

≡ 2019 International ≡ OPERA AWARDS

sponsored by  M A Z A R S

Gareth Malone and Opera Holland Park Community Chorus reunite for International Opera Awards 2019

Joyce El-Khoury and Charles Castronovo among stars who also perform at the glittering, red-carpet event on 29 April

2019 International Opera Awards sponsored by Mazars

Broadcast in association with BBC Radio 3

Founding Media Partner: Opera Magazine

Gareth Malone and the Opera Holland Park Community Chorus reunite for a special performance at International Opera Awards 2019 – the annual red-carpet gala event celebrating achievements in opera – performing at the event for the first time. Performing ‘Help Me Believe’ – a piece commissioned by Opera Holland Park for its Hope for Grenfell Memorial Gala last year – the Chorus will join a starry line-up of some of the biggest names in opera, including Joyce El-Khoury and Charles Castronovo. Highlights from the ceremony, presented by Petroc Trelawny, will be broadcast on BBC Radio 3 on Monday 6 May.

‘Help Me Believe’ was originally performed at Opera Holland Park’s Hope for Grenfell Memorial Gala in June 2018, in memory of OHP staff member Debbie Lamprell and all the victims of the tragedy - and featured a choir of over 200 children and adults from the Grenfell community as well as the OHP Chorus, the London Sinfonia, principal singers and conductors. The gala raised over £125,000 for the Rugby Portobello Trust’s work with young people and won Theatrical Event of 2018 in the Broadway World awards and the Music Teacher Magazine Editor’s Award.

Created as part of OHP’s Inspire Project, ‘Help Me Believe’ was written in collaboration with members of the community. The lyrics express their hope for the future and desire to be remembered. Celebrated choral composer Will Todd and choral conductor Gareth Malone, who wrote the lyrics alongside community members as well as the music for the piece, will also be present at the ceremony, with Malone conducting and Todd performing from the piano.

Opera Holland Park are previous winners at the International Opera Awards, having won the 2018 Award for Education and Outreach, and are this year nominated in two categories: Festival and Rediscovered Work.

James Clutton, Director of Opera at Opera Holland Park, said: *“OHP’s commitment to the local community did not end with the Hope for Grenfell Gala. The company’s award-winning Inspire outreach and education work continues, and it is an honour to reunite the performers and creators of ‘Help Me Believe’ at the 2019 International Opera Awards.”*

Other performances confirmed for the red-carpet event are star soprano and previous Young Singer Award finalist Joyce El-Khoury, who joins in between performances as Elisabetta in Welsh National Opera's touring production of Donizetti's *Roberto Devereux*; American tenor Charles Castronovo, a finalist in this year's Male Singer category; mezzo Vivica Genaux, who performed in Pinchgut Opera's production of *Artaserse* which is shortlisted for Rediscovered Work; and tenor David Butt Philip, a former Young Singer finalist.

Furthering the Awards' commitment to championing young artists, there will also be performances from a chorus of Opera Award Foundation bursary recipients, bolstered by members of the London Philharmonic Choir, making its debut at this prestigious event. Once again soloists will be accompanied by the Orpheus Sinfonia, led by their Principal Guest Conductor Oliver Gooch.

The Awards, founded by philanthropist Harry Hyman in 2012, aim to raise the profile of opera as an art form, to recognise and reward success in opera and to generate funds to provide bursaries for aspiring operatic talent from around the world. Since 2012 over £330,000 has been raised by the Opera Awards Foundation.

www.operaawards.org

#OperaAwards2019

Watch 'Help Me Believe' performed at Opera Holland Park's Hope for Grenfell Memorial Gala in June 2018 [here](#).

The full list of nominees for the International Opera Awards 2019 can be viewed [here](#).

Tickets for the International Opera Awards 2019 ceremony range from £10 - £150 and can be purchased [here](#).

For more information or to request press tickets for the event, please contact Victoria Bevan or Yasmin Hoy at Premier:

Victoria.bevan@premiercomms.com | 0207 292 7335

Yasmin.Hoy@premiercomms.com | 0207 292 7351

NOTES TO EDITORS

Mazars

Mazars is an international, integrated and independent organisation, specialising in audit, accountancy, advisory, tax and legal services. As of 1 January 2019, Mazars operates throughout the 83 countries that make up its integrated partnership. Mazars draws upon the expertise of 23,000 women and men led by 1000 partners. It assists clients of all sizes, from SMEs to mid-caps and global players as well as start-ups and public organisations, at every stage of their development. In the UK, Mazars has approximately 140 partners and over 1,700 employees serving clients from 19 offices and is ranked one of the top 10 firms nationally.

<http://www.mazars.com>

BBC Radio 3

Since it launched in 1946, the Third Programme/BBC Radio 3 has been a bold innovator in the cultural world. It is one of the world's foremost presenters, creators, commissioners and curators across classical, folk, world, jazz and contemporary music as well as drama, philosophy and ideas.

The station is also the most significant commissioner of new and contemporary music in the UK, with 35 new works commissioned annually and broadcasts over 600 concerts a year, including live broadcasts from the greatest classical music festival in the world (BBC Proms). Radio 3's In Concert programme alone reaches the equivalent of 250 packed concert halls a week, and the BBC Orchestras and Choirs give around 400 concerts a year in over 60 UK locations. The station has always nurtured extraordinary artistic talents, provided a platform for important scientific and political debates/announcements, and broadcast ground-breaking experimental drama – always while delivering its core aim of connecting audiences with pioneering music and culture.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio3>

Opera Magazine

Described by *The Daily Telegraph* as 'the bible of the industry', *Opera* magazine has been the world's leading commentator on the lyric stage since 1950. Providing coverage of operatic events through a mixture of features, reviews (live performances, recordings, books) and analysis, plus monthly listings of events worldwide and its famous 'We hear that' section, the magazine has an unrivalled network of international correspondents, covering performances from around the globe.

<http://www.opera.co.uk>

