



ROYAL  
COLLEGE  
OF MUSIC

*London*

## PRESS RELEASE



Royal College of Music Opera Studio presents *Il mondo della luna*

Performance dates: 25, 27, 29 & 30 November 2019

Michael Rosewell conductor  
William Relton director  
Ruari Murchison designer  
Kevin Treacy lighting designer

*Il mondo della luna*  
Music by Joseph Haydn  
Libretto by Carlo Goldoni  
Sung in Italian (with English surtitles)

In the 50th anniversary year of the first lunar landing, the Royal College of Music is taking audiences to the moon and back with Haydn's comic opera *Il mondo della luna*. Directed by William Relton, Haydn's opera buffa offers both the delight of a comic plot and some of the composer's finest writing: a grand romantic aria, evocative flight song and elegant lunar ballet.

The story centres on aspiring space cadet Buonafede, his daughters Clarice and Flaminia, and his bogus astronomer, Ecclitico. While the miserly Buonafede longs to go to the moon, everyone else longs for love. Ecclitico is pursuing Clarice, nobleman Ernesto loves Flaminia and his servant, Cecco, desires the sisters' chambermaid. Together, the lovers conspire to trick Buonafede into releasing his tyrannical grip on his daughters.

When Buonafede glimpses a pantomime of moon life through Ecclitico's telescope, he believes it to be real and eagerly swallows an elixir to transport him there. The sleeping potion sends him on a hallucinatory journey, accompanied by the hypnotic swirling strains of Haydn's flight music. When he awakens in a starlit garden, he revels in what he considers to be an otherworldly paradise. In the court of the Emperor of the Moon, where class structure is satirised and anything seems possible, will Buonafede consent to a triple wedding, or will the lovers be brought down to earth with a bump?

William Relton is a much sought-after teacher and director who began his career as an actor with a professional début in London's West End. His roles on the operatic stage have included Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni*, Basilio in *Le nozze di Figaro* and Ferrando in *Così fan tutte*. Relton made his international directing début with Verdi's *Otello* for Opéra de Nice and recently directed the world première of *The Importance of Being Earnest*, having adapted the play to an operatic libretto composed by B Tommy Andersson for the Vadstena Festival in Sweden.

As is traditional for RCM opera productions, two casts will alternate performances, giving as many accomplished young singers as possible the chance to take to the RCM's Britten Theatre stage.

For more information and to buy tickets, call the RCM Box Office on 020 7591 4314, visit the RCM in person on Prince Consort Road SW7, or visit the RCM website: <http://www.rcm.ac.uk/rcmopera>

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Notes to Editors

For press tickets and image requests please contact Tessa Deterding at Premier  
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Royal College of Music

Founded in 1882, the Royal College of Music (RCM) is a world leading music conservatoire with a prestigious history and contemporary outlook. Our 800 undergraduate and postgraduate students come from over 60 countries and are taught in a dynamic environment, leaving the RCM to become the outstanding performers, conductors and composers of the future.

For the fourth consecutive year in 2019, the RCM was ranked as the top conservatoire in the UK for the Performing Arts in the QS World University Rankings. RCM was also ranked the top UK conservatoire for music in The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2019 and top music conservatoire for overall student satisfaction in the 2018 National Student Satisfaction (NSS) Survey according to the Times Higher Education.

RCM professors are leaders in their fields and, under such expert guidance, RCM students regularly achieve remarkable success around the globe.

Among our alumni are composers and performers such as Sir Hubert Parry, Benjamin Britten, Gustav Holst, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Lord Lloyd Webber, Rebecca Clarke, Dame Joan Sutherland, Dame Sarah Connolly, Elizabeth Watts, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Mark-Anthony Turnage and Sir Thomas Allen.

Regular visitors to the RCM include Bernard Haitink, Sir Thomas Allen, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Alina Ibragimova and Lang Lang. Our most recent honorary doctorates include Vladimir Jurowski, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Sir Roger Norrington, Sir Bryn Terfel, Steve Reich and Maxim Vengerov (Polonsky Visiting Professor of Violin).