges.co.uk

Cast

Anna Goodhew – Countess Almaviva



Anna Goodhew studied singing at Guildhall School of Music & Drama. She achieved a BMus (1st class honours) with a Concert Recital Diploma in 2010 and won a scholarship to continue onto the Guildhall Artist Masters the following year. Whilst there, Anna took part in masterclasses taken by Julius Drake, Graham Johnson, Catherine Wyn Rogers, Dame Josephine Barstow, Sally Burgess, Graham Clark and Susan McCollogh. Awards include the Singer's Prize at the Gerald Moore Award (2012), 2nd Prize at Guildhall's English song Prize (2011) and finalist in Guildhall's Susan Longfield Award (2011). 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. Since then she has appeared as Violetta in La Traviata (Brent Opera), Musetta in La Boheme (Amick Productions) Rosalinda in Die Fledermaus (Guildford Opera Company), Clorinda in Cenerentola (GOC), Pamina and Erste Dame in Die Zauberflöte (Pavillion Opera), Belinda in Dido and Aeneas (Opera Lyrica), Micaela in Carmen (Opera South East), Juliet in Gounod's Romeo and Juliet (Riverside opera), Donna Elvira in Don Giovanni and Eurydice in Glück's Orfeo ed Eurydice (Zezere Music festival, Portugal).

Anna's concert highlights include Jonathan Miller's staged production of St Matthew Passion at The National Theatre and a recital of Mozart song in the Barbican Hall.

Examples of other concert work are Handel's Theodora, Handel's Messiah, Mendelssohn's Elijah, Pergolesi's Stabat Mater, Mahler's Symphony No. 4, Parry's Magnificat, Schubert's Mass in G Michal in Handel's Saul, Dvorak Mass in D and Lad's in their Hundreds; a dramatised song performance directed by Iain Burnside which toured in London and to the English Song Festival in Ludlow.

Anna has sung live several times on BBC radio 3's In Tune programme.

Richard Milnes – Don Curzio/ Don Basilio



Richard spent many years singing in chamber choirs, especially the award winning Joyful Company of Singers. Richard now focuses on Opera and studies with Cathy Pope. In 2023 he has appeared as Gastone (La Traviata), Oronte (Alcina, Handel) and Don Ottavio (Don Giovanni).

In January 2024 Richard will perform as Nemorino (L'Elisir d'Amore) for Brent Opera, West Hampstead.

Cast

George Rice – Count Almaviva



Irish baritone George Rice initially studied composition and musicology in Trinity College, Dublin where he was elected a Foundation Scholar. He began his vocal studies with Stephen Wallace in Dublin before continuing with Marcus van den Akker in London, and with Scott Johnson in Glasgow, where he completed the MMus in Vocal Studies at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

Most recently George has sung the roles of Moralès and Le Dancaïre (Carmen) with North Wales Opera. Other operatic roles have included Papageno (Die Zauberflöte), Don Alfonso (Così fan tutte), and Mr Kofner (The Consul).

Recent oratorio work has included Pilate and bass solo in the St John Passion with the St Patrick's Cathedral Choir, Dublin and bass soloist in Mozart's Requiem with the University of Dublin Choral Society.

As a soloist George has sung with the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland Chamber Orchestra. As a chorister he has sung with Irish National Opera, Northern Ireland Opera and Opera Theatre Company. George is currently a Lay Vicar Choral in St Patrick's Cathedral Dublin.

Alex Riddell- Figaro



After Graduating from the Royal Northern College of Music in May 2023, Alex has taken part in various productions during his early career, performing with Garsington Adult Chorus for their production of the Bartered Brides, and most recently as Nick Vedder with Gothic Opera's production on Rip Van Winkle.

Alex's other professional credits include various concerts for MacMillan Cancer Research and Carington Emerging Artist's series.

Cast

Isolde Roxby – Susanna



Isolde Roxby graduated with distinction from GSMD in 2015. She was supported in her studies by NOS and The Ruby and Will George Trust. Isolde is an International Opera Awards Bursary recipient and the 2016 winner of the John Kerr Award for English Song.

Pre-Covid engagements included Cendrillon (Viardot) with WFO [2019], cover for the role of Tatiana Eugene Onegin at Buxton [2019]; Doria in Opera-play Il Letto, [2019]; and the title role of Aurora, with BCO [2019]

In 2022, Isolde sang Agathe in Die Freischutz with Random Opera and the roles of Adele (Fledermaus) and Tatiana (Eugene Onegin) with Guildford Opera.

Isolde will be singing Donna Elvira with both Regent's Opera and Random Opera in 2024.

