

FORTHCOMING DATES & TICKET INFORMATION



Calendar Listing

Those events marked with an asterisk * are University events

Rossini: *The Barber of Seville*

Figaro, the Barber: Dominic Bowe; Count Almaviva: Nicholas Pritchard
Rosina: Esther Brazil; Bertha: Julia Sitkovetsky; Dr Bartolo: Sam Glatman;
Basilio: Tom Bennett; Fiorello: Matthew Silverman
Conductor: Jonathon Swinard · Director: Michael Burden

4, 5, February 2011

Sheldonian Theatre, Broad Street, 8.00pm

Recitals

February

Friday 4	Rachel O'Malley - <i>mezzo-soprano*</i>
Friday 11	Ben Lewis - <i>baritone*</i>
Friday 18	Matthew Thomson - <i>tenor*</i>
Friday 24	Gessica Howarth - <i>soprano*</i>

March

Friday 4	Patrick Edmond - <i>bass*</i>
Friday 11	Jenny Cearns - <i>mezzo-soprano*</i>

Summer Opera

6 (Preview), 7 (Covers performance), 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17 July 2011
The Warden's Garden, New College

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

Singing Patron James Bowman

Director of Productions Michael Burden

Director, the Summer Opera Steven Devine

Director, The Band of Instruments Roger Hamilton · *Director, Opera Studio* Jonathon Swinard

Repetiteurs Jonathon Swinard, Benjamin Holder · *Company Secretary* Clare Atkinson

Comptroller Graham Midgley · *Wardrobe* Diana Lintott, Fiona Hodges

Production administrator Andrew Gaines · *Recitals Administrator* Nicholas Pritchard

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

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

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

Company No 3502769 · Charity No 1095069

TICKET DETAILS

**Lunchtime Vocal
Recitals
1.15pm**

**New College Antechapel
£2/£1 concessions
on the door**

Rossini *The Barber of Seville*

**4, 5, February 2011
8.00pm**

Sheldonian Theatre

Tickets from
**Oxford Playhouse Box Office
(01865) 305 305**

Summer Opera

**Wednesday 6 (Preview)
Thursday 7 (Covers) & Tuesday 12**
New Chamber Opera
Please download forms from
<http://www.newchamberopera.co.uk>

Saturday 10 & Friday 16
New College Development Office
(01865) 279 337

Sunday 11
The Art Fund (01865) 533 912

Tuesday 12
OXPIP (01865) 778 034

Wednesday 13
Friends of the Oxford Botanic Garden
(07722) 605 787

Saturday 16 & Sunday 17
Friends of WNO (01865) 865 806



Summer Opera



Antonio Salieri: Falstaff; or the three tricks **Conductor - Steven Devine; Director - Michael Burden**

6 (Preview), 7 (Covers performance), 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17 July 2011

The Warden's Garden, New College

Antonio Salieri's setting of *Falstaff*, is an operatic version of Shakespeare's play, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. The knock about comedy of Shakespeare's original – it is his only small-town drama – which has caused Shakespeareans to look down on the play are the very things that make for an excellent opera buffa. Central to

both works is the scene in which Falstaff, hiding from Mr Ford in laundry basket, is carried out under his nose. Salieri had the disadvantage of not only living at the same time as Mozart, but being accused of poisoning him. But *Falstaff* shows him to have been a slick composer of energetic music, and with a

sound grasp of musical drama. He was taught by Florian Gassmann, he was taken up by Gluck, and his career was such that he 'helped to develop and shape many of the features of operatic compositional vocabulary'. His output was heard all over Europe, and was still in the repertory in the later 19th century.

Mailing List

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

A Summer with Erismena



Erimante: Giles Underwood; **Diarte:** Nicholas Lester; **'A Soldier'/Erismena:** Ruby Hughes;
Argippo: Giles Davies; **Orimeno:** Philip Jones; **Aldimira/Stella:** Merryn Gamba; **Florida:** Kate Semmens; **Alcesta:** Rachel Lindop; **Erineo/Idraspe:** Daniel Auchincloss

Last year's summer opera proved a particularly exciting venture for the NCO team – not least for the repetiteurs! Having been involved in a successful campaign with the Bodleian Library to save the opera from export to the United States, the company began rehearsals in earnest towards the end of June for Cavalli's seventeenth-century hit, *Erismena*. After an excellent (and largely dry!) ten night run in the Warden's garden the company prepared for a long weekend tour to the al fresco Opera Festival at West Green House, Hampshire.

