

9, 11, 13 & 16 June 2025  
7pm  
Milton Court Theatre



# Dido and Aeneas

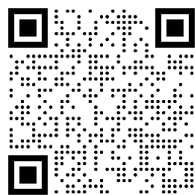
**James Henshaw** conductor  
**Oliver Platt** director  
**Alisa Kalyanova** designer  
**Caroline Lofthouse** movement director  
**Eli Hunt** lighting designer  
**Mabel Nash** video designer  
**Emily Cave** associate designer  
**Jonathan Leverett** fight director

**Henry Reavey** assistant conductor & chorus master  
**Emily Beech** assistant director

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## Digital Programme

Scan the QR code below to access our digital programme or visit: [guildhall-programmes.co.uk/didoandaeneas](http://guildhall-programmes.co.uk/didoandaeneas)



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## Guildhall School of Music & Drama

Founded in 1880 by the City of London Corporation.

### Chair of the Board of Governors

The Hon. Emily Benn

### Principal

Professor Jonathan Vaughan

### Vice-Principal & Director of Music

Armin Zanner

### Interim Director of Production Arts & Programme Leader, BA Production Arts

Hansjörg Schmidt



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

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## Henry Purcell (1659–1695)

### *Dido and Aeneas* (1689)

Sung in English with English surtitles.

Surtitles created by Emily Beech.

Additional music by Guildhall School Electronic and Produced Music Department students Alberte Erantis, Jonathan Goldsmith, Samuel Ray-Billington and Elijah Small, compiled by Samuel Ray-Billington.

*Please note this production contains adult content with themes of physical and emotional abuse, including scenes of bloody violence, reference to suicide, scenes of kidnapping, coercion and threat, implied sexual themes, and gory interactions with depictions of dead animals.*

*Haze will be used, and there will be strobe lighting and loud noises.*

The performance duration will be approximately 55 minutes with no interval.

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## Milton Court Theatre

Please make sure that digital devices & mobile phones are silenced during the performance.

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.

*This programme is correct at time of printing. Please see digital programme for up-to-date information.*

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# Synopsis & Cast

Dido, Queen of Carthage, anticipates the arrival of the Trojan prince Aeneas. She is surrounded by Belinda and her attendants, who assure her that the match between them will be a strong and fortuitous one. When Aeneas arrives, Dido first receives him coldly, but her subjects celebrate the meeting of the two monarchs.

Elsewhere, a Sorceress summons her coven of witches; they are plotting the destruction of Dido and her kingdom. They plan to disguise themselves as a Spirit messenger of the gods; to deliver Jove's 'command' that Aeneas must leave Carthage, and sail to Italy. Knowing that Aeneas will be bound by duty to obey the god Jove, they surmise that he will leave Dido and this will be her downfall.

The Sorceress and her witches prepare a spell to conjure a storm, which forces Dido and her attendants to return to court. In the chaos of everyone rushing to escape the storm, Aeneas is momentarily left alone for just long enough for the Spirit to appear and frighten him into submission, delivering the message that Aeneas must set sail as commanded by Jove. Aeneas, heartbroken, determines that he must choose duty and piety over love.

The Sorceress and witches celebrate the success of their plan. When Dido hears the news of Aeneas' departure, she is devastated. Aeneas returns one more time to say goodbye, but at the last moment he changes his mind, resolving to defy the Gods and stay. But it is too late; Dido has already suffered too great a betrayal by the very fact that Aeneas even considered leaving, and she rejects him with great consequences...

– *Emily Beech*

## **Dido**

*9 & 13 June:*

Karima El Demerdasch

*11 & 16 June:*

Julia Merino

## **Sorceress**

*9 & 13 June:*

Julia Merino

*11 & 16 June:*

Karima El Demerdasch

## **Belinda**

Manon Ogwen Parry

## **Aeneas**

Joshua Saunders

## **Attendant/2nd Woman**

Hannah McKay

## **Witches**

Seohyun Go

Julia Solomon

## **Spirit**

Gabriella Noble

## **Sailor**

Tobias Campos Santiñaque

## **Chorus**

Jan-Magnar Gard

Kelan Lynch

Anaïs Manz

William Prasetyo

Katharina Russell

Charles Secombe

Roei Shafrir

Oliver Williams

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# Guildhall Opera Orchestra & Academy of Ancient Music

At Guildhall School we are proud of our long-standing association with Academy of Ancient Music (AAM). Many of AAM's players are Guildhall School alumni and professors. AAM has performed often in our Milton Court Concert Hall as a Barbican Associate Ensemble. Our side-by-side concert projects are a highlight of the Historical Performance students' annual calendars. And we are delighted that we are collaborating with AAM once again on this production of Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, following the success of our partnership on Handel's *Alcina* last summer. It's a thrill for our singers and instrumentalists, and I wish you an inspiring evening of opera.

