

**Ian Page conducts UK premiere of Hasse's *Piramo e Tisbe* with his ensemble  
The Mozartists and soloists Chiara Skerath, Kiandra Howarth and Gwilym  
Bowen**



Chiara Skerath, Ian Page and The Mozartists © Ben Ealovega

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

**Ian Page** and **The Mozartists** present the UK premiere of **Hasse's two-act opera *Piramo e Tisbe*** at Cadogan Hall on 28 March. They will be joined by two of their recently announced Associate Artists, **Chiara Skerath** and **Gwilym Bowen** (who will be making his company debut), and Australian soprano **Kiandra Howarth**. Ian Page will give a pre-concert talk to introduce the opera and explore its background.

*Piramo e Tisbe* was first performed in Vienna in the autumn of 1768, just over 250 years ago, yet has never received a performance in the UK until now. In a letter to a friend, Hasse commented that the opera was "*among the best works I have written...while composing it I always felt inspiration*". The story of *Piramo e Tisbe* is drawn from Book Four of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, and tells the tragic story of two young lovers' failed attempt to elope.

Ian Page writes: "*We performed an aria from Piramo e Tisbe at our 1768 retrospective concert at Wigmore Hall last January, and we were all overwhelmed by the beauty of the music. It prompted me to explore the rest of the opera in more detail, and the more I familiarised myself with it the more straightforward the decision became to perform the complete work. Because of the lateness of the planning it did not prove possible to schedule the performance on the exact 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the premiere, but I'm delighted to be presenting the long-overdue UK premiere of the work, especially with such an outstanding trio of young singers.*"

*Piramo e Tisbe* was the sixty-first of Hasse's sixty-two operas, and unlike its predecessors it is surprisingly forward-thinking, incorporating and developing many of Gluck's operatic reforms in music of sumptuous lyricism and pathos.

Later this year Ian Page and The Mozartists perform a Gluck double-bill of *Bauci e Filemone* and the celebrated *Orfeo ed Euridice* – which will be the UK premiere of the composer's 1769 revision – on 29 and 31 May at the Queen Elizabeth Hall. The cast includes **Ana Maria Labin**, **Susanna Hurrell**, **Rebecca Bottone**, **Rachel Kelly** and **Gwilym Bowen**. *Orfeo ed Euridice* had its premiere in Vienna in 1762, and this revision from 1769 adapts the role of Orfeo for a soprano.

On 8 July Ian Page and The Mozartists return to Wigmore Hall for a concert exploring Mozart's travels across Europe with Associate Artist **Louise Alder**. They will also be joined by flautist **Katy Bircher**, harpist **Oliver Wass** and **Gavin Edwards** on the horn.

[www.classicalopera.co.uk](http://www.classicalopera.co.uk)

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## Notes to editors

### 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

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

Ana Maria Labin *Orfeo*

Susanna Hurrell *Euridice*

Rebecca Bottone *Amore/Bauci*

Rachel Kelly *Filemone*

Gwilym Bowen *Giove*

Ian Page *conductor*

The Mozartists

Nick Winston *director*

**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.

### **Chiara Skerath**

Praised for her "brilliant technique" and her "velvety timbre" (Opera Magazine), Swiss-Belgian lyric soprano Chiara Skerath recently made acclaimed débuts as Mélisande at the Opéra de Bordeaux and as Poppea at Opéra de Nantes, and has appeared in multiple productions at the Opéra National de Paris. Chiara has been a winner at several international competitions, including the Audience Prize at the 2014 Queen Elisabeth Competition; the Grand Prix de Duo Chant-Piano at the 2013 International Nadia et Lili Boulanger Competition and the Emmerich Smola Förderpreis in 2012. She also received the Migros Culture Scholarship in both 2011 and 2012.

### **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 Jette Parker Young Artist 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.

### **Gwilym Bowen**

Acclaimed for his dynamic stage presence and the clarity and beauty of his singing, British tenor Gwilym Bowen is already beginning to perform internationally with orchestras and ensembles of the highest calibre. Upcoming engagements include the Bach *Johannespassion* with the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra in New Zealand, and débuts with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra in the UK.