



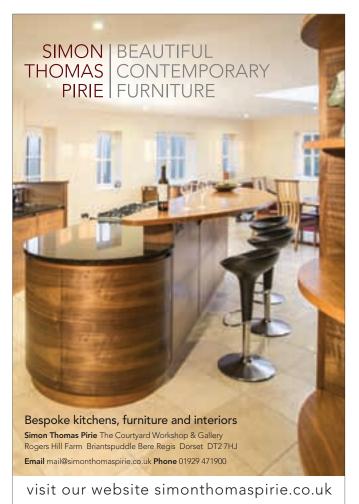


Pirie on parade...

This year's Dorset Opera Festival will see furniture designer-maker Simon Thomas Pirie's beautiful garden seating gracing the outdoor spaces of Bryanston once again. The 'Floating' and 'Thinking' benches use English oak which is steam bent and scorched to create eye catching garden pieces with a real presence.

Simon, who trained at John Makepeace's innovative Hooke Park College, has been running his Dorset-based workshops since 1998, where he makes stunning bespoke furniture, kitchens and interiors bound for all over the UK and further afield.

The outdoor furniture is a relatively new venture but is already creating a stir. Recently the *Weekend Independent Magazine* claimed the 'Floating Bench' was 'an investment in a stunning contemporary design piece'. They have been further enhanced as a furture design classic by Liberty stocking them exclusively as a key product in their 'Outdoor Living Collection'. The benches are also available direct from Simon Thomas Pirie, where bespoke variations can also be commissioned. Look out for Simon at the Festival.





Sir Jonathan Miller directs La traviata

We look forward to welcoming you to our largest Dorset Opera Festival to date. We are presenting some 18 performances across 9 venues ranging from the august Sadler's Wells in London, to our very own Coade Theatre at Bryanston.

The two operas selected to celebrate the bicentenaries of the births of Giuseppe Verdi and Richard Wagner have clearly fired the imagination of our audiences. Tickets have literally flown off the shelves - with *La traviata* proving exceptionally popular.

The statistics are impressive with Friday evening's performance having sold out by 18 April - two days after the box office opened to the general public. Saturday's matinee was full by the beginning of May, and the evening show of *The Flying Dutchman* has a very few places left.

For those still contemplating the purchase of tickets, the first nights of both productions are fast becoming your only choice.

Tickets for other Festival events are still available. Catch our tour of *La bohème* at a theatre near you, and why not complete your summer of culture with a performance of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in outdoor locations that resemble those required by Shakespeare himself.

> e-mail: ad@dorsetopera.com Printed by Xadon t:01202 481234





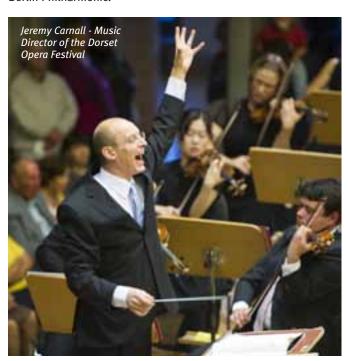


Leaping to Leipzig

DOF Music Director moves to Germany...

Dorset Opera's Music Director, Jeremy Carnall, is on the move. After several years as First Kapellmeister with the Opera of St Gallen in Switzerland, he is to take up a new post with the one of the greatest orchestras in the world - the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, whose principal conductor is currently Riccardo Chailly.

The Gewandhausorchester, to give it its correct title, is renowned for possessing its own inimitable sound prompting critics to describe it as one of the most recognisably sublime orchestral sounds in the world. Many prefer it to the iconic sound of the Berlin Philharmonic.



It is the oldest civic symphony orchestra in the world. Its history stretches back over 250 years. Mozart gave a concert with them in 1789; Beethoven's 5th Symphony was premiered by them; Mendelssohn was famously the Kapellmeister from 1835 premiering works by Schubert and Schumann; Wagner's Meistersinger Prelude and Brahms' Violin Concerto were given their first outings conducted by the composers themselves; and Tchaikovsky, Grieg

and Richard Strauss also conducted. Furtwängler and Bruno Walter were later holders of the Kapellmeister title.

