



Royal  
Academy  
of Music

# Voice at the Academy Autumn 2014

News from Mark Wildman, Head of Vocal Studies



Royal Academy Opera's Puccini double-bill: 'oodles of eager young talent' (The Observer)



Haobin Wang (Gianni Schicchi): 'a performance out of the very top drawer' (Bachtrack)



Masterclass with Simon Keenlyside, Visiting Professor of Voice

2014 certainly went out with a bang in the Academy's Vocal and Opera Department, the final fortnight of term containing four rapturously received **Royal Academy Opera** performances of a Puccini double-bill, combining **Suor Angelica** with **Gianni Schicchi**, conducted by **Peter Robinson** and directed by **William Kerley**, alongside a vocal masterclass by 'Richard Lewis Professor of Voice' **Dennis O'Neill CBE** and opera scenes performances conducted by the Academy's Head of Preparatory and Vocal Faculty Opera, **Gareth Hancock**, and directed by **Christopher Cowell**. The term was rounded-off with another sold-out concert in the **Royal Academy of Music/Kohn Foundation Bach Cantata Series**, featuring the third part of JS Bach's Christmas Oratorio, conducted by **Iain Ledingham**.

Earlier in the Autumn Term, we've enjoyed a couple of **Academy Song Circle** concerts, one an all Richard Strauss programme and the other, Songs of War, marking the centenary of the start of the First World War. Song Circle is always prominent in the Spring Term, so we look forward to the **Schubertiade** on **28th January**, the annual **Wigmore Hall** recital on **1st February**, and our **Valentine's Concert** on **12th February**.

The New Year also brings two more sets of **Opera Scenes**; students from Royal Academy Opera are performing on **22nd and 23rd January**, and the Vocal Faculty scenes follow on **29th and 30th January**.

The final of the Academy's biggest prize for singers, the **Richard Lewis/Jean Shanks Award**, takes place in the Duke's Hall on **19th February**.

Looking slightly further ahead, a highlight of the Spring Term is bound to be the Royal Academy Opera production of Stravinsky's **The Rake's Progress**, conducted by Academy Director of Opera, **Jane Glover**, and directed by Resident Producer, **John Ramster**. Performances are on **12th, 13th, 16th and 17th March**.

Early in the Summer Term, we have **Vocal Faculty Opera Scenes** on **23rd and 24th April**.

The third opera of the academic year on **14th and 15th May** will be another double-bill, this time combining Walton's **The Bear** with Berkeley's **A Dinner Engagement**, conducted by **Gareth Hancock** and directed by **Daisy Evans**. These will be Royal Academy Opera's final performances in the Sir Jack Lyons Theatre, before it closes for an

exciting rebuild. In 2015–16 our performances will take place in a variety of inspiring venues across London.

In the year when we've been thrilled to welcome **Catherine Benson** and **Catherine Wyn-Rogers** to our professional staff, we are excited to announce that **Simon Keenlyside** has recently joined our world-class list of Visiting Professors; and that **Andrew Foster-Williams**, distinguished alumnus and Fellow of the Academy, has become a principal-study professor here.

Forthcoming masterclasses include **Sir Thomas Allen** and **Richard Berkeley-Steele**, and hope to welcome back **Susan Bullock CBE** later in the year, following a fantastic masterclass in the Autumn Term.

We look forward to welcoming prospective students and visitors to any of the above events.

