

THE OPENING CONCERT

BBC Symphony Orchestra
Dalia Stasevska Conductor

7 Aug 6pm

EDINBURGH ACADEMY JUNIOR SCHOOL

The performance lasts approx. 1hr 10mins
with no interval.

Sung in Italian with English supertitles.

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THE OPENING CONCERT

BBC Symphony Orchestra

Dalia Stasevska Conductor

Rosie Aldridge Mezzo soprano

Filipe Manu Tenor

Michael Mofidian Bass baritone

Anna Clyne

PIVOT WORLD PREMIERE

Respighi

Trittico Botticelliano

- 1 Spring
- 2 The Adoration of the Magi
- 3 The Birth of Venus

Stravinsky

Pulcinella

- 1 Overture: Allegro moderato
- 2 Serenata: Largetto
 - 'Mentre l'erbetta' (tenor)
 - Scherzino
 - Allegro
 - Andantino
 - Allegro

3 Ancora poco meno:

‘Contento forse vivere’ (soprano)

Allegro assai

Allegro: ‘Con queste paroline’ (bass)

Andante

‘Sento dire no’ncè pace’ (soprano, tenor, bass)

‘Chi disse ca la femmena’ (tenor)

Allegro

‘Ncè stà quaccuna pò’ (soprano)

‘Una te fa la zemprece’ (tenor)

Presto: ‘Una te fa la zemprece’ (tenor)

Largo

4 Allegro alla breve

Tarantella: Allegro moderato

5 Andantino: ‘Se tu m’ami’ (soprano)

6 Gavotta: Allegro moderato

Variazione 1a: Allegretto

Variazione 2a: Allegro più tosto moderato

7 Vivo

8 Tempo di minuetto: ‘Pupillette,
fiammette d’amore’ (soprano, tenor, bass)

Allegro assai

PROGRAMME NOTES

Three pieces that affectionately look back to music of the past launch the Edinburgh International Festival's orchestral series. London-born, New York-resident and former University of Edinburgh student Anna Clyne's *PIVOT* is inspired by her own experiences at the International Festival, in music that, as its title suggests, pivots from one experience to another. The Pivot is also a former name of the city's 200-year-old Royal Oak pub, famous as a folk music venue, and Clyne quotes the traditional 18th-century fiddle tune *The Flowers of Edinburgh* in her new work.

Respighi held a fascination for music of the past, which he reworked in pieces including *Ancient Airs and Dances* and *The Birds*. His 1927 *Botticelli Triptych* is a musical depiction of three works by Renaissance painter Sandro Botticelli and likewise draws on earlier sources in its three colourful movements: the 15th-century *Canto di maggio* and medieval troubadour song *A l'entrada del tens clar* in its first, and the well-known Christmas tune *Veni, veni Emmanuel* (O come, o come, Emmanuel) in its second.

Stravinsky drew on a collection of scores apparently by early Italian composer Giovanni Pergolesi in his 1920 ballet *Pulcinella*. They were given to him by impresario Sergei Diaghilev with the suggestion he might incorporate them into a new stage work, though the music was later discovered to be by several Italian composers from around the same period. The ballet's farcical plot revolves around four young women falling in love with the grotesque Pulcinella, and while Stravinsky remains faithful to many aspects of the original music, he also allows himself free rein with pungent harmonies, syncopated rhythms and piquant orchestral sonorities.

David Kettle

David Kettle is a music and arts writer based in Edinburgh, who contributes regularly to the *Scotsman* and the *Daily Telegraph*. He has also written for publications including *BBC Music Magazine*, *The Times*, *The Strad* and *Classical Music*, and for organisations including the BBC Proms, Glyndebourne and Scottish Opera.

DALIA STASEVSKA

Dalia Stasevska is Chief Conductor of the Lahti Symphony Orchestra (beginning in the 2021/22 season) and Principal Guest Conductor to the BBC Symphony Orchestra. She made her BBC Proms debut in 2019, in 2020 conducted the Last Night of the Proms, and in 2021 conducted the First Night of the Proms. Highlights of her 2020/21 season have included performances with the Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal, Orchestre National de France, Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra, Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra and Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra. Upcoming engagements include collaborations with the New York Philharmonic, Oslo Philharmonic, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra.