## Armin Zanner

*Vice-Principal & Director of Music*

**Academy of Ancient Music (AAM)** is an orchestra with a worldwide reputation for excellence in baroque and classical music. Using historically informed techniques, period-specific instruments and original sources, we bring music vividly to life in committed, vibrant performances.

Established more than 50 years ago by Christopher Hogwood to make the first British recordings of orchestral works using original instruments, AAM has released more than 300 albums to date, collecting countless accolades including Classic BRIT, Gramophone and Edison awards. AAM now records on its own label and are proud to be the most listened-to period-instrument orchestra online, with over one million monthly listeners on streaming platforms. AAM recently celebrated the orchestra's Golden Anniversary with the completion of a landmark project to record Mozart's complete works for keyboard and orchestra, a series described by the *Financial Times* as having "set new standards".

Beyond the concert hall, AAM is committed to nurturing the next generation of musicians and music-lovers through its innovative side-by-side learning and participation initiative, AAMplify. Working with music colleges and universities across the UK, AAM engages the next generation of period instrumentalists with side-by-side sessions, masterclasses and other opportunities designed to bridge the gap between the conservatoire and the profession, safeguarding the future of historical performance.

AAM proudly holds the position of Associate Ensemble at London's Barbican Centre and the Teatro San Cassiano, Venice, and Orchestra-in-Residence at the University of Cambridge and The Apex, Bury St Edmunds.



## Violin I

Bojan Čičić\*

Isabelle Allan (9 & 13 June)

Yente Lottman (11 & 16 June)

## Violin II

Ellen Bundy\* (9, 11 & 13 June)

Oliver Cave\* (16 June)

Laura Hussey (9 & 13 June)

Pavla Bedrichova (11 & 16 June)

## Viola

Oliver Wilson\* (9, 13 & 16 June)

Sam Kennedy\* (11 June)

Charlie Potts

## Cello

Christopher Suckling\*^

Seth Collin

## Harp

Emilia Agajew

## Theorbo

William Carter\*^

Stefano Fiacco

## Harpsichord

Jack Gonzalez-Harding

*\* Guest Principal, Academy of Ancient Music*

*^ Guildhall School Professor*

*Names and seating correct at time of publication*

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## Ensembles, Programming & Instrument Manager

Phil Sizer

## Orchestra Librarian

Anthony Wilson

## Music Stage, Logistics & Instrument Manager

Kevin Elwick

## Music Stage Supervisors

Louis Bailly

Charlie Foran

# Production Team

## Vocal Arts Department Students & Fellows

### Assistant Conductor & Chorus Master

Henry Reavey

### Assistant Director

Emily Beech

### Senior Coach

Yongqiu Yuan

### Repetiteurs

Jack Gonzalez-Harding  
Henry Reavey

### Surtitle Operator

Alex Dakin

### Covers

Jan-Magnar Gard  
Kelan Lynch  
Anaïs Manz  
William Prasetyo  
Katharina Russell  
Charles Secombe  
Roei Shafrir

## Production Arts Students

### Production Manager

Kal Chapman

### Assistant Production Managers

Liam Allen  
Jaiden Parsons  
Joshua Sanderson

### Stage Manager

Zara Kinkade

### Deputy Stage Manager

Jan Robotycki

### Assistant Stage Manager (Book Cover)

Grace Waring

### Assistant Stage Manager

Eleanor Reynolds

### Production Electrician

Iris Farquharson

### Lighting Programmer

Finn Irving

### Lighting Crew

Kirsty Edwards

### Technical Manager

Beau Morton-Turner

### Props Coordinator

Ella Goldsworthy

### Lead Prop Makers

Lauren Jones  
Sandy McGregor

### Prop Makers

Katherine Byrne  
Hawks Gómez  
Jasmine Green

### Scenic Art Coordinator

Oscar Keeys

### Scenic Artists

Nia Edwards-Williams  
Alice Friend  
Emma Mason  
Nicole Thomaz

### Costume Supervisor

Uju Olisa

### Wardrobe Manager

Talia Servadio Kenan

### Costume Assistants

Isabela Way  
Pasha Taylor-Hanson  
Hollie Lester

### Video Engineer

David Agcaoili

### Video Operator & Assistant Video Engineer

Jay Culmer

## Freelance

### Assistant Stage Manager

Emily de Mariveles

### Wigs, Hair and Makeup

Debbie Purkiss  
Lucia Mameli  
Tom Licence

## Additional Staff

### Language Coach

Liz Rowe

## Stage Crew

working across our Opera and Drama productions this year:

