

19, 20, 22 & 23 June 2026
7pm
Milton Court Studio Theatre

GUILDHALL
SCHOOL

Opera Makers

Dominic Wheeler conductor

Lucy Bradley director

Anna Kelsey designer

James Levy lighting designer

John Bulleid illusion designer

Victoria Newlyn movement director

Arianna Congedi assistant conductor

Jan Robotycki assistant director

Milton Court Studio Theatre

Please make sure that digital devices and 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.

Guildhall School of Music & Drama

Founded in 1880 by the City of London Corporation.

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The Hon. Emily Benn

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Professor Jonathan Vaughan FGS

Vice-Principal & Director of Music

Armin Zanner FGS

Director of Production & Design

Hansjörg Schmidt

Programme

The Vanishing Act

Music by Diego Jimenez, Libretto by Stuart Lee

Interval (15 minutes)

A Bone to Pick

Music by Eluned Davies, Libretto by Bess Still

Interval (15 minutes)

Elara Catching Sky

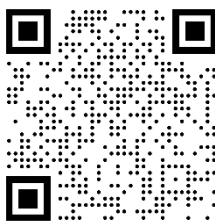
Music by Yotham Ben Yami, Libretto by Ariella Stoian

This production uses haze and there are brief moments with flashing lights and loud noises. Audiences with photosensitivity can request a light map to guide them through the performance.

Themes of this production include familial separation due to war, discrimination against and violence towards the LGBT^{QIA}+ community which some audience members may find distressing.

The performance will last approximately 2 hours, including two intervals.

Digital Programme



Access our digital programme for biographies, programme notes and more. Scan the QR code or visit: guildhall-programmes.co.uk/opera-makers-2026

Programme correct at time of publication. Please see digital programme for updated information.

Welcome

It is our pleasure to welcome you to this, our twelfth incarnation of Opera Makers.

The MA in Opera Making & Writing is a one-year programme, delivered in association with the Royal Ballet & Opera, in which three composer-librettist pairings create 25-minute chamber operas specifically for singers in the first year of the Opera Course. This creates a challenging training experience for singers, répétiteurs, orchestral musicians and production artists, for whom being involved in such a process is often an entirely new experience. It also aims to give composers and writers first-hand experience of the whole process of making an opera, from the page to the stage.

The pieces have been extensively workshopped at each stage of development, to give the singers in particular a voice in helping the composers create roles that suit them vocally and we are hugely appreciative of all the wisdom and support which so many of the Opera Course staff and our vocal professors have given in helping us along the way. It is this process of creating a work together as a company that is just as important to us as the result, and we do hope you enjoy these new chamber operas.

Professor Julian Philips Head of Composition & Programme Leader (MA in Opera Making & Writing)

Professor Stephen Plaice Writer-in-Residence & Writing Pathway Leader (MA in Opera Making & Writing)

Olivia Bell dramatic writing professor (MA in Opera Making & Writing)

Nazli Tabatabai-Khatambakhsh dramatic writing professor (MA in Opera Making & Writing)

Dominic Wheeler Head of Opera Studies



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

Cast & Synopses

The Vanishing Act

Music by Diego Jimenez

Libretto by Stuart Lee

Lilly

Marianne Ruel

Amira

Cecily Shaw

Milo

James Emerson

Nuha

Laura LeVoir

Milo builds a fantastical boat and takes his young niece on a voyage out to sea full of fantasy and wonder. Although Milo's tricks and distractions can't be sustained, and soon memory and magic collide, threatening to tear their world apart.

The Vanishing Act is an opera about the loss of innocence, and how magic can lead us from the darkness into the light, and vice versa.

A Bone to Pick

Music by Eluned Davies

Libretto by Bess Still

The Teeny Tiny Woman

Zoë Jackson

The Husband

James Emerson

The Everyman

Will Jowett

The Wife

Ona Černiauskaitė

The Teeny Tiny Woman goes for a teeny tiny jaunt into a teeny tiny graveyard, foraging for teeny tiny bones to make a teeny tiny bone broth. All the while, she is unaware of the havoc she is causing as the ghosts of the graveyard are unable to pass into the afterlife without their missing pieces. A married couple from a bygone era must enlist the help of an unlikely hero to capture The Teeny Tiny Woman and reclaim their bones.