A passionate opera conductor, she returned to Norwegian National Opera in 2020 to conduct *Madam Butterfly*, following her debut with the company conducting *Lucia di Lammermoor* in 2018. She has conducted *Don Giovanni* for the Royal Swedish Opera, *Eugene Onegin* for Opéra de Toulon and *The Cunning Little Vixen* for Finnish National Opera. She also conducted Sebastian Fagerlund's *Höstsonaten* at the 2018 Baltic Sea Festival in Stockholm, featuring Anne-Sofie von Otter.

Stasevska originally studied as a violinist and composer at the Tampere Conservatoire, as well as violin, viola and conducting at Helsinki's Sibelius Academy. Her conducting teachers included Jorma Panula and Leif Segerstam. In 2018, she had the honour of conducting the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra at the Nobel Prize Ceremony in Stockholm. Stasevska was awarded the Royal Philharmonic Society's Conductor Award in 2020.

ROSIE ALDRIDGE

British mezzo-soprano Rosie Aldridge's recent appearances include her debut at the Bayerische Staatsoper as La Frugola (*Il tabarro*) and the Abbess (*Suor Angelica*), and her return to the Teatro Real, Madrid, as Mrs Sedley (*Peter Grimes*). In future seasons, she returns to the Royal Opera House, Glyndebourne and the Teatro Real, and also makes her debuts with the Opéra National de Paris, La Monnaie Brussels, Staatsoper Stuttgart, Oper Frankfurt and the Berliner Philharmoniker.

Cancellations due to the Covid-19 pandemic include: Fata Morgana (*The Love for Three Oranges*) at the Teatro di San Carlo, Naples; Gertrude (*Hamlet* by Brett Dean) at the Royal Concertgebouw Amsterdam; Berta (*Il Barbiere di Siviglia*) for the Royal Opera House; Mrs Sedley (*Peter Grimes*) at the Oper Frankfurt; and Gertud (*Hänsel und Gretel*) for the Bayerische Staatsoper.

She made her debut at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, as Praskovja Osipovna, Bublik and Social Commentator (*The Nose*) and has returned as Aksinya (*Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*), Beggar Woman

(*Death in Venice*) and the Giantess Angrboda in the world premiere of *The Monstrous Child* by Gavin Higgins.

Other operatic appearances include her debuts at the Liceu, Barcelona, as Kabanicha (*Kátya Kabanová*); at the Komische Oper Berlin as Praskowja Osipovna, Bublik and Social Commentator (*The Nose*); at the Opéra National de Lorraine as Nelly Dean (*Wuthering Heights*); and at English National Opera as Dritte Dame (*Die Zauberflöte*), Gertud (*Hänsel und Gretel*) and Aksinya (*Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*).

She was a member of the ensemble at the Wiener Staatsoper from 2016 to 2018.

FILIPE MANU

A 2021 graduate of the world-renowned Royal Opera House Young Artist programme, Tongan-New Zealand tenor Filipe Manu is a former graduate of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, New Zealand Opera School and both inaugural opera programmes at the Dame Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation and the Dame Malvina Major Foundation. His accolades include the New Zealand Young Performer of the Year award and Australasia's most prestigious singing contest, the IFAC Handa Australian Singing Competition.

During his time at the Royal Opera House, his engagements included the much-coveted Royal Opera House Stars Gala, singing alongside Lisette Oropesa and Gerald Finley, the Christmas Gala Concert conducted by Mark Wigglesworth, an intimate recital of song and arias with Sir Antonio Pappano, and the Kurt Weill double bill of *The Seven Deadly Sins* and *Mahagonny Songspiel*, as well as stage productions of *La traviata* and *Fidelio*.

In the 2020/21 season he joined the ensemble of the Konzert Theater Bern, where his roles include Arbace (*Idomeneo*), Tebaldo (*I Capuletti e i Montecchi*)

and Tamino (*Die Zauberflöte*). Other upcoming highlights include returns to the Royal Opera House for several leading roles.