Blair Addison  
Tia Alexandrou  
Megan Allison  
Katie Ball  
Emma Blake  
James Broadhurst  
Rachel Butterly  
Muiris Capon-  
Telford  
Emily Carden  
Tommy Carroll  
River Charteris-Wright  
Katie Clarke  
Cam Cole  
Natasha Davies  
Jonathan Desmares-Vaury

Mary Dorain  
Vincent Farey  
Eloise Fedarb  
Nyah Felix  
Aimee Fields  
Maisie Gamble  
Samuel Gilbert  
Alice Green  
Milly Gregg  
M. Mei Griffin  
Izabel Hessian  
Scarlett Horsburgh  
Poppy Inglis  
Raven Jakobs  
Lara Jaques  
Liam Jenkins

Harris Johnston  
James Levy  
Thailiyah Lindo  
Izzy Lovelock  
Mary  
Gemma Martin  
Hailey Middlewood  
Summer Minnott  
A. Murphy  
Ellisia Paper  
Freya Parnell  
Rebecca P  
Dan Quirke  
Hannah Rhind  
Lola Ringer  
Jack Rudd

Edmond Rudland  
Howard James  
Shakespeare  
Ben Sharp  
Pidge Stinson  
Elliott Stradling  
TJ Sunderland  
Isabel Taxman  
Charlie Tiernan  
Jamie Waters  
Jasmin Weekes  
Emily Wilson  
Olivia Wood  
Pheonix Ying

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## Guildhall School Production Arts Department

### **Interim Director of Production Arts & Programme Leader, BA Production Arts**

Hansjörg Schmidt

### **Interim Deputy Programme Leader, BA Production Arts**

Bex Snell

### **Interim Programme Leader, BA Performance Design**

Dr Susannah Henry

### **Programme Leader, BA Digital Design & Production**

Pete Wallace

### **Programme Leader, MA Collaborative Theatre Production & Design**

Dr Emily Orley

### **Head of Theatre Technology**

Andy Taylor

### **Head of Costume**

Rachel Young

### **Head of Design Realisation**

Vanessa Cass

### **Head of Stage Management**

Helen Barratt

### **Associate Producer**

Stuart Calder

### **Outreach Manager (Production Arts)**

Jon Hare

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## Guildhall School Opera Department

### **Head of Opera Studies**

Dominic Wheeler

### **Resident Producer**

Martin Lloyd-Evans

### **Opera Department Manager**

Brendan Macdonald

### **Visiting Music Coaches**

Lionel Friend

Kate Golla

Alexander Ingram

Tony Legge

Michael Lloyd

Elizabeth Marcus

Jonathan Papp

Linnhe Robertson

Peter Robinson

Elizabeth Rowe

Susanna Stranders

### **Drama Coaches**

Martin Lloyd-Evans

Victoria Newlyn

### **Movement Coaches**

Victoria Newlyn

Rachel Wise

### **Combat Coaches**

Jonathan Leverett

### **Language Coaches**

Florence Daguerre de

Hureaux

Johanna Mayr

Emma Abbate

Lada Valešová

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## Forthcoming Events

### **Making It Festival**

17 June – 3 July 2025

Silk Street & Milton Court

*Making It Festival* returns for 2025: a celebration of new, original work made by Guildhall School's vibrant and multi-skilled student community, featuring an eclectic line up of performances, installations and talks.

*Tickets start at just £5, and most events are free*

### **Opera Makers**

27 June – 2 July 2025

Milton Court Studio Theatre

Experience three brand-new operatic works by Guildhall School composers and librettists as part of the *Making It Festival*.

