

## FORTHCOMING DATES & TICKET INFORMATION



### Calendar Listing

Those events marked with an asterisk \* are University events

#### \*Summer Oratorio

## Handel: *Belsbazzar*

Peter Davoren: *Belsbazzar*; Henry Jones: *Cyrus*;  
Gwendolen Martin: *Nitochris*; Cathy Bell: *Daniel*; Jon Stainsby: *Gobrius*

Conductor : *Alexander Hodgkinson*

New College Chapel, 8.00pm, £10/£5 concessions on the door

#### Summer Opera

## Thomas Arne: *Artaxerxes*

Artaxerxes: William Purefoy; Mandane: Merryn Gamba;  
Artabanes: Adam Tunnicliffe; Arbaces: Joanne Edworthy;  
Semira: Kate Semmens; Rimenes: Nicholas Hurndall Smith/Kevin Kyle

Director: *Michael Burden*; Musical director: *Steven Devine*

2 (Preview), 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13 July 2008

6.30pm

The Warden's Garden, New College

New Chamber Opera - New Chamber Opera Ensemble  
The Band of Instruments - Phoenix - Cutting Edge

Patron Harvey McGregor · Singing Patron James Bowman

Director of Productions Michael Burden · Musical Director Gary Cooper

Summer Opera Steven Devine · Director, The Band of Instruments Roger Hamilton

Director, Opera Studio · Christopher Borrett

Repeaters Alice Newton, Timothy Motz (on leave 2007-8), Matthew Hawken, Jonathon Swinard (elect),  
Company Secretary Clare Atkinson · Comptroller Graham Midgley · Wardrobe Diana Lintott, Fiona Hodges

Production administrator Christine Murray · Recitals Administrator Dominic Burnham

New Chamber Opera · 4 Mansfield Road · Oxford OX1 3TA

Tel: 01865 281 966 · Fax: 01865 279 590 · Email: info@newchamberopera.com

Web pages: <http://www.newchamberopera.co.uk>

Company No 3502769 · Charity No 1095069

### TICKET DETAILS

#### Lunchtime Vocal Recitals

1.15pm

New College Ante-chapel  
£2/£1 concessions  
on the door

### Summer Opera in July

#### Wednesday 2 (Preview) and Tuesday 8

New Chamber Opera  
Please download forms from  
<http://www.newchamberopera.co.uk>

#### Fridays 4 and 11

New College Development Office  
(01865) 279 509

#### Saturday 5

University of Oxford Ulumni  
(01865) 611 622

#### Sunday 6

National Arts Collection Fund  
(01491) 641 190

#### Wednesday 9

Friends of the Oxford Botanic Garden  
(01844) 214 468

#### Saturday 12

and

#### Sunday 13

Friends of the Welsh National Opera  
(01865) 865 806



### Summer Oratorio 2008

# Handel: *Belshazzar*

**Conductor:  
Alex Hogkinson**

Peter Davoren: Belshazzar  
Henry Jones: Cyrus  
Gwendolen Martin: Nitochris  
Cathy Bell: Daniel  
Jon Stainsby: Gobrius

New College Chapel  
8.00pm  
4 June 2008

Handel's oratorio *Belshazzar* was composed in the late Summer of 1744; he had by this time given up writing operas. The work premiered the following Lenten season on 27 March 1745 at the King's Theatre in London. Based on the biblical account of the fall of Babylon, its denouement hinges on the appearance of writing on the wall.



### Summer Opera



2 (Preview), 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13 July 2008

6.30pm

The Warden's Garden, New College

**T**homas Arne's opera *Antaxerxes* was the surprise hit of 1762. 'Surprise', because the English did not like recitative, and the last thing that should have appealed to them was an opera in English based on an Italian libretto by Metastasio. The London public's initial reception was cool; but after the first season, it was revived, and went on being performed well into the 19th century. It held its popularity partly

because the role of Mandane became - in the hands of two or three great sopranos, such as Elizabeth Billington and Gertrud Mara - a testing ground for new sopranos some of whom made their debut in the role. The piece contains Italian-style arias with the greatest number of 'divisions and difficulties which had ever been heard at the opera'. Three of these spectacular display pieces were included in the Proms in 2004.

