26, 27, 30 November & 1 December 2026
7pm
Silk Street Theatre

Autumn Opera Scenes

Martin Lloyd-Evans director
Kate Golla music director
Ceci Calf designer
Elliott Stradling lighting designer
George Lewis assistant designer

Silk Street Theatre

Please silence your devices and lower the brightness of your display.

Eating is not permitted in the auditorium. Drinks are allowed inside the auditorium in polycarbonates.

Filming or recording of the performance is not permitted.

Latecomers will be able to enter the auditorium at a suitable break in the performance.

Guildhall School of Music & Drama

Founded in 1880 by the City of London Corporation.

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Guildhall School is provided by the City of London Corporation as part of its contribution to the cultural life of London and the nation.

Welcome

Please note that these opera scenes will contain adult themes, including weaponry and discussions of death. Performances also feature haze and flashing lights.

The performance duration is approximately 2 hours, including a 15-minute interval.

Access our digital programme for biographies, programme notes and more.

Scan the QR code or visit:
guildhall-programmes.co.uk/2026-autumn-opera-scenes

Programme & Synopses

Richard Strauss *Arabella*

Act 1 Duet 'Aber der Richtige'

Zdenka
Georgia Tolson

Arabella
Ona Černiauskaitė

The Waldner family has fallen into debt. Eldest daughter Arabella has been fielding suitors, while her younger sister, Zdenka, has been disguised by their parents as a boy to avoid the cost of two marriages. Even in disguise, however, Zdenka has fallen for Matteo, one of Arabella's less-favoured beaus, and has been secretly writing love letters to him, pretending to be her own sister.

Zdenka, presenting as Arabella's brother, has just met with Matteo. He threatened to harm himself if Arabella doesn't show some outward sign of love.

Arabella returns from a shopping trip excited by a mysterious stranger she saw in the street and is instantly dismissive of the tiresome array of lovers' gifts. Zdenka, fearful for Matteo, tries to persuade her sister to look more kindly on him. But Arabella, suspecting her little sister of harbouring feelings for Matteo, confesses she is fickle and has no interest in him. She will, however, know when the right man comes along.

Repetiteur
Annabel King

Benjamin Britten *The Turn of the Screw*

Act 1 Scenes 4 & 5

Governess
Andrea Manuel

Mrs Grose
Hayley Meth

The Governess takes in the beauty of the grounds at Bly. It hasn't been easy for her to settle into her new responsibilities looking after Miles and Flora, two orphans kept very much at arm's length by their absentee guardian.

She sees a figure in the distance but can't make out who it is. A second appearance of the man terrifies her, and her screams bring Mrs Grose, the housekeeper, to see what the noise is about.

As the Governess describes the figure she saw, Mrs Grose turns pale and utters the name 'Peter Quint'.

She tells the story of Quint, the last valet. He started to behave wantonly, was very 'free' with everyone, especially with Miles. Then he turned his attentions on the previous governess. Both she and Quint came to a violent end.

Repetiteur
Alexander Dakin

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart *La clemenza di Tito*

Act 2 Scenes 2 & 3

Vitellia
Eleanor Oldfield

Sesto
Oryna Veselovska

Publio
Yonwaba Mbo

Sesto, at the behest of his ambitious lover Vitellia, has attempted to assassinate the emperor Tito. The plan has failed catastrophically, and Sesto does not know which way to turn. Vitellia urges him to flee, not least to save herself from becoming implicated, but her entreaties are too late as Publio comes to arrest Sesto.

Repetiteur
Annabel King

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky *Eugene Onegin*

Final Scene

Tatyana
Ona Černiauskaitė

Onegin
Gennady Grebenchuk

Over four years ago, Tatyana fell for the sophisticated charms of Eugene Onegin. But he rejected her coltish enthusiasm coldly, mocking her country simplicity. Just a few months later he became embroiled in a duel, killing his best friend, and subsequently disappeared.

Since then, Tatyana's star has very much risen. She has married Prince Gremin and now lives in St Petersburg. But a chance encounter with Onegin at a party has brought all her old feelings flooding back.

He visits her the next day, full of love and high expectations, determined to seduce her away from Gremin. Although she still harbours strong feelings for him, Tatyana has not forgotten how he once treated her.

Repetiteur
Alexander Dakin

Benjamin Britten *The Rape of Lucretia*

Act 1 Scene 2

Female Chorus
Eleanor Oldfield

Lucia
Andrea Manuel

Lucretia
Hayley Meth

Bianca
Cecilia Cole

While her husband is away at war, Lucretia passes the tense hours of waiting with two members of her household. The female chorus looks on as all four reflect on the role of women during difficult times.

Repetiteur
Annabel King

Interval (15 minutes)

Ruggero Leoncavallo *I Pagliacci*

Act 1 Scenes 2 & 3

Nedda
Georgia Tolson

Silvio
Yonwaba Mbo

Tonio
Gennady Grebenchuk

Nedda is scared of her husband's jealousy. To make matters worse, she has just fought off forceful and unwanted advances from her colleague, Tonio. She dreams of escape.