*Tickets: £15 (£8 concessions)*

### **Vocal Scenes**

1 July 2025

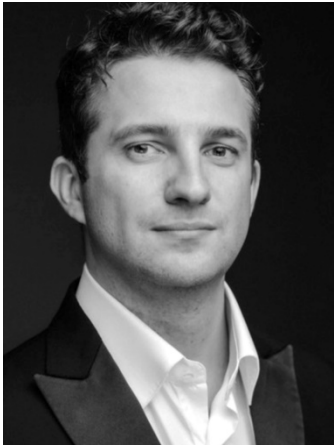
Milton Court Studio Theatre

Vocal students present a captivating selection of opera scenes, with a programme devised by Linnhe Robertson.

*Free, no tickets required*

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## Creative Team



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### James Henshaw

conductor

Guildhall School alumnus James Henshaw is a recent winner of both First Prize and Orchestra Prize in the Kussewitzky competition. An Olivier-nominated Opera, Choral and Orchestral Conductor, and Founder/Principal Conductor of The Outcry Ensemble, he is now based in Berlin. From 2016–19 James was Chorus Master at English National Opera, and during his tenure the Chorus won a 2016 Olivier Award for ‘Outstanding Achievement in Opera’ and ‘Best Chorus’ at the International Opera Awards.

**Guildhall School productions** *Alcina*.

**Other operatic credits** as conductor: *Tosca* (Staatstheater Freiburg); *The Creation* (Glyndebourne Touring Opera); *Mask of Orpheus*, *Paul Bunyan* and *The Magic Flute* (English National Opera). As assistant conductor: *Jenůfa* (English National Opera); *Il tritico* (Hamburg State Opera); *La bohème* and *Don Giovanni* (Glyndebourne); *Rigoletto* (Opéra de Rouen); *The Silver Tassie* (BBC Singers/BBC Symphony Orchestra); *The Magic Flute* (Garsington Opera, Longborough Festival Opera); *Flight* (Scottish Opera); *Owen Wingrave* (Aldeburgh Festival).

**Orchestral and choral credits** include Schubert Symphony No 9 (Sinfonica di Sanremo); 100 years of Disney (Kings Singers/BBC Concert Orchestra); Beethoven Symphony No 5 (London Philharmonic Orchestra); Brahms Symphony Cycle and Beethoven Symphony Cycle (The Outcry Ensemble); *A Child of Our Time*, *The Dream of Gerontius* and Elgar Symphony No 1 (BBC National Orchestra of Wales/BBC Proms).



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### Oliver Platt

director

**Guildhall School productions** *Così fan tutte*; Spring Opera Scenes 2023 and 2024.

**Other director credits** *The Marriage of Figaro*, *L'arlesiana*, *Così fan tutte*, *Don Giovanni*, *Suor Angelica*, *The Barber of Seville* and *Les pêcheurs de perles* (Opera Holland Park); *L'enfant et les sortilèges* and *Iolanta* (Royal Academy of Music); *Der Freischütz* (Blackheath Halls); *The Elixir of Love* (Scottish Opera); *La Cenerentola* (Opera Holland Park/Den Jyske Opera); *Owen Wingrave* (Royal Conservatoire of Scotland); *Werther* (English Touring Opera); opera scenes at Royal Academy of Music and Royal College of Music.

**Credits as revival director and assistant director** include revivals of *Jenůfa*, *Così fan tutte* and *Aida* (The Royal Opera); Assistant Director at La Scala Milan, Glyndebourne, Royal Ballet and Opera, Scottish Opera and many others.



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## Alisa Kalyanova

designer

Alisa is a theatre designer based in Glasgow. She studied Visual Communication and Graphic Design at the Iceland University of the Arts in Reykjavik before training in Set and Costume Design at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

**Guildhall School productions** Spring Opera Scenes 2024.

**Design credits** *Keli* (National Theatre of Scotland, dir Bryony Shanahan); *Same Team* (Traverse Theatre, dir Bryony Shanahan); *[BLANK]* (Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, dir Jaïrus Obayomi); *Fedora* (IF OPERA, dir John Wilkie); *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (IF OPERA, dir Lysanne van Overbeek); *The Bacchae* (Company of Wolves, created by Ewan Downie); *Love the Sinner* (Vanishing Point, dir Matthew Lenton); *Wolfie* (Tron Theatre, dir Jo Bowman); *Exodus* (National Theatre of Scotland, dir Debbie Hannan).



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## Caroline Lofthouse

movement director

Caroline is an independent dance artist who works as a movement director, choreographer, performer and educator/facilitator in contemporary dance technique, repertoire, movement and improvisation.

