

Ian Page and The Mozartists explore Mozart's travels across Europe, making their début at Lichfield Festival and returning to Wigmore Hall



Louise Alder and 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

Ian Page and The Mozartists return to Wigmore Hall and make their début at Lichfield Festival with a programme exploring Mozart's travels across Europe. The repertoire comprises a mixture of concertos, symphonies and arias composed in London, The Hague, Paris, Munich, Vienna, Prague and Rome. The company's award-winning Associate Artist Louise Alder will perform three arias, including Ilia's "Se il padre perdei" from *Idomeneo*, and principals from The Mozartists take centre stage to perform two of Mozart's most popular concertos: Mozart's *Concerto in C major for Flute and Harp* is performed by Katy Bircher and Oliver Wass, whilst Gavin Edwards performs the *Horn Concerto No. 4 in E flat major*.

Mozart travelled extensively during his short life, particularly in his early years – between his 7th and 15th birthdays he was away from home for a total of almost six years – and his final trip to Prague ended less than two months before his death. These travels played a crucial role in forging his artistic personality, enabling him to become acquainted with a wide range of music and musicians. In particular, his extended stays in London and Paris before he had turned ten and his year in Italy at the age of fourteen provided a unique education, exposing him to different styles, traditions and outlooks.

The featured works in this programme range from eight-year-old Mozart in London composing his first symphony to his horn concerto and “Bella mia fiamma... Resta, o cara”, written in his thirties.

Conductor and Artistic Director Ian Page writes: “Mozart’s career provides a supreme demonstration of the value and benefits of cultural exchange, and the time that he spent in such important musical cities as London, Paris, Milan and Naples provided him with a depth and breadth of education that he could never have received by remaining at home in Salzburg. This concert explores the range of subtly different musical cultures for which Mozart composed, and will I hope provide a varied and enjoyable cross-section of his extraordinary career. We’re also delighted to have been invited to make our Lichfield Festival début with this programme.”

Programme

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The Mozartists

Mozart

Symphony No.1 in E flat major, K.16

“O temerario Arbace... Per quel paterno amplesso”, K.79

Concerto in C major for Flute and Harp, K.299

“Se il padre perdei” from *Idomeneo*, K.366

Horn Concerto No. 4 in E flat major, K.495

“Bella mia fiamma... Resta, o cara”, K.528

Symphony No.10 in G major, K.74

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- ENDS -

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Notes to editors

Upcoming performances

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

Lena Belkina *Orfeo/Filemone*

Kiandra Howarth *Euridice/Pastorella*

Rebecca Bottone *Amore/Bauci*

Gwilym Bowen *Giove*

Ian Page *conductor*

The Mozartists

John Wilkie *director*

Emily Adamson *designer*

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.

Louise Alder

Louise Alder won best Young Singer at International Opera Awards 2017 and represented England at the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World Competition 2017, winning the third round of the competition and the Dame Joan Sutherland Audience Prize. Louise won the inaugural British Young Soloists' Competition at the Wigmore Hall in 2015, the 2014 Glyndebourne Festival Opera John Christie Award and the 2013 Glyndebourne on Tour Donald Albert Anderson Award. Also in 2013, Louise won second prize in Kathleen Ferrier Award and an INDEPENDENT OPERA fellowship and became a Classical Opera Associate Artist. Other prizes include first prize and a Miriam Licette Award in the 2012 Maggie Teyte French Song Competition, and numerous prizes at the Royal College of Music including the 2013 Tagore Gold Medal awarded every year to two graduating students for outstanding representation of the RCM. Louise is a 2013 Samling Scholar and a Britten-Pears young artist alumna.

Katy Bircher

Katy Bircher (flute) is established as a specialist of early flute and, as such, has worked with most of the UK-based early music ensembles in repertoire ranging from Dowland to Wagner. Following her Gramophone Award-winning recording of Vivaldi concertos, 'The French Connection', with La Serenissima, she was selected to give the first performance and recording of the newly discovered 'Il Gran Mogul' concerto by Vivaldi ('The French Connection' 2, Avie Records). She has contributed to many critically acclaimed orchestral recordings as principal flute, notably Haydn's *The Creation* with the Gabrieli Consort and Players, Bach's Mass in B minor with Concerto Copenhagen and *St John Passion* with the Dunedin Consort. She teaches Baroque flute at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and the Centre for Early Music Performance and Research at Birmingham University, and has given masterclasses in the UK and abroad.

Oliver Wass

Oliver Wass studied at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and is one of the UK's leading young harpists. In May 2016, he became the first harpist ever to win the Guildhall Gold Medal, the Guildhall's most prestigious prize, and he also recently won the Suoni d'Arpa International Competition in Italy. This performance will be his début with Classical Opera and The Mozartists.

Gavin Edwards

Gavin Edwards (horn) graduated from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, where he studied horn with Richard Bissell and Anthony Chiddel and natural horn with Anthony Halstead. After graduating he was appointed as principal horn of the Orchestra Sinfonica de Tenerife, returning to

England shortly after to join the Hanover Band in their recordings of Beethoven's, Schubert's and Haydn's symphonies. He is regular principal horn for a large number of period ensembles, including The Hanover Band, the English Baroque Soloists, the Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique, the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and the Academy of Ancient Music as well as Classical Opera.