



## National Opera Studio expands its offering as it welcomes new cohort of Young Artists for 2023/24

- National Opera Studio welcomes 16 new singers and pianists for its flagship Global Talent Programme as it begins new strand of work to train and nurture young artists
- A new generation of participants are also welcomed to new part-time and flexible training as part of the National Talent Programme and Diverse Voices Supported Singers Programme

The UK's foremost opera training institution, the **National Opera Studio** (NOS), this week welcomes a new cohort of Young Artists from all over the world to its flagship **Global Talent Programme**.

Following in the footsteps of Studio alumni including Ivor Bolton, Susan Bullock and Gerald Finley among many others, these handpicked young musicians begin a fully funded, nine-month bespoke training programme that aims to prepare them for the myriad challenges of a complex and demanding industry.

Emily Gottlieb, Chief Executive of National Opera Studio, said:

*"As we embark on this new era of opportunity at the National Opera Studio, we welcome our cohort of 2023/24 Young Artists for our established Global Talent Programme. They will benefit from fully funded, tailored training in partnership with the six leading opera*

*companies in the UK. We're also delighted to welcome the singers joining our National Talent Programme, and we look forward to seeing them develop over the coming year. With our Diverse Voices initiative, we are delighted to have further extended opportunities for more talented young artists than ever before."*

A full list of the 2023/24 NOS Young Artists can be found [here](#).

The 16 joining the **Global Talent Programme** in 2023 comprise five sopranos, two mezzo-sopranos, two tenors, two baritones, a bass-baritone and four répétiteurs. Along with the UK, they hail from as far afield as China, Croatia, Poland, New Zealand and South Africa. In addition to funding the training, the National Opera Studio provides the Young Artists with a performance stipend, a bursary and additional funding for external lessons and auditions.

Following a successful trial last year, the National Opera studio also welcomes a new generation of opera talent joining its newly developed shorter, flexible pathway opportunities for UK-based artists in the early stages of their careers, with particular focus on UK-based singers who identify as a member of the global majority. The **National Talent Programme** supports two exceptional artists to train on a part-time, flexible basis alongside the Global Talent Programme. The National Talent Programme is part of the Studio's Diverse Voices initiative, which provides support, guidance, and encouragement to young singers at various stages of their paths to opera careers working with artists, singers, and choirs across a variety of levels and platforms, connecting young children to local musical communities all the way to training artists who are already singing professionally on stage.

Having undergone an intense application process, participants on the Global Talent Programme will hone their skills and leverage the Studio's partnerships with the six leading UK opera companies: English National Opera, Glyndebourne, Opera North, the Royal Opera House, Scottish Opera and Welsh National Opera.

The intensity of the training reflects the environment of the professional opera world, exposing artists to the huge range of skills necessary for working in opera at the highest level. In addition to the musical tuition, the comprehensive and holistic training includes coaching, mentoring, skills development and stagecraft classes, audio-visual technical training, coaching in physical and psychological resilience, marketing advice as well as performance opportunities. These are taught with unparalleled one-to-one supervision, allowing for individually tailored learning, helping them progress and open pathways not necessarily otherwise available, and providing a springboard from which to launch international careers.

Artists on the Global Talent Programme will have the chance to work closely with leading directors, conductors and opera orchestras to prepare scenes for public performance, and benefit from residencies at Glyndebourne, Opera North, Welsh National Opera and Scottish Opera, learning to tackle the challenges of world-class stages. Their numerous opportunities culminate in a performance with the English National Opera orchestra at Cadogan Hall next summer.

In addition to weekly Lunchtime recital performances each Wednesday, the first major public performances for the Global Talent artists are a collection of fully staged operatic scenes directed by the legendary Keith Warner on 6 and 7 December 2023.

**-ENDS-**

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## **Notes to Editors**

### **National Opera Studio Global Talent Programme artists 2023/24**

#### Sopranos

[Rosalind Dobson](#) (British)

[Nikolina Hrkać](#) (Croatian)

[Kira Kaplan](#) (American)

[Sofia Kirwan-Baez](#) (Anglo-Venezuelan)

[Heming Li](#) (Chinese)

#### Mezzo-sopranos

[Georgia Mae Ellis](#) (British)

[Camilla Seale](#) (British)

#### Tenors

[Robert Forrest](#) (British)

[Rhydian Jenkins](#) (Welsh)

#### Baritones

[Jonathan Evers](#) (Kiwi)

[Aleksander Kaczuk-Jagielnik](#) (Polish)

#### Bass-baritone

[Smelo Mahlangu](#) (South African)

#### Repetiteurs

[Hana Kim](#) (Korean)

[Johanna Kvam](#) (American)

[Blanca Graciá Rodríguez](#) (Spanish)

[Jacob Swindells](#) (British)

### **National Opera Studio National Talent Programme artists 2023/24**

[Shafali Jalota](#) (British-American)

[Moloko Letsoalo](#) (South African)

<https://www.nationaloperastudio.org.uk/young-artists>

#### Forthcoming events

**18 October | 13:15 | National Opera Studio | [Wandsworth Wednesday: Free Lunchtime Recital](#)**

**8 November | 13:15 | National Opera Studio | [Wandsworth Wednesday: Free Lunchtime Recital](#)**

**6 December | 19:30 | National Opera Studio | [Myths and Legends: An Operatic Odyssey](#)  
Also on 7 December at 14:30 and 19:30**

#### About National Opera Studio

The National Opera Studio (NOS) exists to train talented young musicians to become the leading artists of their generation. It aims to make a significant contribution to the opera ecology and the wider creative and cultural life of the UK through the provision of top-quality professional training, and by our engagement and position in the sector.

At its core, the National Opera Studio provides intensive and bespoke professional training at the highest level for a small number of singers and répétiteurs each year, and prepares them for life on an international operatic stage. It works in partnership with not one, but six of the leading opera companies in the UK: English National Opera, Glyndebourne, Opera North, the Royal Opera House, Scottish Opera and Welsh National Opera. Young Artists are with NOS for nine months and undergo a rigorous programme that is individually designed around their particular vocal and developmental needs.

In addition to the tailored coaching programme, Young Artists work closely with leading directors, conductors and opera orchestras to prepare opera scenes for public performance, as well as working with other artists who are leaders in their field. The intensity of the training programme is designed to create a working environment that reflects the professional opera world.

<https://www.nationaloperastudio.org.uk/>