**Movement direction and choreography credits** *The Flood* (Drag King artist Andi Blewitt); *A door burst open and...* and Assistant Choreographer *You're on Mute* (Candoco Dance Company); *TDAGB (things don't always get better)* and *Entwine* (Roehampton University); *Dear Young Woman* (Kingston University); *Out of Body* (Loop Dance Company).

**Performer credits** *Festen* (The Royal Opera); *Hanging Heavy III* (Loop Dance Company); *I think we should start over* (Candoco Dance Company); *La Damnation de Faust* and *Rinaldo* (Glyndebourne); and Dancer in London Fashion Week for ROKSANDA (Choreographed by Holly Blakey).

As an educator/facilitator Caroline has worked for Loop Dance Company, Richard Alston Dance Company, Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, London Contemporary Dance School, Mountview, Candoco Dance Company, Kingston University and Roehampton University.



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**Eli Hunt**  
lighting designer

BA (Hons) in Production Arts: Theatre Technology (third-year).

**Guildhall School productions** Assistant Lighting Designer *Mansfield Park* (dir Martin Lloyd-Evans), Assistant Production Manager *Respighi Opera Double Bill* (dir Victoria Newlyn), Assistant Production Manager *Autumn Opera Scenes 2023* (dir Martin Lloyd-Evans), Scenic Carpenter *A Star Next to the Moon* (dir Martin Lloyd-Evans), Video Engineer *Spring Opera Scenes 2024* (dir Oliver Platt), Lighting Programmer *Jane Eyre* (dir Victoria Moseley), Production Manager *No Particular Order* (dir Anna Morrissey), and Lighting Designer *Autumn Opera Scenes 2024* (dir Martin Lloyd-Evans).

**Other credits** include Associate Lighting Designer *Not Saint Hildegard* (Playground Theatre); Lighting Technician at the Royal Court Theatre; various productions at Aylesbury Waterside Theatre and Southwark Playhouse; Lighting Designer for the Central School of Ballet; and the lighting teams for *Les Misérables* and *Cabaret* in the West End.

After graduating, Eli is planning to pursue lighting design and programming for opera production.



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**Mabel Nash**  
video designer

BA in Production Arts: Digital Design and Production (third-year).

**Guildhall School productions** Camera Tracker and Video Operator *The Road Ahead* (dir Helen Illey, produced by Jamie D Allen); Lead Video Designer for Blackpool Lightpool Festival (dir Dan Shorten, Guildhall Production Studios); Video Designer *Moving Screens Project* and *Vibrance Festival Pilot* (dir Dan Shorten, Guildhall Production Studios).



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**Emily Cave**  
associate designer

**Guildhall School productions** Scenic Coordinator *Jane Eyre*, Construction Manager *Respighi Opera Double Bill 2023*, Lead Scenic Artist *Comedy of Errors*, Scenic Artist *Antigone*, Prop Maker *Autumn Opera Scenes 2023*, Prop Maker *Opera Triple Bill 2022*.

**Design credits** *Love in a Foreign Land* (Playground Theatre, dir Anastasia Revi); *World Stage – Battle of the Bands* (Union Theatre, dir Adonis Katoikos).

**Other credits** Associate Designer *Fantastic Mr Fox* (Victoria Theatre Singapore); Scenic Artist *The Fabulist* (Charing Cross Theatre); Scenic Artist *Going for Gold* (Park Theatre).





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## Jonathan Leverett

fight director

Jonathan is a Certified Master Teacher and Examiner with The British Academy of Stage & Screen Combat, an Honorary Fight Master with Fight Directors Canada, and holds the Certificate of Excellence from the Society of American Fight Directors (SAFD) Fight Director Program.

**Fight direction credits** include *Shakespeare in Love* (The Royal Central School of Speech & Drama); *Deathtrap* (Mill at Sonning); *Don Giovanni* (Britten Theatre); *Hamlet* (Shakespeare Society at Elsinore Castle).

Jonathan was a stunt performer on the award-winning TV series *Vikings* and was the stunt double for Sir Ian McKellen in the film version of *Hamlet* at Theatre Royal Windsor. He teaches at Guildhall School, The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, London College of Music and at workshops in the UK and abroad.

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## Students & Fellows



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### Henry Reavey

assistant conductor & chorus master/repertoireur

Guildhall School Repertoireur Course (second-year) studying with Elizabeth Rowe and Dr Bretton Brown.