When Leipzig built its own opera house in 1868, part of the orchestra's task was to accompany performances. In the 21st century, the Gewandhausorchester now has an incredible 185 musicians on strength. Jeremy Carnall will conduct the orchestra in concert, although his speciality and forte will inevitably be opera performance.

We are delighted that Jeremy will continue to hold the post of Music Director to the Dorset Opera Festival.







Blue Plaque for Berners

The county of Oxfordshire has erected one of its 'Blue Plaques' near the former home of eccentric composer Lord Berners at Faringdon. It was unveiled by novelist Sofka Zinovieff, who inherited Faringdon House from her grandfather. Dorset Opera Patrons will recall meeting Dr Zinovieff when we visited Faringdon a year ago.

Lord Berners' only opera *Le Carrosse du Saint-Sacrement* was given its British stage premiere at last year's Dorset Opera Festival.

English Heritage halted its Blue Plaque scheme for London in January this year, citing a lack of funds. However locally-funded schemes still flourish, and many county and local councils, along with other bodies, continue to support the connection between a location and a famous person or event.

Dutchman/Traviata compared		
Opera	The Flying Dutchman	La traviata
Composer	Wagner's 4th opera	Verdi's 19th opera
Composer's DOB	22 May 1813	10 October 1813
First performance	1843, Semper Oper, Dresden	1853, La Fenice, Venice
Source	The Memoirs of Mister von Schnabelewopski (Heine), Sir Walter Scott	La dame aux Camélias (Dumas, fils)
First reception	Mixed (bad?)	Complete fiasco according to Verdi but the critics liked it
Librettist	Richard Wagner	Francesco Maria Piave
First Conductor	Richard Wagner	Gaetano Mares
Number of Acts	1 or 3 according to taste	3
Odd instruments	Tam tam and wind machine	Flugelhorn and castanets
Location	The coast of Norway	Paris and environs
Туре	Nautical fantasy	Tragic romance
Length	2 hours 20 minutes	2 hours 10 minutes



The 'Miller' effect attracts a chorus in excess of 85

This year we will be fielding one of our largest choruses ever - certainly the biggest we have had since our move to Bryanston. Numbers currently stand at 85 - with one or two tenors still to be secured. Could this be the Jonathan Miller effect, or is it purely that our choice of operas this year has caught people's imagination?

This is far larger in number than the choruses at the Royal Opera and English National Opera, both of whom only have around 46 choristers on strength nowadays. For larger works, they augment their choruses with 'extras'.

Sadly, for the first time, we are actually having to turn away late applicants. Hopefully, this will encourage them to apply earlier for next year's Festival.

We have great hopes for the renowned 'wall of sound' this year, as Nicolas Mansfield officially takes the title of Chorus Director.

Miller on Rosenkavalier

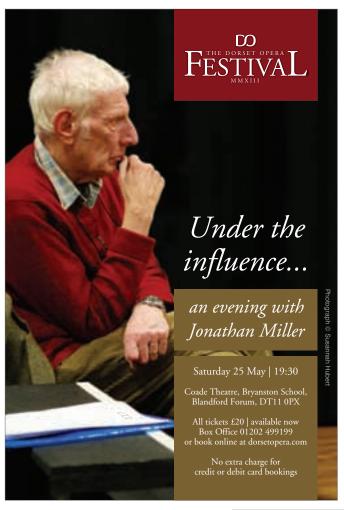
"Set Rosenkavalier in 1911, when it was written, and you suddenly hear the shot in Sarajevo. The Marschallin goes around the house trying to stop the clocks. It's not because she's old - she's 35 - it's because she knows the old world is finished. Octavian will die on the first day at the front."

An Evening with Sir Jonathan Miller - tickets still available

The great polymath, who directs our production of *La traviata* this summer, visits Dorset for just one evening only prior to the Festival itself. Sir Jonathan will be at the Coade Theatre, Bryanston, on Saturday 25 May, to regale us with anecdotes about the events that have shaped his life.

