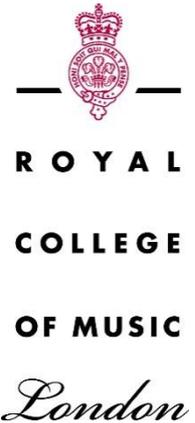


PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release



ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC OPERA STUDIO TAKES *FLIGHT* THIS SUMMER



JONATHAN DOVE'S

FLIGHT

28 & 30 JUNE | 2 & 4 JULY

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC, LONDON, SW7 2BS

MICHAEL ROSEWELL CONDUCTOR
NICKY SHAW DESIGNER

JEREMY SAMS DIRECTOR
JAMES WHITESIDE LIGHTING DESIGNER

A ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC
OPERA STUDIO PRODUCTION

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Michael Rosewell conductor
Jeremy Sams director
Nicky Shaw designer
James Whiteside lighting designer

Performance dates: 28 and 30 June; 2 and 4 July

Flight

Music by Jonathan Dove
Libretto by April de Angelis
Sung in English

Jonathan Dove's comedy opera, *Flight*, lands at the Royal College of Music's (RCM) Britten Theatre next month with a special production by acclaimed director Jeremy Sams. In what will be the 35th staging of *Flight*, Jonathan Dove will also be involved in the unique creative direction of this production.

Flight has become one of the most popular and most performed British operas of recent years. Sams' reimagining for the RCM Opera Studio gives audiences the chance to experience the story as never before, drawing on abstract ideas of timelessness, magic and mystery.

Set in the departure lounge of an airport, *Flight* tells the story of a group of passengers and crew members whose planes have been delayed by a storm. In a busy, always-on world, the characters are forced to pause, reflect on their lives and reconsider their respective relationships. Whilst each pair has little in common on the surface, they are brought together by universal concerns of love, identity, hope, birth and death. The stories of this disparate group of people include an immigration officer, a diplomat and his pregnant wife, an older woman awaiting her younger fiancé and a married couple in a rut; all centred around a refugee stranded at the airport. *Flight* underscores the difference between us and the sense of humanity that connects us all.

Written for Glyndebourne in 1998, *Flight* catapulted Jonathan Dove to international renown and has been staged around the world. The opera's libretto, by leading British playwright April de Angelis, is based on the true story of Mehran Nasser, an Iranian refugee who was stranded in Paris' Charles de Gaulle airport for 18 years. The poignant story also inspired Steven Spielberg's 2004 film *The Terminal*.

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

To book tickets please visit the [RCM website](#).

--- ENDS ---

Notes to editors

For press tickets and image requests please contact Charlotte Campbell (Communications Officer) at the Royal College of Music: charlotte.campbell@rcm.ac.uk

About the 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. More than 900 undergraduate and postgraduate students come from over 50 countries and are taught in a dynamic environment, leaving the RCM to become the outstanding performers, conductors and composers of the future.

In 2022, the RCM was ranked as the global top institution for performing arts in the prestigious QS World University Rankings by Subject. In a recent Higher Education Statistics Agency survey (2021), of the RCM alumni who graduated in 2019, 86% of survey respondents had moved into employment or further study 15 months after graduating.

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

Among over 9,500 alumni are composers and performers such as Louise Alder, Sir Thomas Allen, Sophie Bevan, Benjamin Britten, Rebecca Clarke, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Dame Sarah Connolly, Gerald Finley, Gustav Holst, Lord Lloyd Webber, Anna Meredith MBE, Sir Hubert Parry, Mark-Anthony Turnage, and Ralph Vaughan Williams.

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