

Ian Page and The Mozartists present the UK premiere of Gluck's
Bauci e Filemone and *Orfeo* at the Queen Elizabeth Hall



Ian Page © Benjamin Ealovega

**Gluck: *Bauci e Filemone* / *Orfeo*
29 and 31 May 2019, 7:30pm
Queen Elizabeth Hall, Southbank Centre**

Ian Page and The Mozartists continue their MOZART 250 series with a Gluck double-bill at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, presenting *Bauci e Filemone* and the UK premiere of the composer's 1769 revision of *Orfeo*. Ian Page has brought together a stellar cast for this performance, including Lena Belkina, Kiandra Howarth, Rebecca Bottone and Gwilym Bowen. Gwilym Bowen is one of the ensemble's new Associate Artists and is due to make his company debut in the upcoming performance of Hasse's *Piramo e Tisbe* at Cadogan Hall later this month. The concert staging of this double bill is directed by John Wilkie.

The two one-act operas were composed and first performed 250 years ago in Parma to celebrate the wedding of Ferdinand, Duke of Parma, to Maria Amalia, Archduchess of Austria. Both *Bauci e Filemone* and *Orfeo* are based on stories described by Ovid in *Metamorphoses*. For the score of *Orfeo*, Gluck reworked his most popular work *Orfeo ed Euridice*, written 7 years earlier, for a soprano castrato in the title role.

Conductor and Artistic Director Ian Page writes: "We're hugely excited to be returning to the Queen Elizabeth Hall for this Gluck double-bill, especially with such a strong line-up. *Bauci e Filemone* is a charming work whose neglect is genuinely unmerited, while *Orfeo ed Euridice* has been on my wish-list for many years now. The opportunity to present the UK premiere of this 1769 version is an added bonus; the music is essentially the same, though lacking the final ballet, and I am looking forward to working with a cast of three such contrasting singers. I am also thrilled that this project will mark the

UK debut of the outstanding young Ukranian mezzo Lena Belkina, who has been building a wonderful reputation in mainland Europe in recent years."

The performance is part of The Mozartist's ongoing MOZART 250 series, an ambitious 27-year project which seeks to re-tread the steps of musical history and explore the trajectory of Mozart's life, music and influences in chronological sequence. Each year Ian Page and his ensemble are devoting part of their programme to an exploration of the music that was being composed by Mozart and his contemporaries exactly 250 years previously. 2019 sees them continue the series into its fifth year, exploring the musical world when Mozart was thirteen.

Gluck *Bauci e Filemone/Orfeo* | 29 & 31 May 2019, 7:30pm | Queen Elizabeth Hall, London

Lena Belkina *Orfeo / Filemone*

Kiandra Howarth *Euridice/La pastorella*

Rebecca Bottone *Amore / Bauci*

Gwilym Bowen *Giove*

Ian Page *conductor*

John Wilkie *director*

The Choir and Orchestra of Mozartists

Gluck: *Bauci e Filemone* from *Le feste d'Apollo*

Interval

Gluck: *Orfeo* (vers. 1769) from *Le feste d'Apollo*

www.classicalopera.co.uk

- ENDS -

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Notes to editors

Other Upcoming performances

Hasse *Piramo e Tisbe* | 28 March 2019, 7:30pm | Cadogan Hall, London

Chiara Skerath *Tisbe (soprano)*

Kiandra Howarth *Piramo (soprano)*

Gwilym Bowen *Il padre (tenor)*

Ian Page *conductor*

The Mozartists

Mozart's Travels | 8 July 2019, 7:30pm | Wigmore Hall, London

Mozart's Travels | 9 July 2019, 7:30pm | Lichfield Festival, Lichfield

Louise Alder *soprano*

Katy Bircher *flute*

Oliver Wass *harp*

Gavin Edwards *horn*

Ian Page *conductor*

The Mozartists

About Classical Opera & The Mozartists

Classical Opera, founded in 1997 under the direction of Ian Page, is one of the world's leading exponents of the works of Mozart and his contemporaries. It is renowned for its vibrant, fresh and stylish performances, for its ability to discover and nurture outstanding young artists, and for its imaginative and illuminating programming.

Following the launch of Ian Page's ground-breaking MOZART 250 and a broadening of repertoire, incorporating symphonies and concertos, oratorios and concert arias as well as operas, the company launched The Mozartists in 2017 to reflect and facilitate this expanding strand of work on the concert platform.

Lena Belkina

The young mezzo-soprano Lena Belkina is already in demand all over the world. Her career is characterised by the cooperation with important conductors such as Marco Armiliato, Adam Fischer, Alessandro de Marchi, Ulf Schirmer, Andrea Sanguineti, Tomas Netopil, Paolo Carignani, Jiri Belohlavek, Ricardo Muti and many others. Lena is representing Ukraine in the 2019 BBC Cardiff Singer of the World Competition.

Kiandra Howarth

Australian lyric soprano Kiandra Howarth was a member of the Jette Parker Young Artist Programme at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden from 2013-15. After graduating from the programme in July 2015, Kiandra was awarded the 'Culturarte Prize' in the 23rd Edition of Plácido Domingo's Operalia - The World Opera Competition which was held at The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

Rebecca Bottone

Rebecca Bottone studied at the Royal Academy of Music and was one of Classical Opera's inaugural Associate Artists. Her appearances with the company have included Sabina (*Adriano in Siria*), Sifare (*Mitridate, re di Ponto*), Servilia (Gluck's *La clemenza di Tito*), Melia (*Apollo et Hyacinthus*), Despina (*Così fan tutte*), Elisa (*Il re pastore*), Semira (*Artaxerxes*) and Worldly Spirit (*The First Commandment*), as well as numerous concerts at Wigmore Hall and Kings Place.

Gwilym Bowen

Gwilym Bowen was made an Associate Artist of Classical Opera in 2018. Gwilym has an established specialism in earlier repertoire, which has brought a number of significant débuts. Highlights on the concert platform have included *Johannes-Passion* with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and BBC National Orchestra of Wales under John Butt, *Messiah* with the Seattle Symphony Orchestra under Stephen Layton, Bach Cantatas at the Lincoln Centre with Masaaki Suzuki, and Monteverdi duets at the Edinburgh International Festival with the Dunedin Consort.

John Wilkie

John Leo Wilkie is a director of opera and theatre. He grew up in Scotland where he trained as an actor. Subsequently, he undertook trainee director programmes at The National Theatre and The Kings Head Theatre, and also trained extensively with Complicité. He is a founding member of Opera Bohemia, an opera company dedicated to creating opportunities for young professional artists in all

areas of opera and producing more operatic performances across Scotland, introducing dynamic productions to the big cities as well as remote parts of the country.