**Scholarships** Ironmongers' Scholarship.

**Competitions** Anthony Cross Memorial Prize in recognition of outstanding contribution to the Advanced Postgraduate Diploma course (Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, 2023); Gordon Clinton Prize, accompanist award for English Song (Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, 2023); Edward Brooks Lieder Accompanist's Prize (Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, 2022); John Ireland Prize (Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, 2022).

**Credits** Assistant Conductor & Chorus Master *Die Fledermaus*, Repertoireur *Alcina*, Opera Makers 2024, *A Star Next to the Moon* and Autumn Opera Scenes 2023 (Guildhall School); Repertoireur *La straniera* and *Le roi d'Ys* (Chelsea Opera Group); Repertoireur *Banished*, *Mesdames de la Halle*, *The Cunning Little Vixen* and *The Enchanted Pig* (Royal Birmingham Conservatoire).

**Future plans** Young Artist with The National Opera Studio 2025/26; *Macbeth* (Chelsea Opera Group).



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### Emily Beech

assistant director

Guildhall School Junior Fellow.

**Competitions** Third Prize, Patricia Routledge National English Song Competition (2023); Third Prize, Peter Hearn Foundation Competition (Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, 2023); Finalist, Elisabeth Schumann Lieder Competition (Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, 2023); Semi-Finalist, Leach Award for Singing (2023); Finalist, Lillian Ash French Song Competition (Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, 2022).

**Director credits** *The Kings Pants: A New Children's Opera* (Opera Prelude); *1944: Homefires* (Tête-à-Tête Opera Festival 2023); *A Hand of Bridge* (Waterperry Opera Festival 2023).

**Assistant director credits** *Mansfield Park* (Guildhall School); *Acis and Galatea* and *Dido and Aeneas* (Waterperry Opera Festival 2023); *Agrippina* (Hampstead Garden Opera).

**Performer credits** Oscar *Un ballo in maschera* (Opera on Location); Susanna (role study) *The Marriage of Figaro* (British Youth Opera); Rosaura *Le donne curiose*, Sandrina *La finta giardiniera* and Queen Mary *Queen of Scots* (Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance).



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## Yongqiu Yuan

senior coach

Guildhall School Repetiteur Course (second-year).

**Scholarships** Kendal Scholarship.

**Credits** Senior Coach *Mansfield Park*, Repetiteur *Die Fledermaus*, *Blond Eckbert*, *I due timidi*, *Fête Galante* and *Le portrait de Manon* (Guildhall School); Music Staff *The Rape of Lucretia* (British Youth Opera); Repetiteur *The Monk* and *The Lotus* (Tête à Tête Opera Festival, Grimeborn Festival).

**Future plans** *Peter Grimes* (British Youth Opera); Senior Coach for Guildhall School's Opera Makers 2025.



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## Jack Gonzalez-Harding

repetiteur

Guildhall School Repetiteur Course (first-year) studying with Liz Rowe.

**Scholarships** Wolfgang Bruckner Scholarship; Dow Clewer Foundation Scholarship.

**Credits** Repetiteur *Die Fledermaus* (Guildhall School).

**Conducting experience** regular guest conductor with London Mozart Players with recent debut at Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall and a return to Smith Square.

**Future plans** Assistant Conductor to Sir Simon Rattle with the Lucerne Festival Orchestra, Czech Philharmonic and for Sir Mark Elder at the BBC Proms with the BBC Symphony Orchestra.



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## Tobias Campos Santiñaque

tenor

Guildhall School Opera Course (first-year) studying with Samantha Malk.

**Scholarships** Weavers' Scholarship, Goodenough College Scholarship.

**Previous roles** Alfred (cover) *Die Fledermaus*, Tamino *Introduction to Opera: The Magic Flute*, Il Principe Aprile (cover) *La bella dormiente nel bosco*, Howard & Motorcycle Cop (cover) *Dead Man Walking*, Dr Sinisgalli (cover) *I due timidi* and Alfredo *Introduction to Opera: Die Fledermaus* (Guildhall School); Parpignol & Chorus *La bobème* and Nemorino *L'elisir d'amore* (Longborough Festival Opera/Playground Opera); Bell Boy & Roland (cover) *The Land of Might-Have-Been*, Il notaro & Chorus *La sonnambula*, Italian Tenor (cover) *Viva la Diva* and Chorus *La donna del lago* (Buxton International Festival); Don Ramiro (cover) *La Cenerentola*, Pollicino's Father *Pollicino*, Page *Lobengrin* and First Spirit *The Magic Flute* (Teatro Colón).

