

WED 02 - MON 07 DEC

RNCM



RNCM OPERA

THE
(UN)NINE
LITTLE
VIXEN

LEOŠ JANÁČEK

WED 02, FRI 04, MON 07 DEC | 7.30PM
SUN 06 DEC | 3PM
RNCM THEATRE

LEOŠ JANÁČEK

**THE
CUNNING
LITTLE
VIXEN**

The Cunning Little Vixen

Music by Leoš Janáček

Libretto by Leoš Janáček based on the novella
by Rudolf Těsnohlídek, translated by David Pountney

Translation © David Pountney

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SYNOPSIS

THE ADVENTURES OF THE VIXEN BYSTROUŠKA

Act I

How they caught Bystrouška
Bystrouška in the courtyard of Lake Lodge
Bystrouška in politics
Bystrouška gets the hell out

Act II

Bystrouška dispossesses
Bystrouška's love affairs
Bystrouška's courtship and love

Interval

Act III

Bystrouška outran Harašta from Líšeň
How the Vixen Bystrouška died
The baby Bystrouška - the spitting image of her mother

CREATIVE TEAM

Nicholas Kok *conductor*

Sam Brown *director*

Kaapo Ijas (Mills Williams Junior Fellow in Conducting)*** *assistant conductor*

Naomi Kuyck-Cohen *designer*

Joshua Gadsby *lighting designer*

Morgann Runacre-Temple *choreographer*

Christopher Pulleyn (Sir John Fisher Foundation Junior Fellow) *repetiteur*

Kevin Thraves *chorus master*

SCHOOL OF VOCAL STUDIES AND OPERA

Professor Lynne Dawson Head of Vocal Studies and Opera

Sara Fulgoni Deputy Head of Vocal Studies

Kevin Thraves Deputy Head of Opera

James Kelly School of Vocal Studies and Opera Administrator

CAST

Emyr Jones*, **Ross Cumming**** Forester
Pasquale Orchard*, **Alicia Cadwgan**** Vixen Sharp-Ears
Georgia Mae Ellis*, **Melissa Gregory**** Fox Goldenmane
Philip O'Connor*, **Gabriel Seawright**** Schoolmaster/Mosquito
Liam Karai*, **George Butler**** Priest/Badger
Ema Rose Gosnell*, **Lila Chrisp**** Forester's Wife/Owl
Ranald McCusker*, **Samuel Knock**** Rooster/Mr Pásek
Sarah Prestwidge*, **Zoë Vallée**** Chocholka/Mrs Pásek
William Kyle*, **Thomas Ashdown**** Harašta
Rebecca Anderson Lapák
Lorna Day Woodpecker
Katy Allan Vixen as a Cub
Georgia Curwen Frantík/Cricket
Emily Varney Pepík/Frog
Anastasia Bevan Grasshopper/Jay

RNCM OPERA CHORUS

Lleucu Brookes
Jade Carty
Dominic Carver
James Connolly
Thomas Coyle
Joby Dixon
Mitchell Greengrass
Abigail Jenkins
Iona Kay
Billie McCaffrey
Daniel Nardone
Phoebe Palmer
Armand Rabot
Hope Rodenhurst
Elena Whiteley
Tom Wilks
Verity Williams
Alice Yeoman

DANCER

Jade Carty

HENS

Louise Ashdown
Sasja Haeck
Hebe Hamilton
Taylor London
Nikki Martin
Ahlyssa Mundy
Emily Noon
Morgana Warren-Jones

FOX CUBS

Lleucu Brookes
Jade Carty
Abigail Jenkins
Billie McCaffrey
Hope Rodenhurst
Elena Whiteley
Verity Williams
Alice Yeoman