Jacqueline Turner - Barbarina



Jacqueline is a Classical Soprano from South London and alumni of Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance. When she was younger, she sung with choirs at Westminster Abbey, St Pauls Cathedral and many more. This grew into a passion for the stage and Opera.

Her recent roles have included Handel's 'Semele' in a Turner & Thwaites Opera Gala, 'Young Barbara' in Strozzi! at Blackheath Halls, Miss Grey in the UK Première of 'Sense & Sensibility' the Musical and she looks forward to playing the role of Barbarina in The Marriage of Figaro with Aquarian Opera.

Jacqueline also likes to raise money for different charities by performing including an online virtual concert, where she raised £800 for NHS Charities Together and annually performs at her local church for the Big Christian Aid Christmas Sing.

www.jacquelineturnerofficial.com/

THE NEW AQUARIAN OPERA COMPANY

Production Team

Director	Melanie Vinall
Musical Director	Guy Middlemiss
Choreographer	Elena Vinall
Stage Manager	Alison Grogan
ASM and Armorer	Amy Marr
Stage Crew	Richard Grogan, Tom Littleford, Richard Seagroatt, James Vinall
Lighting Design & Engineer	Caro Rowley
Band Fixer	Nicky Goodwin
Set Design	Melanie Vinall
Set Painting	Patrick Tricker
Set Dressing & Props	Muriel Lister
Backcloth	Malcolm Le Croissette, Richard Grogan
Set Building	James Vinall, Richard Grogan, Bruce Reed, Tony Goddard, Richard Seagroatt
Digital artwork design	Abi Chapman
Publicity, Advertising and Fund-Raising	Elise Claringbull, Andrew Claringbull, James Vinall
Programme	James Vinall
Costumes	Monica Mickels assisted by Melanie Vinall, Mike McKenzie, June Brown

Acknowledgements

St. Peters Limpsfield - The Musicians Church - for rehearsal space
Justine and Guy Middlemiss - for hosting rehearsals
The Humphrey Richardson Taylor Charitable Trust
Our Anonymous Donors
Elise Claringbull – chief cheerleader, community promotion and raffler
John Tolley – for always looking after us so beautifully

Aquarian Opera UK Charity No 1080942
Honourary Patron – Lord Astor of Hever PC DL
Trustees
Chairman - Andrew Claringbull
Secretary – Melanie Vinall
Treasurer – James Vinall
Brook Cottage, Tanhouse Road, Oxted RH8 9PE
melanie@aquarianopera.com 01 883 715126
www.aquarianopera.com

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

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 01 883 715126

Future Productions

The next planned show is an evening of Opera and Last Night of the Proms style concert on 8th June 2024 as part of the Barn Theatre Oxted Centenary Celebrations at The Barn Theatre Oxted

Con brio

HRTCT

The Humphrey Richardson Taylor Charitable Trust

THE NEW AQUARIAN OPERA COMPANY

The Humphrey Richardson Taylor Charitable Trust have supported Aquarian Opera with a generous grant

The Humphrey Richardson Taylor Charitable Trust was established in 1997 for the 'Advancement of public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of music and allied performing arts.

The Trust's benefactor, Mr. Humphrey Richardson Taylor, who lived in Cheam, Surrey, and died in 1996, was devoted to music throughout his life and wished to encourage the growth of music-making and live performance by people of all ages.

Since 1997, the Trust has provided financial support for a range of musical activities in the geographical and historical areas of Surrey. Through partnership arrangements with the Royal College of Music, the University of Surrey and certain other national bodies it extends its support to musically gifted British residents beyond its core geographical area.

Typically, help may be given to the following:

Schools - music-related capital projects - purchase of instruments - music computers and software - funding of concerts for special occasions - part-funding of instrumental tuition

Musical Societies and Organisations - annual grants towards the cost of funding live concerts

Individuals - music-related undergraduate studies: scholarship funding - music-related postgraduate studies: scholarship funding - grants towards fees - grants towards purchase of instruments

If **HRTCT** can assist you

contact: Kate Perry, Administrator - admin@hrtaylortrust.org.uk
www.hrtaylortrust.org.uk
HR Taylor Charitable Trust
32 Chipstead Station Parade, Chipstead, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3TF



Coltsford Mill

The best of a classic country barn wedding with an elegant contemporary finish



This hidden gem offers endless photographic opportunities featuring stunning lakes and cascades fed by the River Eden






Coltsford Mill

01 883 716354
events@coltsfordmill-weddings.co.uk
Coltsford Mill, Hurst Green, Oxted, Surrey, RH8 9DG



Take the *drama* out of *your move*

Cast
Jackson-Stops
in the lead role

Telephone 01883 712375 or email
oxted@jackson-stops.co.uk

JACKSON-STOPS

www.jackson-stops.co.uk