You will get the opportunity to quiz him on everything from the *Cambridge Footlights* and *Beyond the Fringe* with Alan Bennett, Peter Cook and Dudley Moore; his medical career and his study of neuropsychology along with those brilliant TV documentaries including *The Body in Question* (which was nominated for two BAFTAs); his days at the Royal National Theatre, the Old Vic, and his work with Sir Laurence Olivier; his passion for sculpting; his extraordinary 40-year career as a director of theatre and opera for the greatest companies in the world - most famously his Mafiastyle *Rigoletto* and his astonishing *Mikado* for the English National Opera - Miller productions remaining the mainstays of the ENO repertoire after 30 years; or perhaps you could persuade him to spill the beans on his concept for his production of *La traviata* for us this summer.

Please book your tickets through the Dorset Opera Festival website at dorsetopera.com or call the box office on 01202 499199. All seats £20.





The 2013 Ritzy Tea Party

Your invitation to this summer's Ritzy Tea Party on Sunday 9 June is enclosed with this edition of DONews.

For those who haven't enjoyed one of our renowned tea parties, they are a wonderful way of making new friends, whilst tucking into mountains of food, raising funds for Dorset Opera with raffles and auctions involving major prizes, taking a peek at homes not normally open to public gaze, and celebrating this all with champagne and strawberries.

After the freak storms that disrupted last year's party, blowing two small marquees we know not where, this year's weather is set fair for a memorable event. Our gracious hosts at Hethfelton House are providing a rather enormous marquee with space for 200. So please bring all your friends and neighbours for what promises to be a stunning occasion, made doubly so with the opportunity to take a tour of the magnificent gardens.

Please be good enough to RSVP using the enclosed card.

The Numbers Game...

Did you know that it will require over 250 professionals, participants and volunteers to bring you *La traviata* and *The Flying Dutchman* this year? It really is quite a staggering number for just 15 days of intensely exhilarating and rewarding work.

Useful DO addresses:

Friends' Secretary: Mrs Celia Harvey, Middle House, Powys Green, Sherbourne DT9 3TA | T: 01935 815883 | celia.m.harvey@gmail.com

Patrons' Secretary: Mrs Elspeth Brown, 3 Salisbury Street, Cranborne, BH21 5PU | T: 01725 517581 | elsp21@gmail.com

Dorset Opera HQ: Dorset Opera, Witchampton, BH21 5AU T: 01258 840000 | info@dorsetopera.com

Registered Office: Dorset Opera, Russell House, Oxford Road, Bournemouth BH8 8EX | www.dorsetopera.com





Don't miss La bohème

Have you got your tickets yet for our pocket-production of *La bohème*?

In collaboration with the Dorset Opera Festival, our chorus director Nicolas Mansfield brings to the UK some of the young artists from the Resident Artists' Programme of his Netherlands' Nationale Reisopera.

Promoted in Britain as the Dutch National Touring Opera, their poignant but hard-hitting production of *La bohème* will be performed in a reduced or pocket-format. The opera launches with a gala evening at Sadler's Wells in London on Sunday 30 June. Tickets for this event have just been released at £20 each and are available via 01258 840000 or info@dorsetopera.com

The *Bohème* Tour hits the South West on 2 July with a performance at the huge City Hall, Salisbury, and is followed by:

4 July: The Exchange, Sturminster Newton

5 July: The Electric Palace, Bridport 7 July: The Octagon Theatre, Yeovil 9 July: The Regent Centre, Christchurch

10 July: The Lighthouse, Poole

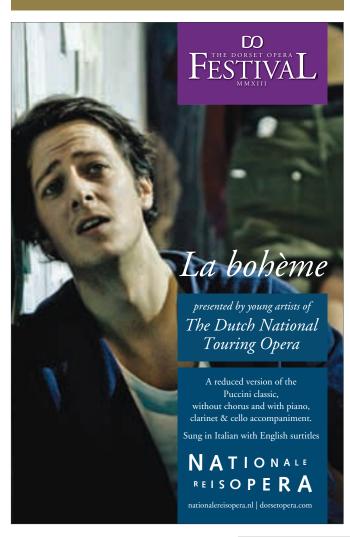
There is one further performance (a matinee) at the Exchange, Sturminster Newton on Friday 26 July at 15:00. This is being mounted specifically for the Friends of the Reisopera who are supporting the Tour financially, but it is open to all comers.