* Wednesday 2 December and Sunday 6 December

** Friday 4 December and Monday 7 December

*** Monday 7 December

CREATIVE TEAM

NICHOLAS KOK

Nicholas Kok is a very versatile musician and conductor. In both the concert hall and the opera house he has conducted numerous world and British premières by composers such as Birtwistle, Holt, Maxwell Davies, Reich, Turnage and Xenakis. He has served as Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor to Psappha and Sinfonia Viva, and in 2012/13 he was Principal Guest Conductor of the WDR Rundfunk Chor. He enjoys a very close working relationship with the BBC Singers. Nicholas has conducted an extremely varied repertoire in the opera house, ranging from Monteverdi to Turnage. Companies he has worked for include English National Opera, Opera North, Staatstheater Braunschweig, Oper

Köln, Oper Leipzig, Staatstheater Stuttgart, Teatro Sao Carlos Lisbon, Coliseu Porto, Opera Factory, Opera St Louis and English Touring Opera. He has worked with numerous orchestras and ensembles throughout Europe and has appeared at many festivals including the BBC Proms, Edinburgh, Huddersfield and Zürich Contemporary Music Festivals. His own compositions have been recorded for television in the UK. Nicholas' reworking of *King Arthur* has been recorded by JOIN at Oper Stuttgart, and his Chamber Opera *The Waste.....no land* will be performed by the students at the Stuttgart Opernschule in January. This is his second production with the RNCM.

SAM BROWN

Sam Brown is a stage director based in London. He read Classics at Oxford and completed the MFA in Theatre Directing at Birkbeck College, London. He was assistant director at West Yorkshire Playhouse and staff director for Opera North. In 2011, with designer Annemarie Woods, he won the European Opera Directing Prize and the Ring Award where they won all available prizes. He was a board member of SDUK 2015-17, and as chair of its opera committee he devised and managed a professional development training programme in opera directing in association with the National Opera Studio. Since 2016 he has been Artistic Associate at Wilton's Music Hall. In August 2016 he participated in the Opera Europa Opera Management Course in Bregenz.

Sam has directed plays, musicals and operas across Europe including at English National Opera, Welsh National Opera, Bavarian State Opera, Residenz Theater, Munich, Schauspielhaus and Opera Graz, Theater an der Wien, and Grand Théâtre de Genève. For the Opéra National de Lorraine in Nancy,

France, he directed the world première of *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Gerald Barry (Opera Now magazine's Première of the Year: 12/13 season) and *Candide* by Leonard Bernstein. Recent productions have included Peter Brook's chamber version of *Carmen* for the Wermland Opera, Sweden, and a European tour of *Fidelio* for the Swedish Chamber Orchestra with Thomas Dausgaard.

Sam co-wrote the libretto for *The Water Palace* by Stephen Shulman (Tête à Tête Opera Festival, London), which he also directed, and was commissioned by the Grange Festival to write an original text for *Elena Langer: Trotsky and Kahlo*. He is currently under commission by the Danish Arts Council to co-write an original libretto with Niels Brunse on the subject of Christopher Marlowe for Andy Pape (*Hamlet Scenen, Helsingor*), and is developing an original musical. In December 2013 he was profiled by Opera magazine in their Directors Edition alongside Graham Vick, Barrie Kosky and Patrice Chereau.

slbrown.co.uk

KAAPO IJAS

Kaapo Ijas (b.1988) is the Mills Williams Junior Fellow in Conducting at the Royal Northern College of Music. He has been fiercely interested in composing, performance, drama, group dynamics and the orchestra itself for all his life. In 2012 it led him to conducting studies first in Sibelius Academy then Zürcher Hochschule der Künste and ultimately Royal College of Music in Stockholm where he graduated from in spring of 2017.

His teachers during his studies and masterclasses include Jorma Panula, Johannes Schlaefli, Jaap van Zweden, Riccardo Muti, Esa-Pekka Salonen, David Zinman, Neeme and Paavo Järvi and Atso Almila. Ijas has conducted i.a. BBC Philharmonic, Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich, Tapiola Sinfonietta, Norrköping SO, South Jutland SO, Musikkollegium Winterthur, Gävle Symfoniorkester, Kurpfälzisches Kammerorchester (Mannheim), Hradec Kralove Philharmonia, KMH Symphony Orchestra, Seinäjoki City Orchestra, KammarensembleN, Norrbotten

NEO, Swedish Army Band, Helsinki Police band and numerous other project ensembles and choirs during masterclasses and in concerts. In 2019 Ijas made his debut concerts with Guards Band Helsinki and Lappenranta city orchestra.