## Company Profile



# Alex Hodgkinson

Alex's passion is for choral music of any kind and he has worked with choirs of all ages as a singer, accompanist and conductor. He went up to Oxford in 2006 where he holds the organ scholarship at Keble College whilst reading for a degree in music. In addition to his duties at Keble, Alex serves as a deputy Organ Scholar of New College, and Organist of Pusey House. Since April 2008 he has been Director of the New Chamber Opera Studio, who are performing Handel's *Belshazzar* in June of this year. Prior to Oxford, Alex was the Organ Scholar of Ely Cathedral for three years. Here he

regularly had the pleasure of accompanying the Cathedral's daily services and often directed the Cathedral choir. In addition to this, during his gap year he taught music and was a house tutor at the King's Junior School, Ely. Alex has toured widely with various choirs and ensembles, notably to Japan, Spain, Poland, and Italy, and he is a regular staff member on the Eton Choral Courses. In his spare time he enjoys singing, composing, walking and watching *Inspector Morse*; he has never seen *The Sound of Music*. Alex will conduct the summer oratorio for the first time on 4 July.

## Mailing List

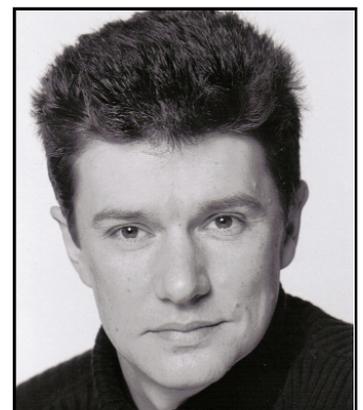
**Mailing Lists.** Each hard copy and electronic mailing returns out of date addresses; it would be helpful if members of the **electronic mailing** could keep their address up to date. Would members of the **hard copy** mailing list who would like to join the electronic mailing list - used for reminders of forthcoming events - please let us know?

## Introducing...

Nicholas Hurndall Smith makes welcome return to work with New Chamber Opera in this year's summer opera. studied at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, and while there, sang in two of NCO's productions of Britten's *Church Parables*. Roles on the operatic stage since have included Lurcanio, Snout and Don Curzio for ETO, Tamino for Longborough Festival Opera, McHeath for Opera Project, Lysander for BYO, and Ecclitico, Sellem and Normanno for Iford Arts.



William Purefoy, a graduate of Magdalen College Oxford, will make his debut with NCO in the title role of the summer opera. William attended the Opera Course at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and studies with David Pollard. Recent appearances include Antonio (Gesualdo Armstrong/Rankin) Scottish Opera and Truth (*The Triumph of Beauty and Deceit Barry*) at Carnegie Hall. A much recorded artist, he was featured in the BBC documentary *In Search of Shakespeare*.



# University Events

OPERA  
STUDIO

## Reports

### Pergolesi: Stabat Mater

Musical director:  
Dominic Burnham

Emily Bradley: soprano  
Henry Jones: counter-tenor

New College Chapel  
8.30pm  
3 March 2008

Pergolesi (1710-1736) is best known today as a writer of opera, and as the composer of this setting, which was written about 1735. It was first printed in London in 1749 and became the most frequently published single work of the 18th century. It was composed at the end of Pergolesi's life, a period which he spent in Pozzuoli's Franciscan monastery, and was intended as a replacement for the then dated version of Alessandro Scarlatti used at Maria dei Sette Dolori, Naples.



### New Chamber Opera Studio Philip Glass: *The Fall of the House of Usher*



Roderick: Tom Raskin; William: Steffan Jones; Madeline: Robyn Parton;  
Servant: Maxim Jones; Physician: Stefan Hargreaves

30, 31 January, 1 February 2008  
8.30pm  
New College Ante-chapel

The story of Philip Glass's opera *The Fall of the House of Usher* is based on the Poe ghost story of the same name by Arthur Yorinks. It was commissioned by the American Repertory Theater, Cambridge, MA and the Kentucky Opera and premiered in 1988. As with much Gothic fiction, the extent to which the audience should believe what they're watching and the extent to which the story is in their own imaginations is left vague. The central character, Roderick has hyperesthesia (extreme hypersensitivity to light, sounds, smells, and tastes); the plot turns

on Roderick's death from shock at the reappearance of his 'dead' (and perhaps murdered) sister. As one commentator has remarked: 'Poe hints at much, but states hardly anything at all'. Steffan Jones and Tom Raskin explored a very sinister relationship with their past, while Robyn Parton projected an ethereal dying and decayed sister. All the cast were helped by an appearance of a bat on the last night of the show, which added a touch of the gothic that would have pleased Poe! NCO's Jake Anders picked up compliments from the reviewer on his crisp lighting plan.