**Future plans** Guildhall School's Opera Makers 2025.



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## Karima El Demerdasch

mezzo-soprano

Guildhall School Opera Course (second-year) studying with John Evans.

**Scholarships** Edith Vogel Bursary; Rosemary Thayer Award; support from the Carr-Gregory Trust.

**Competitions** Finalist, Kathleen Ferrier Awards (2024); Winner, Susan Longfield Award (Guildhall School, 2022).

**Previous roles** Julia Bertram *Mansfield Park*, Prince Orlofsky *Die Fledermaus* and scenes from *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *Carmen*, *The Barber of Seville*, *Roberto Devereux* and *Edgar* (Guildhall School); Angelina *La Cenerentola* (Opera Kipling).

**Future plans** Salzburg Opera Festival Young Singers Programme and International Opera Studio Zurich.



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## Seohyun Go

soprano

Guildhall School Opera Course (first-year) studying with Samantha Malk.

**Scholarships** Fishmongers Colyers-Edwards Bequest; Margaret Easton Scholarship.

**Competitions** Winner, Guildhall School Gold Medal (2025); Winner, Franz-Schubert-Institut Lieder Prize (2024).

**Previous roles** Queen of the Night *Introduction to Opera: The Magic Flute* and scenes from *Rodelinda*, *Flight*, *Tancredi*, *Albert Herring* and *Romeo and Juliet* (Guildhall School); Donna Elvira *Don Giovanni*, Fiordiligi *Così fan tutte* and Violetta *La traviata* (Korea National Opera); Violetta *La traviata* (Daejeon International Music Festival); Second Lady *The Magic Flute* (Lotte Concert Hall); Donna Elvira *Don Giovanni* (Seoul National University).

**Future plans** Guildhall School's Opera Makers 2025.



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## Hannah McKay

soprano

Guildhall School Opera Course (first-year) studying with Yvonne Kenny.

**Scholarships** Behrens Foundation Scholarship; Carpenters' Company Henry Osborne Award Scholarship; Sybil Tutton Opera Award Holder; Boise Scholarship.

**Competitions** Finalist, Susan Longfield Award (Guildhall School, 2025); Audience Prize, Glenarm Festival of Voice (2024); Finalist, Irish Heritage Bursary Competition (Wigmore Hall, 2024); Finalist, Veronica Dunne Bursary Competition (2023).

**Previous roles** Signora Guidotti (cover) *I due timidi*, La fata azzura (cover) *La bella dormiente nel bosco* and scenes from *Maria Stuarda*, *Così fan tutte*, *The Adventures of Pinocchio*, *Don Giovanni*, *War and Peace*, *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, *L'amico Fritz*, *Peter Grimes*, *La clemenza di Tito* and *L'elisir d'amore* (Guildhall School); Suor Angelica (cover) *Suor Angelica* (West Green House Opera); Geraldine *A Hand of Bridge* (Durham University Opera); Mary Crawford *Mansfield Park* (Samling Academy – COVID cancellation).

**Future plans** Guildhall School's Opera Makers 2025.



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## Gabriella Noble

mezzo-soprano

Guildhall School Opera Course (first-year) studying with Janice Chapman.

**Scholarships** Dyers' Scholarship; Horners' Becker Scholarship; Knight Family Foundation; Salvat Beca Bach Scholarship, Fundaciòn Salvat.

**Competitions** Winner, Rodney Gibson prize for Early Music (Association of English Singers and Speakers, 2023); Winner, Tracey Chadwell Memorial Award for New Music (Guildhall School, 2023).

**Previous roles** scenes from *Agrippina*, *The Consul* and *La liberazione di Ruggiero* (Guildhall School); Belinda *Dido and Aeneas* (New Chamber Opera and Orchestra for the Earth – COVID cancellation); Chorus *The Rake's Progress* (La Monnaie/De Munt Opera House); Chorus *Everest* (BBC Singers/BBC Symphony Orchestra); Chorus *Un giorno di regno* (Garsington Opera).

**Recital appearances** Wigmore French Song Exchange (Wigmore Hall).

**Future plans** Guildhall School's Opera Makers 2025.



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## Manon Ogwen Parry

soprano

Guildhall School Opera Course (first-year) studying with Marilyn Rees.

**Scholarships** Michael Bryant Bursary; Tallow Chandlers' Scholarship; Ryan Davies Bursary; Sybil Tutton Opera Award; Côr Cymry Meibion Llundain Scholarship.