Ijas has been invited to various prestigious masterclasses including Gstaad Menuhin Festival 2018 with Jaap van Zweden, Riccardo Muti Opera Academy 2017 in Ravenna, the 8th Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich masterclass with David Zinman in 2017 and Järvi Academy with Paavo and Neeme Järvi in 2016. He was semifinalist in Donatella Flick Conducting Competition 2016 as well as in Lovro von Matačić competition in 2019 and among the top 7 in Cadaqués Conducting Competition 2017. In 2018 Ijas was selected as 24 conductors from 566 applicants to take part in Nikolai Malko competition in Copenhagen and won the 3rd prize in Jorma Panula Conducting Competition in Vaasa.

NAOMI KUYCK-COHEN

Naomi is a designer for performance, and trained at Wimbledon College of Art. She also co-designs set, costume, and lighting with Joshua Gadsby.

Co-designs include: *There is a Light that Never Goes Out: Scenes from the Luddite Rebellion* (Royal Exchange Theatre), *Trap Street* (Schaubühne, and New Diorama), *Dinomania* (New Diorama), *Trainers: Or The Brutal Unpleasant Atmosphere of this Most Disagreeable Season* (Gate Theatre), *Dreamplay* (Vaults).

Designs include: *in a word* (Young Vic), *Amsterdam* (The Orange Tree, Actors Touring Company, and Theatre Royal Plymouth), *The Greatest Play in the History Of The World* (Trafalgar Studios, Royal Exchange Theatre, and

Traverse Theatre), *Nightclubbing* (The Lowry and tour), *OUT* (Curve Theatre and tour), *The Tyler Sisters* (Hampstead Theatre), *Trigger Warning* (Tate Modern and Tour), *And Yet It Moves* (Young Vic Taking Part), *The Tempest* (Royal Exchange Theatre Young Company), *F*ck You Pay Me* (The Bunker), *In My Dreams I Dream I'm Dreaming* (Theatre Royal Plymouth), *Passin' Thru* (Lyric Hammersmith), *Feast* (Battersea Arts Centre and Tour).

JOSHUA GADSBY

Joshua trained at Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and primarily works as a lighting designer. He also co-designs set, costume and lighting with Naomi Kuyck-Cohen.

Credits as co-designer: *Trainers: Or The Brutal Unpleasant Atmosphere Of This Most Disagreeable Season* (The Gate), *There is a Light that Never Goes Out: Scenes from the Luddite Rebellion* (Royal Exchange), *Trap Street* (Schaubühne and New Diorama), *Dinomania* (New Diorama), *Dreamplay* (Vaults).

Credits as lighting designer include: *in a word* (Young Vic), *The Tyler Sisters*, *Alligators* and *R and D* (all Hampstead Theatre), *The Slightly Annoying Elephant* (Little Angel and Tour), *The Leftovers* (Leicester Curve and Tour), *Consensual*, *I Won't Make it My Own* (Nuffield Southampton), *A Dangerous Woman* (Birmingham Rep and Tour), *Half Life* (ARC and Tour), *A Kettle of Fish*, *VS*, *Ponyboy Curtis: At the Yard* (The Yard), *Still III* (New Diorama), *Cymbeline King of Britain*, *The Three Sisters*, *The Sound & The Fury*, *The Devils*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Mary Stuart* (all Royal Central).

MORGANN RUNACRE-TEMPLE

Morgann began choreographing at school, winning the Central School of Ballet Choreography Award in 2002 and 2003.