**Mark Wildman** Head of Vocal Studies

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**We congratulate the following students and alumni on another extremely successful year, and wish them continuing success in their developing careers:**

<b>Angers-Nantes Opera</b>	<b>Charles Rice</b> baritone	<i>singing Escamillo and Onegin</i>
<b>BBC Cardiff Singer of the World 2015</b>	<b>Céline Forrest</b> soprano	<i>representing Wales</i>
<b>Bregenzer Festspiele</b>	<b>Charles Rice</b> baritone	<i>singing Escamillo</i>
<b>English National Opera</b>	<b>Mary Bevan</b> soprano <b>Angharad Lyddon</b> mezzo-soprano <b>David Butt Philip</b> tenor <b>George von Bergen</b> baritone	<i>Susanna in Marriage of Figaro to sing Kate in Pirates of Penzance Rodolfo in La bohème Schaunard in La bohème</i>
<b>Garsington Opera</b>	<b>Alice Privett</b> soprano <b>Anna Harvey</b> mezzo-soprano	<i>Leonard Ingrams Award winners</i>
<b>Glyndebourne Festival Opera</b>	<b>Bozidar Smiljanic</b> bass	<i>Captain in Onegin and Police Commissioner in Rosenkavalier</i>
<b>Hallé Orchestra</b>	<b>Céline Forrest</b> soprano <b>Anna Harvey</b> mezzo-soprano <b>Richard Dowling</b> tenor <b>Tristan Hambleton</b> bass	<i>soloists in a performance of the Mozart Requiem, in celebration of the 100th birthday of the great British tenor Richard Lewis</i>
<b>Harmonia Mundi USA</b>	<b>David Bates</b> countertenor	<i>five-record deal</i>
<b>Jette Parker Young Artists Programme Royal Opera House, Covent Garden</b>	<b>James Platt</b> bass	<i>member from September 2014</i>
<b>John Kerr Award</b>	<b>Rhiannon Llewellyn</b> soprano	<i>winner</i>
<b>Kathleen Ferrier Awards 2014</b>	<b>Christina Gansch</b> soprano <b>Sarah-Jane Lewis</b> soprano <b>Jennifer France</b> soprano	<i>first second Ferrier Loveday Song Prize</i>
<b>Oper Köln</b>	<b>Aoife Miskelly</b> soprano	<i>principal contract</i>
<b>Maureen Lehane Vocal Awards 2014</b>	<b>Henry Neill</b> baritone	<i>second and audience prizes</i>
<b>Morryston Orpheus Choir Young Welsh Singer of the Year 2014</b>	<b>Rhiannon Llewellyn</b> soprano	<i>winner</i>
<b>Opera Awards Foundation</b>	<b>Fearghal Curtis</b> tenor <b>Edward Ballard</b> baritone <b>Timothy Murphy</b> baritone <b>Alex Otterburn</b> baritone	<i>joint winners of 2014 bursary</i>
<b>Teatro Municipal, Santiago</b>	<b>Sam Furness</b> tenor	<i>Novice in Billy Budd</i>
<b>Scottish Opera</b>	<b>Sam Furness</b> tenor <b>Ruth Jenkins Róbertsson</b> soprano	<i>Frederick in The Pirates of Penzance Norina in Don Pasquale</i>
<b>Oper Stuttgart</b>	<b>Thomas Elwin</b> tenor	<i>Officer in Ariadne auf Naxos Kuska in Kovanshchina</i>
<b>L'opéra de Toulon</b>	<b>Charles Rice</b> baritone	<i>Harlekin in Ariadne auf Naxos</i>
<b>Théâtre du Capitole, Toulouse</b>	<b>Sam Furness</b> tenor	<i>Title role in Albert Herring</i>
<b>Vivat CD label</b>	<b>Iestyn Davies</b> countertenor	<i>CD release: Handel Oratorio Arias</i>
<b>Wexford Festival Opera and broadcast on BBC Radio 3</b>	<b>Helena Dix</b> soprano	<i>title role in Cristina Re di Svezia</i>
<b>Wigmore Live CD label</b>	<b>Iestyn Davies</b> countertenor	<i>CD release: Arise My Muse</i>
<b>Zürich Opera Studio (and Opera House)</b>	<b>Andri Björn Róbertsson</b> bass-baritone	<i>Sprecher/Second Priest in Zauberflöte Brabantische Edle in Lohengrin</i>