Silvio, a man with whom she has recently had a brief liaison, has snuck round to find her. Distressed, she lets slip about the encounter with Tonio. Silvio's response is to beg her to drop everything and elope with him. Nedda is initially resistant, but in the face of his persistence, she feels she has few choices.

Repetiteur
Alexander Dakin

Hector Berlioz *Béatrice et Bénédict*

Act 2 Trio 'Je vais, d'un cœur aimant'

Héro
Andrea Manuel

Béatrice
Oryna Veselovska

Ursule
Cecilia Cole

Héro is celebrating her engagement. She and Ursule have been trying to engineer a date between Béatrice and Bénédict, who famously spar with each other whenever they meet. They try to persuade the proudly independent Béatrice to embrace the pleasures of romance.

Repetiteur
Alexander Dakin

John Adams *Doctor Atomic*

Act 1 Scene 2

Kitty
Oryna Veselovska

Robert
Gennady Grebenchuk

Based on the real-life events surrounding the development of the atom bomb in Los Alamos in 1945.

It is a few days before the first test. Robert Oppenheimer, director of the Manhattan Project, works in bed. The momentousness of the work, and the demands of his role, have put a tremendous strain on his marriage.

His wife Kitty longs for intimacy, but she feels she cannot reach him. He, too, aches for closeness but the weight of the work is taking a huge toll.

Repetiteur
Annabel King

Francis Poulenc *Dialogues des carmélites*

Act 1 Scene 4

Blanche
Georgia Tolson

Mère Marie
Hayley Meth

La Prieure
Cecilia Cole

Le médecin
Yonwaba Mbo

The Prioress is dying. She commands the reluctant Mère Marie to oversee Blanche, a young novice she has taken particular interest in.

Blanche enters, and speaks closely with the Prioress, much to Mère Marie's disapproval. Deteriorating rapidly, the Prioress has terrifying visions, of the priory empty, with straw and blood on the stone floor. She feels abandoned by God.

Repetiteur
Annabel King

Synopses by Martin Lloyd-Evans

Production Team

Opera Studies Students

Repetiteurs
Alexander Dakin
Annabel King

Production & Design Students

Production Manager
Muiris Capon-Telford

Assistant Production Manager
Clara Clow

Stage Manager
Ellisia Paper

Deputy Stage Manager
AJ Murphy

SM Props Supervisor
Mary Lwena

Assistant Stage Manager (Book Cover)
Lacey Powers

Assistant Stage Managers
Hannah Phillips
Matilda Thomas-Baruya
Milo Thomas

Production Electrician
Milly Gregg

Assistant Production Electricians (Electrics)
Oscar Thomas
Codie Lockyer

Assistant Production Electrician (Programmer)
Caspian Scrivens

Technical Managers
Jasmin Weekes
Alex Emmens

Props Coordinator
Maisie Gamble

Lead Prop Maker
Lara Jaques

Prop Makers
Jack Masters
Polly Taylor
Naomi Bleazard

Scenic Art Coordinator
Tia Alexandrou

Scenic Artists
Phoebe De Azevedo Gillham
Daisy Doughty
Ciel Hook
Charlotte Boyle
Amalie Hopkins

Construction Manager
Izzy Lovelock

Lead Scenic Carpenter
Phoenix Lok Stallabrass

Construction
Matthew Hill
Devesh Nadwani
Autumn Star Bragg
Ruby Hoffer

Costume Supervisor
Izabel Hessian

Wardrobe Manager
Aimee Fields

Costume Assistants
Noah Tidmarsh
Millie Roberts
Maddison Loyns
Isabella Brugnoli
Xuxu Elliott-Stuart
Ava Whittington

Head of Costume Making
Freya Parnell

Costume Makers
Charlotte Boother Dominguez
Oli Sobey
Silver Keys
Elise Turner

Freelance

Staff Production Manager
Fiona Scott Lockyer

Wigs, Hair & Makeup
Debbie Purkiss

Technical Management Staff Supervisor
Jess Wilson

Intimacy Coordinator
Abigail Kessel

French Language Coach
Héloïse Bernard

Additional Staff

Stage Management Assistant
Camilla Direk

Italian Language Coach
Emma Abbate

Russian Language Coach
Daria Bitsiuk

German Language Coach
Johanna Mayr

Stage Crew

working across our Opera and Drama productions this year:

Asya Ay
Alexandra Betts
Caitlin Blakesley
Izzy Bosomworth
Naomi Butt
Libby Carstairs
Millie de Croos
Natalie Edwards
Molly Ferneyhough
Brendan Fitzgerald
Emma Freeman
Ben Grundy
Nex Handley
Taeanna Hanson-Ellis
Zuzanna Jasicka
Suren Jayasinghe
Chase Karaevski
Wyatt Kehoe
Ellis Martin
Max McLaren
Isla Miller
Jonas Murdoch
Celyn Oldridge
Mirina Otake
Grayden Pope
Zac Psaras
Tegan Roxburgh
Matthew Seera
Eben Sean
Lena Shorten
Emily Stewart
Pidge Stinson
Katrina Sweeting
Analena Titman
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Ben Walsh
Aaron Warry
Kalia Wo

