

## Royal College of Music Opera Studio presents *Robinson Crusoe*



Performance dates: 13, 15, 16 & 18 March 2019

Michael Rosewell **conductor**  
Bill Bankes-Jones **director**  
Sarah Booth **designer**

*Robinson Crusoe*

Music by Jacques Offenbach

Libretto by Eugène Cormon and Hector-Jonathan Crémieux

Sung in English (version by Don White)

The Royal College of Music Opera Studio presents Jacques Offenbach's lively operetta *Robinson Crusoe* in the composer's 200th birthday year. Acclaimed director Bill Bankes-Jones returns to the Royal College of Music (RCM) following the successful *Frankenstein – The Modern Prometheus*, a 2018 collaborative project between the RCM and Tête à Tête, of which Bankes-Jones is founder and Artistic Director. Tickets for *Robinson Crusoe* are [now on sale](#).

*Robinson Crusoe* is a light-hearted love story loosely based on Daniel Defoe's classic novel, which celebrates its 300th anniversary this year. Offenbach's opera is a seafaring musical adventure set against a backdrop of Victoriana, colonialism and cannibalism. The story follows hopeless romantic Robinson as he sets sail for South America with dreams of finding a fortune for his fiancée Edwige. It's anything but plain sailing though, as he ends up shipwrecked on a desert island. When Edwige launches a rescue mission, she too finds herself at the mercy of pantomime pirates and waltzing cannibals. Will the lovers ever find each other, the treasure, or their way back home?

Bill Bankes-Jones has directed more than 40 world premieres of operas, as well as many revivals, plays and other events. He has been staff or associate director with English National Opera, the National Theatre, the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Royal Opera. As well as *Frankenstein – The Modern Prometheus* and *Crime and Punishment* at the RCM, Bankes-Jones has directed all of Tête à Tête's productions to date and several acclaimed productions for the ENO. Sarah Booth is an experienced theatre designer who has collaborated with many top directors, including Bankes-Jones on numerous Tête à Tête projects.

The RCM's production of *Robinson Crusoe* is sung in English. 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:  
<https://www.rcm.ac.uk/events/robinsoncrusoe/>

-----ENDS-----

Notes to Editors

For press tickets and image requests please contact Tessa at Premier

0207 292 7355 | [Tessa.Deterding@premiercomms.com](mailto:Tessa.Deterding@premiercomms.com)

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 third consecutive year in 2018, the RCM was ranked as the top conservatoire in the UK for the Performing Arts in the QS World University Rankings. It was also ranked top in Europe and second in the world. In 2017, the RCM achieved an overall rating of gold for its outstanding teaching and learning provision for undergraduates in the first ever Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF). The RCM was the top UK conservatoire in the Complete University Guide's Arts/Music Institution League Table 2017.

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 Maxim Vengerov (Polonsky Visiting Professor of Violin), 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 and Steve Reich.