MICHAEL MOFIDIAN

Winner of the 2018 Royal Over-Seas League Singers' Prize and the 2017 Pavarotti Prize, Michael Mofidian was born and raised in Glasgow, and educated at the University of Cambridge and London's Royal Academy of Music. He was a 2018-20 Jette Parker Young Artist at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, where roles included Narumov (*The Queen of Spades*), Alcade (*La Forza del destino*), Angelotti (*Tosca*), Zuniga (*Carmen*), Minotauros (*Phaedra*) (Linbury Studio Theatre), Johann (*Werther*), Bass 1 (*Death in Venice*), Dr Grenvil (*La traviata*), Judge and Chelsias (*Susanna*) and Deputy (*Don Carlo*), as well as covering the roles of Figaro (*Le Nozze di Figaro*) and Colline (*La Bohème*). While on the programme, he worked under conductors including Sir Antonio Pappano, Edward Gardner, Alexander Joel, Julia Jones and Keri-Lynn Wilson.

He made his Glyndebourne debut as the Doctor (*Pelléas et Mélisande*) and the Imperial Commissioner (*Madam Butterfly*) at the 2018 festival, where he was a Jerwood Young Artist. Most recently, he sang Don Alfonso (*Così fan tutte*) for Scottish Opera, and this season returns to the Royal Opera House as a guest

soloist in the role of Masetto (*Don Giovanni*), as well as making his Salzburg Festival debut as Angelotti (*Tosca*). Future opera engagements include roles for Geneva Opera, Opéra de Rouen and Glyndebourne.

Concert work has included Verdi's Requiem; Jesus, Pilate and arias in both Bach Passions; Haydn's *The Creation*; Handel's *Messiah*; Stravinsky's *Les Noces*; Beethoven's Ninth Symphony; Mozart's Requiem; Fauré's Requiem and Dvořák's Stabat Mater. This season he performed Mahler's *Kindertotenlieder* and a new composition by Roderick Williams with the Britten Sinfonia under Sir Mark Elder.

Mofidian was a joint winner of the 2017 Oxford Lieder Young Artist Platform, and has given recitals at the Oxford Lieder Festival, Wigmore Hall, St John's, Smith Square, Edinburgh's Queen's Hall and most recently Glasgow's City Halls for a BBC broadcast. He recently took part in the first recording of the complete songs of Erik Chisholm, due to be released in 2021. Mofidian is also a composer, and his works include pieces for orchestra, instrumental chamber music, art songs and works for vocal ensemble, and his teachers have included Sir James MacMillan, Richard Causton and Robin Holloway.

BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The BBC Symphony Orchestra has been at the heart of British musical life since it was founded in 1930. It plays a central role in the BBC Proms each year, with performances in the 2021 season including concerts conducted by Dalia Stasevska (opening night), Sakari Oramo (Last Night of the Proms), Semyon Bychkov and Sir Andrew Davis, and a performance by Moses Sumney conducted by Jules Buckley.

The BBC SO performs an annual season of concerts at the Barbican where it is Associate Orchestra, and its commitment to contemporary music is demonstrated by a range of premieres each season, as well as Total Immersion days devoted to specific composers or themes. The BBC SO performs and records regularly with the BBC Symphony Chorus.

In addition to performances with Chief Conductor Sakari Oramo, Principal Guest Conductor Dalia Stasevska and Creative Artist in Association Jules Buckley, the BBC SO works regularly with Semyon Bychkov, holder of the Günter Wand Conducting Chair and Conductor Laureate Sir Andrew Davis.

Central to the orchestra's life are studio recordings for BBC Radio 3, and the vast majority of its performances are broadcast on BBC Radio 3 and available for 30 days after broadcast on BBC Sounds.

The BBC Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, alongside the BBC Concert Orchestra, BBC Singers and BBC Proms offer enjoyable and innovative education and community activities and take a leading role in the *BBC Ten Pieces* and *BBC Young Composer* programmes.

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