Guildhall School Production & Design Department

Director of Production & Design
Hansjörg Schmidt

Programme Leader, BA Production Arts
Kevin Freeman

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Lionel Friend
Kate Golla
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Michael Lloyd
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Jonathan Papp
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Peter Robinson
Elizabeth Rowe
Susanna Stranders

Drama Coaches
Martin Lloyd-Evans
Victoria Newlyn

Movement Coaches
Victoria Newlyn

Combat Coach
Jonathan Leverett

Language Coaches
Florence Daguerre de Hureaux
Johanna Mayr
Emma Abbate
Lada Valešová

Extraordinary talent can come from anywhere.

From 1–8 December, every online donation will be doubled through the Big Give Christmas Challenge until we reach our target.

Guildhall School provides world-leading performing arts training, and we are determined to offer this to the most talented students, regardless of their financial circumstances. Scholarships help bridge the gap between the dream and reality of accepting a hard-won place at the School, enabling exceptional students to immerse themselves fully in their training and realise their potential.

"*Beyond the financial support, the scholarship also represents recognition of my artistic abilities. Knowing that my work and potential are valued means a great deal to me.*"

Leslie Huang
BM Composition, Scholarship Recipient

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For assistance, please contact the Development Team at **development@gsmd.ac.uk** or **020 4582 2415.**

Forthcoming events

Vocal Masterclass with Natalya Romaniw
25 January 2027
Milton Court Concert Hall

We are delighted to welcome internationally renowned, award-winning and Guildhall alumna Natalya Romaniw to lead outstanding Guildhall vocalists in this free, open masterclass.

L'isola disabitata
22, 24, 26 February & 1 March 2027
Silk Street Theatre

Delve into Joseph Haydn's immensely expressive, four-hander dramatic opera – an exploration of love, mistrust, and the battle of the sexes that questions the relationship between humanity's natural instincts and the constraints of society.

Vocal Scenes
15 March 2027
Milton Court Concert Hall

Guildhall vocal students present an evening of opera scenes, with music direction by Alexander Ingram and stage direction by William Kerley.

Guildhall School Scholarship Fund

Each year the Scholarships Fund enables talented young actors, musicians, production artists and theatre technicians to take up their places or continue their studies at Guildhall School. We are extremely grateful to the many trusts, foundations, businesses, City livery companies and individuals who make annual donations to the Scholarships Fund, and to those people who make provision for legacy donations in support of the School in their wills. Opera, Vocal and Production & Design students involved in this production who have received support from this year's Scholarships Fund and from external donors are as follows:

Opera/Vocal Studies Students:

Ona Černiauskaitė *Caroline Stockmann Scholarship; Behrens Foundation Scholarship*
Cecilia Cole *Grocers' Scholarship; Rosemary Thayer Award*
Alexander Dakin *Leonard and Beryl Rafter Memorial Scholarship*
Gennady Grebenchuk *Margaret Easton Scholarship*
Annabel King *Margery & Frederick Stephen Wright Eisinger Award; Silver Bow Scholarship*
Andrea Manuel *Margaret Levell Scholarship; Weavers' Scholarship; Gita de la Fuente Prize*
Yonwaba Mbo *Robert Easton Scholarship; Gwen Catley Scholarship; Dow Clewer Foundation Scholarship*
Hayley Meth *Behrens Foundation Scholarship; Rachel Percival Scholarship; Wallis Award*
Eleanor Oldfield *Horners' Becker Scholarship; Tallow Chandlers' Scholarship*
Georgia Tolson *Baroness de Turckheim Scholarship*
Oryna Veselovska *Carpenters' Company Henry Osborne Award Scholarship; Dyers' Scholarship*

Production & Design Students:

Tia Alexandrou *Guildhall Scholarship*
Charlotte Boyle *Guildhall Scholarship*
Autumn Star Bragg *The Diane Kelly Scholarship*
Daisy Doughty *Skinners' Scholarship*
Alex Emmens *Guildhall Scholarship*
Maisie Gamble *Guildhall Scholarship*
Izabel Hessian *Guildhall Scholarship*
Ciel Hook *Guildhall Scholarship*
Silver Keys *Guildhall Scholarship*
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Izzy Lovelock *Guildhall Scholarship*
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Xuxu Elliott-Stuart *Diana Devlin Award*
Milo Thomas *Guildhall Scholarship*
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Elise Turner *Judy Craymer Scholarship*
Jasmin Weekes *Guildhall Scholarship*

To find out more about the difference you would make by donating to the Guildhall School Scholarship Fund, please contact Meg Ryan:
meg.ryan@gsmd.ac.uk | 020 3834 1561

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