**Competitions** Finalist, Guildhall School Gold Medal (2025); Winner, The Paul Hamburger Prize for Voice and Piano (Guildhall School, 2024); First Prize, Osborne Roberts Memorial Prize (National Eisteddfod, 2024); Stand out Soprano of the Festival Prize, Violet Mary Jones Memorial Fund (National Eisteddfod, 2024); Stand out singer of the Festival Prize, David Memorial Fund (National Eisteddfod, 2024); Most Promising Singer, William Park-Jones Scholarship (National Eisteddfod, 2024); Second Prize, International Voice of the Future (Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod, 2024); Winner, Susan Longfield Award (Guildhall School, 2023); First Prize (Urdd Eisteddfod, 2022); Winner, North American Festival of Wales Scholarship (Urdd Eisteddfod, 2022); First Prize, Junior Kathleen Ferrier Bursary (2019).

**Previous roles** Ida *Die Fledermaus* and scenes from *Rigoletto*, *L'elisir d'amore*, *The Marriage of Figaro* and *The Magic Flute* (Guildhall School).

**Recital appearances** *Guildhall Artists at Carnegie Hall* (Carnegie Hall) and *Goethe: His Faustian Life* (Wigmore Hall).

**Future plans** Guildhall School's Opera Makers 2025.



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## Julia Merino

mezzo-soprano

Guildhall School Opera Course (second-year) studying with Janice Chapman and Marcus van den Akker.

**Scholarships** Elizabeth Sweeting Award; Dow Clewer Foundation Scholarship.

**Competitions** Winner, Pedro Bote Competition (Badajoz, Spain, 2024); Winner, Annual Soloist Competition (Conservatoire of Málaga, 2019 and 2020).

**Previous roles** Fanny Price *Mansfield Park*, Prince Orlofsky *Die Fledermaus*, Bradamante *Alcina*, Dolores Preciado, Justina & Doña Ángeles (cover) *A Star Next to the Moon*, Il Gatto *La bella dormiente nel bosco*, Joseph's Mother (cover) *Dead Man Walking*, Prince Orlofsky (in English) *Introduction to Opera: Die Fledermaus* and scenes from *Werther*, *Idomeneo*, *Eugene Onegin*, *The Rape of Lucretia*, *Béatrice et Bénédicte*, *Hamlet*, *Così fan tutte*, *Carmen*, *Semele* and *The Magic Flute* (Guildhall School); Second Woman *Frida* (Northern Opera Group); scenes from *Falstaff*, *La clemenza di Tito* and *The Marriage of Figaro* (Conservatoire of Málaga, Spain).



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## Joshua Saunders

tenor

Guildhall School Opera Course (second-year) studying with Robert Dean and John Evans.

**Scholarships** Baroness de Turckheim Scholarship; Dow Clewer Foundation Scholarship.

**Competitions** Classical Award, Chris Treglown Foundation Fund (2022).

**Previous roles** Henry Crawford *Mansfield Park*, Gabriel von Eisenstein *Die Fledermaus*, Alfred (in English) *Introduction to Opera: Die Fledermaus* and scenes from *The Voice of Ariadne*, *L'elisir d'amore*, *La bohème*, *Rigoletto*, *Dialogues des Carmélites*, *The Barber of Seville* and *Falstaff* (Guildhall School); Beppe (cover) *Pagliacci* (West Green House Opera); Robert Shallow *Sir John in Love* (British Youth Opera).



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## Julia Solomon

mezzo-soprano

Guildhall School Opera Course (first-year) studying with Susan Waters.

**Scholarships** Tobacco Pipe Makers' Scholarship; Wax Chandlers' Scholarship.

**Competitions** Highly Commended, Elgar Spedding Memorial Prize (Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, 2022); Third Prize, Concurso Brasileiro de Canto Maria Callas (São Paulo, 2022); Finalist, Governors Recital Prize for Singers (Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, 2020); Finalist, Courtney Kenny Award for English Singing (Association of English Singers and Speakers, 2020).

**Previous roles** Bianca *The Rape of Lucretia* (British Youth Opera); María María de Buenos Aires (Leeds Opera Festival); Prince Orlofsky *Die Fledermaus* (Berlin Opera Academy); Paralegal *Dead Man Walking* (Alexander Gibson Opera School).

**Future plans** Guildhall School's Opera Makers 2025.



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