She has made work for Northern Ballet, Scottish Ballet, English National Ballet, Stuttgart Ballet, Ballet Central, The Print Room, Images of Dance, Royal Ballet Participation, BBC Young Dancer of the Year and Wilton's Music Hall. In partnership with Jessica Wright, she directs and choreographs dance films. Credits include: *Curing Albrecht* (English National Ballet and Manchester International Festival, BBC iPlayer), *The Last Resort* (ENB and Tate Liverpool), *The Try Out* (C4 Random Acts).

As movement director/choreographer theatre credits include: *Hamlet* (National Theatre Schools Tour), *Persuasion* (Royal Exchange), Assistant choreographer for Ivo van Hove's production of *Lazarus* (Kings Cross Theatre), *random/generations*, *Chich* (Festival Theatre, The Crucible,

Storyhouse Chester). For opera: *Barber of Seville* (Grande Theatre Geneve, WNO). She has created over 10 works for Ballet Ireland since 2005, including five full-length ballets: *Cinderella* (2009), *Romeo & Juliet* (2010), *Scheherazade* (2011), *Carmen* (2013) and *Coppelia* (2015).

Morgann performed as a dancer for companies including Rosie Kay Dance Company and the Curve Foundation. She trained at Central School of Ballet and London Contemporary Dance School and was a recipient of Dance East Rural Retreat Award for Future Dance Leaders 16/17. She recently directed Scottish Ballet's first Feature film *The Secret Theatre* with Jessica Wright, due for release this Christmas. morgannrunacre-temple.com

CHRISTOPHER PULLEYN

Christopher Pulleyn is the Junior Fellow Répétiteur at the RNCM for 2019-2021, acting as principal Répétiteur for the college's opera productions, including Francis Poulenc's *Dialogues des Carmélites*, and Jonathan Dove's *Mansfield Park*. He studied English Literature at York University, after which he gradually developed a career as a collaborative pianist, and has gone on work with a number of major arts organisations around the country including Opera North, Glyndebourne, Sage Gateshead, the Hallé, BBC, Leeds Lieder and Huddersfield Choral Society.

He has worked regularly with Opera North on their many outreach and education programmes, and has been involved in recent productions including *The Magic Flute*, *Cavalleria rusticana*, *Pagliacci*, and the UK Premiere of Kevin Puts' *Silent Night*. He worked regularly with Opera North's Youth Ensembles, playing and assisting on a number of projects and productions including Kurt Weill's *Down in The Valley* for the Aberdeen International Youth Festival, Stephen Deazley's *Dr Ferret's Bad Medicine*

Roadshow for the Tête à Tête Festival, and performed continuo for *The Selfish Giant*, an original production for the Children's Chorus, adapting arias and recitative from Handel operas, to a story by Oscar Wilde.

Christopher is also the pianist-in-residence for Greenhead College, Huddersfield, whose music department attracts some of the most talented young musicians from around the region, and who subsequently go on to study at the top music conservatoires around the UK. He is also a regular accompanist and coach at Leeds Conservatoire and the University of Hull.

Chris is Assistant Musical Director of Bradford Festival Choral Society and works regularly with some of the largest choral societies around the area. In 2018 he worked with Simon Halsey and the BBC Proms Youth Choir for a performance of Beethoven's 9th Symphony and a new commission by Eriks Esenvalds.

KEVIN THRAVES

As a freelance repetiteur, Kevin has worked for many leading opera companies including Scottish Opera, Opera North, Welsh National Opera, English National Opera, Essential Scottish Opera, Clonter Opera, Batignano Musica nel Chiostro (Italy), Scottish Opera-Go-Round and the Buxton International Festival. He has also worked alongside many of the UK's leading orchestras including the Hallé, the BBC Concert Orchestra - during the Proms season at the Royal Albert Hall, the BBC Philharmonic, Manchester Camerata, The Academy of Ancient Music and the London Philharmonic Orchestra under the direction of Sir Simon Rattle, Barry Wordsworth, Sir Richard Armstrong, Tugan Sokhiev, Sir Neville Marriner, Richard Bonyngne and Edward Gardner.