Formerly the home of Lord McAlpine, we were greeted with a tour of the Gardens and partially completed Garden Theatre... slightly worrying given we were opening the next evening! However, no task is too

daunting for the NCO crew and so we set about helping the technicians with the final bits of painting, decorating and pot plant logistics. The finished result was met with awe by the cast and soon re-blocking for the opening night was underway. Having impressed the crew throughout the year and, more recently, with his muslin draping ability Ben Holder was promoted to the role of Harpsichord II. Meanwhile a chance incident involving a falling stage pillar (for which gravity and I shared equal responsibility) prompted a slight change (and ultimately improvement) of the set's design, but nothing that compromised the overall 'classy' on-stage aesthetic, which included our own obelisk brought from Oxford.

With the run underway spare time was spent relaxing in the house's beautiful

gardens which were lit up each night with an extensive light display, described by one member of the international space station as thoroughly 'illuminating'. Naturally the time flew by in a flash, and all too soon, we were loading the harpsichords back into the New College van. As we packaged up *Erismena* for the final time our "tender bowls" were, like Erimante in Act I, once again "forced to a late remorse". Thanks must go to our promoter and host, Marylyn Abbott and all the West Green staff for their hospitality and home cuisine.

Jonathon Swinard
For those interested, Ben Holder continues to offer his 'no-nonsense' muslin draping service – full detailed can be found in the Warrington and Wigan version of the Yellow Pages.

In Paris

Georg Philip Telemann: *Pimpinone*

The British Embassy, Paris
6.30pm
11 September 2010

A Telemann-filled and wine-fuelled trip to Paris provided a very satisfying conclusion to NCO's busy summer. NCO regular Giles Davies and New College's own Anna Sideris were the daring duo who performed Telemann's *Pimpinone* - a three-part intermezzo conceived originally for between the acts of the composer's opera seria *Tamerlano* - to an audience of New College alumni at the residence of the British Ambassador to Paris, Sir Peter Westmacott.

Giles played the eponymous title role to comic perfection, with patter and dignity (almost) intact, with Anna captivating as his manipulative chambermaid-come-wife, Vespetta. We performed the piece in a traverse setting in the delightful Ballroom, largely unaltered since the days when the building belonged to Napoleon's sister. I accompanied from a beautiful Steinway which I was led to believe had been most recently played by Elton John - not that he was playing Telemann, I imagine...

Our intensive few days of rehearsal didn't pass without hiccup - Jonathon Swinard, NCO's other repetiteur, was supposed to be sharing the playing, but was unfortunately taken ill with a form of continental flu (he has of course now made a full recovery) and couldn't join us. Though his company was sorely missed our musical and dramatic offering was well received and rewarded with a sumptuous meal courtesy of the Embassy chefs. Until next time....!

Benjamin Holder

Forthcoming....

The Barber of Seville



Figaro, the Barber: Dominic Bowe; Count Almaviva: Nicholas Pritchard
Rosina: Esther Brazil; Bertha: Julia Sitkovetsky; Dr Bartolo: Sam Glatman;
Basilio: Tom Bennett; Fiorello: Matthew Silverman

Conductor: Jonathon Swinard · Director: Michael Burden

4, 5 February 2011
8.00pm
Sheldonian Theatre, Broad Street

New Chamber Opera Studio, presents Gioachino Rossini's comic masterpiece *The Barber of Seville; or, the Useless Precaution*. Widely regarded as one of the signature works of musical comedy, Rossini's sparkling opera buffa has been an audience favourite ever since its first performance in 1816. Rossini's instantly recognizable overture to *Barber of Seville* has dazzled and delighted operagoers for centuries. Based on the first of a trilogy of plays by Pierre Caron de Beaumarchais, the opera tells the story of Count Almaviva's quest to free Rosina from her tyrannical guardian Dr. Bartolo, and to win her love. He enlists the help of

the town barber and 'general factotum' Figaro, whose entrance is accompanied by perhaps the most famous music ever written for the operatic stage.

The characters of the opera are typical buffa roles: the old, grumpy, mean, Doctor, who pursues his young, pretty ward; the clever Barber, part servant, part friend of Almaviva; and the music master, clearly poor, but a frightful gossip. The action leads us through a series of attempts by Almaviva to woo Rosina, but he succeeds only by accident. The 'useless precaution' is a reference to another opera from which Rosina sings an aria, but is also a reference to attempts by Bartolo to prevent Rosina's marriage.