Treat your friends to this high-calibre production which will feature some of the finest young talent from around Europe. *La bohème* promises to be an evening of rare 'live' opera at a theatre near you. You have witnessed the standards to which Nicolas works over the past six years - now see what his RAP singers can do.

Tickets for all performances of *La bohème* in the South West are just £15, but start times do differ, so please check with your local venue when purchasing tickets.

Miller on La traviata

Jonathan Miller famously found a way of stopping the formidable Angela Gheorghiu from over-emoting in the last act of La traviata. "I said to her: Take it from me, I'm a doctor. Dying is a full-time business. You haven't time to do a lap of honour. Chances are you're incontinent, anyway. Do stay in bed."



Knighton House School

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An environment which encourages confidence and self-belief. A place that equips our children with skills for 21st Century learning while maintaining traditional values and ethos of our founders. Where pupils gain excellent scholarship results to top public schools, and where music, sport and creative arts are a key part of each day.





Remembering Patrick

It is ten years since Dorset Opera founder Patrick Shelley passed away.

We remember him with great affection and are honoured to have been entrusted with his legacy. We hope he would have approved of what the Dorset Opera Festival has become, although perhaps Wagner would not have been in his repertoire!

...consistently on a par with the UK's five main opera companies

(Opera Now)





All change at the top!

When Lady Digby wrote to Patrick Shelley offering constructive criticism of the performance of *The Bartered Bride* he had mounted at Sherborne School in 1974, little did she realise she would be embarking on a journey lasting almost 40 years.

Patrick immediately invited her to become President of the fledgling organisation that was soon to espouse the name of Dorset Opera and, as they say, the rest is history.

Lady Digby took on her duties as President with great relish and gusto, and combined these with Chairmanship of the Friends of Dorset Opera (a post she continues to hold). Over the past 39 years, despite her extraordinarily busy life which has included membership of the Arts Council, her Chancellorship of Bournemouth University, 50 years at the helm of the Summer Music Society of Dorset and far more besides, she somehow found the time to attend almost every performance given by the Company.

Dorset Opera has been immensely fortunate to have had the support and encouragement of two of the county's great music lovers: Lady Digby for 39 years, and William Gronow Davis as Vice-President for the past nine years. Mr Gronow Davis now takes the reins as President.

We will continue to welcome Lady Digby to performances as President Emeritus, and feel sure that those treasured letters will still be forthcoming.

Advertise in our programme

Do you have a business you would like to advertise in this year's souvenir opera programme? Do you know someone who might like to support Dorset Opera by taking advertising space? If you do, please contact info@dorsetopera.com or call 01258 480000

Dorset's Dutchman Teaser...

Pop this link into your search engine and turn up the sound to full volume. http://bit.lv/YP0fk7

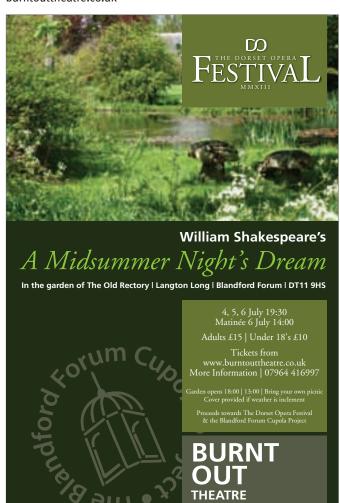
Now, if you haven't already got them, go online and get your tickets for *The Flying Dutchman*!