Kevin's work as an accompanist, repetiteur and chorus master has led to his involvement in many recordings and broadcasts. Recently released recordings he has been involved with include Schoenberg's *Gurrelieder*,

Berlioz's *Grande Messe des Morts*, Cellier's *Dorothy* and Britten's *Peter Grimes* released by Chandos, EMI and Naxos. Kevin's UK concert appearances include Wigmore Hall, The Purcell Room, The Queen Elizabeth Hall, St John's Smith Square, St Martin in-the-Fields, The Royal Albert Hall, St David's Hall in Cardiff and The Bridgewater Hall in Manchester.

Kevin has a busy and varied recital career which has led to performances at many of the leading international music festivals including Wratistavia Cantans (Poland), Longborough Festival Opera (UK), Making Music (Malta), Culture and Charity Festival (Jordan), Festival de Musique d'Uzerche (France) and the Mananan International Festival of Music and the Arts (IOM).

Kevin is Deputy Head of Opera at the RNCM where he has worked on many of the award-winning operas as music staff, repetiteur and as the RNCM Opera chorus master.

CAST

FORESTER



EMYR JONES

Emyr Lloyd Jones is a 24-year-old baritone studying for a Master of Music degree with Quentin Hayes, upported by the Drapers' de Turckheim Scholarship and Francis Higgins Award. At the RNCM he has performed in in the chorus of Handel's *Theodora* and Massenet's *Cendrillon*, and as Pinellino in Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi*, Obstinate in Vaughn Williams' *The Pilgrim's Progress* and Officier in Poulenc's *Dialogues des Carmelites*. Emyr will also be performing the role of Steward in the Spring term production of Jonathan Dove's *Flight*.

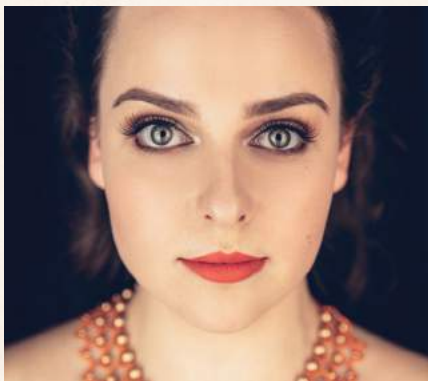


ROSS CUMMING

Scottish Baritone Ross Cumming is studying for a Master's of Music at the RNCM with Matthew Best, kindly supported by the D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust and John Nicol Trust.

Ross had been selected to be on the Young Artist Programme at the Buxton International Opera Festival (2020 postponed season). He looks forward to rescheduled performances with the Opera North Youth Company as Count Heinrich in Judith Weir's *The Black Spider* and to performing Guglielmo in the Cumbria Opera Festival's production of *Così fan tutte*.

VIXEN SHARP-EARS



PASQUALE ORCHARD

New Zealand soprano Pasquale was a 2019 Dame Malvina Major Emerging artist with NZ Opera and graduated from the New Zealand School of Music with Master's of Musical Arts in 2019. In 2018 Pasquale was the PACANZ National Young Performer of the Year and was a finalist in the IFAC Handa Australian Singing competition, receiving a full tuition scholarship for the Master's programme at the Royal Northern College of Music where she graduated with Distinction in 2020. Currently completing her Postgraduate Diploma, Pasquale is generously supported by the José and Rafton Smallwood Award and the Lady Maria Fisher Scholarship.



ALICIA CADWGAN

Alicia Cadwgan is a New Zealand soprano who recently completed her Master of Music with Distinction and is currently studying for a Postgraduate Diploma with Susan Roper. Like many musicians, Alicia had numerous engagements cancelled this year including: Mary Crawford in Dove's *Mansfield Park* (RNCM), Mabel in *Pirates of Penzance* (National G&S Company) and Aunt in *Madame Butterfly* (Hallé).

