

ROYAL ACADEMY OPERA SCENES

THURSDAY 17 OCTOBER 2024, 6PM

FRIDAY 18 OCTOBER 2024, 3PM

SUSIE SAINSBURY THEATRE



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Creative Team

Director Paul Carr

Costumes Michelle Bradbury

Lighting Designer Brett Kasza

Stage Manager Ray Bingle

Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924)

Scene from Act 4 of *La bohème*

Conductor Ethan Osman

Répétiteur Leon Ruiyang Chen

Rodolfo Owen Lucas

Marcello Tom Butler

Schaunard Anton Kirchhoff*

Colline Mikayel Sargsyan

Paris in the Spring: Rodolfo and Marcello bemoan the failings of their past relationships, the pangs of love never very far from their hearts.

Their roommates Schaunard and Colline soon enter and attempt to lighten the mood with some very silly antics, which include a baguette, a bottle of wine and a fish, plus play-acting and some questionable period dancing.

Alban Berg (1885-1935)

Act 1, Sc. 4 from *Wozzeck*

Conductor Christopher White

Répétiteur Leon Ruiyang Chen

Doktor Fionn Ó hAlmhain

Wozzeck Tom Butler

Set in a military town in the 19th century, Wozzeck is a lowly soldier who has a son with Marie, though they are not married, and he is frequently criticised by his Captain for leading an immoral life. He also experiences terrible visions which cause his relationship with Marie to gradually deteriorate.

Wozzeck suffers at the hands of the Doctor who experiments on him – his visits to the Doctor involve having his diet scrutinised and providing a urine sample which becomes a daily ritual.

Gioachino Rossini (1792-1868)

Act 4, No. 20 & 21 from *Guillaume Tell*

Conductor Jess Hoskins

Répétiteur Leon Ruiyang Chen

Mathilde Abigail Sinclair

Jemmy Caroline Blair

Hedwige Charlotte Clapperton

The Princess Mathilde has rescued the boy Jemmy (Guillaume Tell's son) and returns him to his mother, Hedwige, who is in the forest on the shores of Lake Lucerne with other womenfolk praying for Guillaume's salvation.

They later learn that Guillaume has had his shackles removed and is steering a boat on the lake amidst an impending storm; they rush to the shore's edge just in time to see him leap from the boat and land safely on a rocky outcrop.

Vincenzo Bellini (1801-1835)

Cavatina & Cabaletta from Act 1 of *La sonnambula*

Conductor Christopher White

Répétiteur Leon Ruiyang Chen

Rodolfo Mikayel Sargsyan

A procession is underway in a small village in Switzerland as the wedding of Amina and Elvino approaches. A stranger arrives asking the way to the castle but is informed it is too far and too late to travel further that day and is offered a bed for the night at the local inn.

The stranger is Rodolfo, who then recognises the familiar surroundings and sings the aria "Vi ravviso" as he remembers having been here before – on lifting the veil of Amina, the bride, he is struck by her beauty, reminding him of a woman he once knew.

Albert Lortzing (1801-1851)Duet No. 2 from *Der Wildschütz***Conductor** Alice Knight**Répétiteur** Leon Ruiyang Chen**Gretchen** Abigail Sinclair**Baculus** Theodore McAlindon

Baculus has been dismissed from his school teaching duties by Count von Eberbach in punishment for having gone hunting on the Count's estate without his permission.

Baculus has a plan to send Gretchen to ease the Count's mood but then recalls the Count's weakness for pretty young women and thinks better of it; nonetheless, Gretchen tries to persuade Baculus to let her go.

Leoš Janáček (1854-1928)Duet from Act 2 of *The Cunning Little Vixen***Conductor** Ethan Osman**Répétiteur** Leon Ruiyang Chen**Vixen** Caroline Blair**Fox** Ruby Bak*

The young Vixen is now grown up and aware of her sensual allure, as is the Fox who discovers her one evening in the forest. In true boy-meets-girl scenario, he brings her breakfast the following morning, and sure enough, it doesn't take long before fox cubs are on the way...

Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924)Duet from Act 2 of *Madama Butterfly***Conductor** Jess Hoskins**Répétiteur** Leon Ruiyang Chen**Cio-Cio-San** Grace Hope-Gill**Suzuki** Charlotte Clapperton

Three years have passed since Cio-Cio-San's arranged marriage to the American lieutenant, Benjamin Franklin Pinkerton. Her gaze is focussed daily on the harbour every time a ship comes into port in anticipation of his eventual return to her, and return to her he does, but not for the reasons she has longed for.

As the cannon sounds, Pinkerton's ship sails into port and in desperate jubilation Cio-Cio-San and her faithful companion, Suzuki, make ready their now somewhat dilapidated abode for his arrival.

Head of Opera Dr Christopher White

* Ruby Bak and Anton Kirchhoff are Vocal Faculty Preparatory Opera students