Live at Langton Long

BurntOut Theatre brings their production of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to the glorious gardens of The Old Rectory at Langton Long, near Blandford Forum, as a 'fringe' event of the Dorset Opera Festival. Performances are on 4, 5 & 6 July at 7.30pm with a matinee on 6 July at 2.00pm. Bring your own picnic and take a look round the gardens before the performance starts. Cover is provided if the weather should be inclement. Proceeds are shared between Dorset Opera and the Blandford Cupola Project appeal.

The spellbinding and atmospheric production will move to locations around the site as the story unfolds. So that 'bank' of which Oberon speaks 'where the wild thyme blows...', might turn out to be just that! To book, call 07964 416997 or go online at burntouttheatre.co.uk





Are you able to assist us?

We are always looking for extra hands to assist us in bringing you Dorset's very own opera festival. We require:

- sewing ladies (seamstresses)
- dressers
- · front-of-house personnel
- · marquee hospitality personnel
- · accommodation for soloists and musicians

If you think you could help or know someone would might be suitable, or if you would like to know more about the tasks, please e-mail info@dorsetopera.com or call o1258 840000 (leave a message and we will get back to you).

DOF Events' Diary

The next edition of Dorset Opera's Events' Diary will be winging its way to Patrons and Friends in the next two months.

The new Fundraising Committee, under the chairmanship of Susanne Parkin, were tasked with raising funds to support the summer school element of the Festival, and they have done a cracking job with all events selling out well in advance.

We are most grateful to our hosts who have welcomed us into their homes - Bruce and Susannah Selby Bennett (all five of this year's Bluffers' Lunches); Sir William and Lady Hanham; Mr & Mrs Michael Jeffries; and Max Carding.



September Quiz Evening

Next year's events kick off with an opera quiz evening at Durweston Village Hall on Saturday 28 September. Please get your teams of six (or less) together in good time: no more than two opera experts per team please!

The evening will be under the watchful eyes of opera aficionados Adrian Thorpe and Hugh Watkins. With them in charge, some of those questions are going to be mighty tricky - even for those experts!





Saga Services is proud to support

Dorset Opera Festival



Saga provides a wide range of insurance products for people aged 50 and over...

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Lighthouse POOLE'S CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

THE GLYNDEBOURNE FESTIVAL LIVE

A programme of live and recorded opera performances from the world-famous Glyndebourne Festival.



Tuesday 4 June ARIADNE AUF NAXOS

The 2013 Glyndebourne Festival opens with a new production of this compelling and intricately crafted collaboration between composer Richard Strauss and writer Hugo von Hofmannsthal.

Live - sung in German with English subtitles.



Wednesday 19 June FALSTAFF

(Encore)

Throughout his long career, Verdi longed to find a good subject for a comic opera. Towards the very end of it he found that subject, in the vast and jovial shape of Shakespeare's John Falstaff.

Captured live in June 2009 - sung in Italian with English subtitles.



Saturday 13 July
LE NOZZE DI FIGARO

(Encore)

Michael Grandage's production of Mozart's Le Nozze di Figaro returns. The opera has particular significance, as it was the first ever to be performed at Glyndebourne in 1934, with festival cofounder Audrey Mildmay in the role of Susanna.

Captured live in July 2012 - sung in Italian with English subtitles.



Thursday 25 July
HIPPOLYTE ET ARICIE

Hippolyte et Aricie was Rameau's first work for the stage, written when he was nearly 50. It is also Glyndebourne's first production of an opera by Rameau, and will strike audiences, as it did in Paris in 1733, with its richness of invention.



Tuesday 6 August
DON PASQUALE

Don Pasquale is the 64th of Donizetti's 66 operas, and was written only a year before the onset of the syphilis-induced dementia that was eventually to overwhelm him. Given the circumstances, it is hardly surprising that the diamond-bright wit and brilliance of this opera also has a distinctly dark side.



Thursday 22 August BILLY BUDD

(Encore)

Benjamin Britten's powerfully dramatic Billy Budd returns to Glyndebourne, with Jacques Imbrailo in the title role and Sir Mark Elder conducting.

Captured live in August 2010 - sung in English with English subtitles.