Last year, she won the Joyce and Michael Kennedy Award for the Singing of Strauss. Alicia gratefully acknowledges the Maurice and Jean Buckley Award and Dame Eva Turner Award that she has received towards her study.

FOX GOLDENMANE



GEORGIA MAE ELLIS

Georgia Mae is a postgraduate mezzo-soprano studying with Mary Plazas, generously supported by the Drake Calleja Trust and The Annie Ridyard Scholarship for Mezzo Sopranos. She was also the recipient of this year's Frederic Cox Award for Singing.

Georgia Mae has performed many roles at the RNCM, including Mère Marie in Orpha Phelan's 2019 production of *Dialogues des Carmélites*, and Suor Zelatrice in *Suor Angelica* and La Ciesca in *Gianni Schicci*, directed by Robert Chevara in 2018. She also covered the role of Mrs Jedermann in David Blake's *Scoring a Century* for British Youth Opera last summer. She is looking forward to joining the Glyndebourne Chorus for their 2021 Season.



MELISSA GREGORY

Australian born mezzo-soprano, Melissa Gregory, is completing a PGDip: Advanced Studies in Musical Performance with Susan Roper. She has performed in Australia and internationally as a soloist with Opera Queensland, Lyric Opera Studio Weimar, the Song Company, the Queensland Choir, Sunshine Coast Chorale Society and the Bach Society of Queensland. Melissa has won national prizes in Australia and the UK. Recently, Melissa was the recipient of the prestigious Annie Ridyard Award, the Peter Heath Award, the James and Mary Glass Scholarship at the RNCM and the Lisa Gasteen National Opera School 10th Anniversary Grant Initiative.

SCHOOLMASTER/MOSQUITO



PHILIP O'CONNOR

Philip's main musical education began at Wells Cathedral School. In 2016, he graduated from Manchester University gaining a First in Solo Performance under Andrew Heggie. He is currently on the RNCM's PGDip course after gaining a Distinction in his Master's and is being taught by Nicholas Powell. His studies are generously supported by South Square Trust and the John Halsall Scholarship. His next major role will be that of Bill in RNCM Opera's Spring production of *Flight* by Jonathan Dove.



GABRIEL SEAWRIGHT

Gabriel is a postgraduate tenor studying with Paul Nilon, supported by the Lord and Lady Lurgan Trust and the Hargreaves and Ball Trust. At the RNCM, he has worked with The King's Singers and RNCM Chamber Choir, sang in the chorus of *Street Scene* and *Così fan tutte*, performed as a Guide in *La Vie Parisienne* and as the Le Premier Commissaire in *Dialogues des Carmélites*. Gabriel has also worked externally, singing for Northern Ireland Opera's *Flying Dutchman*, covering Basilio in Longborough Festival Opera's *Le nozze di Figaro*, and performing at the BBC Proms. Gabriel returned to Longborough last year to sing First Armed Man in *Die Zauberflöte*.

PRIEST/BADGER



LIAM KARAI

Liam Karai is a British bass-baritone studying for a Master's of Music in Performance, supported by the Sir John Tomlinson Scholarship. He completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Leicester reading Banking and Finance whilst on a vocal scholarship. He is currently under the tutelage of Quentin Hayes and past roles/scenes include Figaro, Don Giovanni and Baculus. Next term Liam is playing the Minskman in RNCM Opera's spring production of *Flight*.



GEORGE BUTLER

George is a fourth year bass-baritone studying under Matthew Best. In 2019, he undertook the role of Apollyon in the RNCM's production of *The Pilgrim's Progress* and over the past five years has performed in various opera choruses with different companies, including Dorset Opera Festival and Manchester Contemporary Youth Opera. With Manchester Contemporary Youth Opera, he also had the privilege of performing the title role in the premiere of *Shiki*. He is very glad to be back on the stage after a long intermission.

FORESTER'S WIFE/OWL



EMA ROSE GOSNELL

Ema is a Czech/Australian mezzo-soprano from Perth, Western Australia. She is currently in her second year of postgraduate studies with Mary Plazas at the RNCM, and received her BMus from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA). Previous highlights have included performing excerpts of *Carmen* with the Hallé for *Hallé for Youth* (2020), the alto soloist in Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* (2019), and Prince Charmant in Massenet's *Cendrillon* (2018). Ema Rose is very much looking forward to performing the role of the Stewardess in RNCM's spring production of Jonathan Dove's *Flight* and is generously supported in her studies as an ABRSM International Scholar.



LILA CHRISP

Lila is a first-year MMus singer at the RNCM, studying with Louise Winter. She graduated in 2017 with a First Class degree in music from Merton College, Oxford, where she took lead roles in several operas, including *Nancy*, *Albert Herring*; *Dorabella*, *Così fan tutte*; and *Annio*, *La Clemenza di Tito*. Also a keen song performer, she was the winner of the AESS Courtney Kenny competition for English Song and Poetry 2018 and has performed in the London Song Festival.

ROOSTER/MR PÁSEK



RANALD MCCUSKER

Ranald started singing from an early age, with his first operatic experience coming at four as Sorrow in *Madame Butterfly*. He is currently studying towards his Master's degree with Paul Nilon. Ranald works regularly with a number of opera festivals throughout the UK and Ireland, including The Grange Festival, Wexford Festival Opera, Buxton Opera, Scottish Opera and Dorset Opera. Recent oratorio work includes the tenor solos in Handel's *Messiah*, Haydn's *Creation* and Mozart's *Requiem*.



SAMUEL KNOCK

Based in Manchester since 2016, Sam is a tenor studying for an MMus in Performance with Peter Wilson, generously supported by the RNCM, Neville Whitbread Award & Richard Newitt Fund. During his RNCM study he played the roles of Mr Rushworth in *Mansfield Park* (Dove), Wordly Glory and Tenor Solo in *The Pilgrim's Progress* (Vaughan Williams) and Baron Kronthal in *Der Wildschutz* (Lortzing/RNCM Opera Scenes).

CHOCHOLKA/MRS PÁSEK



SARAH PRESTWIDGE

Sarah is an aboriginal Australian soprano who studied for a Bachelor of Music (Education) at Sydney Conservatorium of Music. Her operatic highlights include, *Suor Angelica*, *Gypsy Baron*, *Le nozze di Figaro*, *HMS Pinafore* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Sarah has sung in orchestral works, including Orff's *Carmina Burana*, and has enjoyed being a Young Artist with Pacific Opera. She is now completing a Master of Music supported by an ABRSM Scholarship and is also the recipient of the Marten Bequest Travelling Scholarship.



ZOË VALLÉE

Zoë Vallée is a Canadian soprano currently studying for a Master of Music in Performance. She is the recipient of a scholarship made possible by the Jacob Marsland Award and the Kenneth Hedley Bequest. Zoë completed her Bachelor's degree at Memorial University of Newfoundland. Her recent credits include, Gretel in Humperdink's *Hansel und Gretel* and Zerlina in Mozart's *Don Giovanni*. In 2021 Zoë will play the role of the Controller in RNCM Opera's production of Jonathan Dove's *Flight*.

HARAŠTA



WILLIAM KYLE

William is a first year postgraduate baritone studying with Quentin Hayes, kindly supported by the D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust. At the RNCM, he has played Herald in *The Pilgrim's Progress*, Le Geôlier in *Dialogues des Carmélites* and will take the role of Steward in the Spring production of *Flight*. This year William was a finalist in the Frederic Cox Award for Singing and the Betty Bannerman French Song Prize.



THOMAS ASHDOWN

Thomas is a first-year postgraduate studying with Peter Alexander Wilson. He is a lyric baritone, singing repertoire ranging from Mozart to Stravinsky. He has had chorus roles in *The Pilgrims Progress*, *Cendrillon* and *Silent Night* with Opera North, in addition to singing minor roles in scenes from *Billy Budd* and *Street Scene*. Thomas is generously supported by the Richard Newitt Fund and Paul and Eileen Blackburn, who sponsor the Alice Orrell and A&N Kendall Award.

LAPÁK



REBECCA ANDERSON

Rebecca is a Scottish mezzo-soprano studying with Susan Roper. Recent opera credits have included Sœur Anne de la Croix in *Dialogues des Carmélites* (RNCM Opera); Noémie in *Cendrillon* (Fife Opera); and Mrs Grose in *The Turn of the Screw* (Byre Opera).

Earlier in 2020 she won the Emmanuel Prize at the RNCM for an outstanding recital of art song and is delighted to be taking on the role of Minskwoman in the RNCM's Spring production of *Flight* by Jonathan Dove.

WOODPECKER



LORNA DAY

Lorna is a postgraduate mezzo-soprano studying with Jane Irwin, generously supported by the Headley Trust, Help Musicians UK Postgraduate Award and the Sir Richard Stapley Educational Trust. Lorna graduated from the RNCM with a First Class BMus (Hons) degree in 2019.

During her studies has was highly commended in the Frost/Brownson Song Cycle Competition and a finalist in the Joyce and Michael Kennedy Award for the Singing of Strauss, and won the Elsie Thurston Prize.

VIXEN AS A CUB



KATY ALLAN

Katy is a third-year undergraduate studying with Antonia Sotgiu. Last year, she performed at the Buxton Opera House as a soloist with the Burbage Band in the annual Boxing Day concert. The young soprano represented Chetham's School of Music – where she studied for her sixth form – as a soloist at the 2017 Greenwich International Early Music Festival. Katy has performed at the Royal Albert Hall, Bridgewater Hall and Royal Festival Hall as part of several prestigious choirs.

FRANTÍK/(CRICKET



GEORGIA CURWEN

Georgia is a third year undergraduate soprano studying with Antonia Sotgiu. Before coming to this role, she enjoyed performing in the chorus of RNCM Opera's 2019 production of Poulenc's *Dialogues des Carmélites*. Georgia's performance highlights include featuring in the BBC's 2019 Christmas special *Mimi and the Dragon* with the Hallé Choir and working with Anna Meredith at the *BBC First Night of the Proms* in 2018 beside the National Youth Choir of Great Britain.

PEPÍK/FROG



EMILY VARNEY

Emily is a fourth-year soprano studying with Hilary Summers. An experienced ensemble and solo performer, Emily is part of The Sixteen's Young Artist programme, Genesis Sixteen 2019/20, and was recently engaged as soloist for Handel's *Dixit Dominus* with Musica Poetica and Haydn's *Nelson Mass* for masterclasses at the RNCM.

Emily made her RNCM operatic début as Chorus in Vaughan William's *The Pilgrims Progress* and is stepping into her first roles as Pepík and Frog.

GRASSHOPPER/JAY



ANASTASIA BEVAN

Anastasia is being generously supported by the Alice Orwell and the A & N Kendall awards and is in her first year of Postgraduate studies at RNCM. She is also a recipient of the Dame Eva Turner prize 2020. Anastasia comes from a large musical family and is a member of the Bevan Family Consort which consists of 16 first cousins. She will be singing the role of 'Tina' in Jonathon Dove's *Flight* with RNCM Opera in March 2021.

TECHNICAL TEAM

Nick Ware Head of Digital, Technical and Production
Paul Botham Production Manager
Greg Skipworth Company Manager
Tracey Collinson Stage Manager
Sarah Taylor Kent Deputy Stage Manager
Louise Morgan Assistant Stage Manager
Steven Davies Deputy Technical Manager (Production)
Julie Parker Deputy Technical Manager (Lighting)
Steve Barrington Deputy Technical Manager (Stage)
Elaine Needham Wardrobe Manager
Rebecca Parkes Deputy Wardrobe Manager
Joanna Shepstone Hair and Make-Up Supervisor

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