Elara Catching Sky

Music by Yotham Ben Yami

Libretto by Ariella Stoian

Elara

Marianne Ruel

Mabel

Cecily Shaw

Roger

Max Robbins

Wife

Zoë Jackson

"Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited, whereas imagination embraces the entire world, stimulating progress, giving birth to evolution. It is, strictly speaking, a real factor in scientific research."

—Albert Einstein

At a remote observatory on the North Sea coast, astrophysicist Roger and astrobiologist Mabel scan distant stars for exoplanets and possible signs of life. When Roger's daughter Elara arrives – lonely, fiercely imaginative, and only there for the summer – she tries to assist their scientific research but inadvertently summons Mani, a volcanic moon turned child, born of collision and resisting categorisation. Mani's presence transforms their discovery of an Earth-like planet (Mani's planet) and begins to dissolve the boundary between observation, data and invention. Through wild play, tangled kinship, and an intimate fusion of science and imagination, the three must reckon with what it means to reach out to the unknown, both human and cosmic.

Orchestra

Violin

Helena Thomas

Viola

Rebekah Dickinson

Cello

Jack Moyer

Double Bass

Aarón Aguayo Juárez

Flute, Piccolo & Alto Flute

Laoise Corrigan

Clarinet & Bass Clarinet

Sofia Mekhonoshina

Horn

Katie Parker

Trumpet

Sean Hartman

Percussion

Sum Yin Ng

Harp

The Vanishing Act &

A Bone to Pick:

Megan Van Uffelen

Elara Catching Sky:

Naomi Drew

Piano & Celeste

The Vanishing Act:

Daniel Greenway

A Bone to Pick:

Alicia Hernández

Huebra

Elara Catching Sky:

Alexander Dakin

**Ensembles,
Programming &
Instrument Manager**

Phil Sizer

Orchestra Librarian

Anthony Wilson

**Music Stage, Logistics &
Instrument Manager**

Kevin Elwick

**Music Stage
Supervisors**

Louis Baily

Benjamin Wakley

*Names and seating correct
at time of publication.*

Production Team

Opera/Vocal Studies Students & Fellows

Assistant Conductor

Arianna Congedi

Assistant Director

Jan Robotycki

Repetiteurs

Alexander Dakin

Daniel Greenway

Alicia Hernández

Huebra

Production & Design Students

Production Manager

Jamie Baker

Assistant Production Manager

Charlie Tiernan

Stage Manager

Nicole Thomaz

Deputy Stage Manager

Rachel Butterly

Assistant Stage Manager (Book Cover)

Emily Wilson

Assistant Stage Managers

Eloise Fedarb

Mary Lwena

Production Electrician

Jack Rudd

Assistant Production Electrician

Ben Sharp

Lighting Programmers

Aimee Fields

Lola Ringer

Production Sound Engineer

Liam Jenkins

Technical Manager

Katie Clarke

Props Coordinator

Christina Angus

Lead Prop Maker

Imogen Marinko

Prop Makers

Tia Alexandrou

Emily Carden

Lara Jaques

Phoenix Lok Stallabrass

Mary Lwena

Hannah Rhind

Scenic Art Coordinator

Seth David Cunningham

Lead Scenic Artist

Em Mason

Scenic Artists

Katie Ball

Vincent Farey

Maisie Gamble

Lara Jaques

Harris Johnston

Izzy Lovelock

Phoenix Lok Stallabrass

Lead Scenic Carpenters

Alice Friend

Christa Yap

Scenic Carpenters

Tia Alexandrou

Muiris Capon-Telford

Emily Carden

Maisie Gamble

Harris Johnston

Izzy Lovelock

Costume Supervisor

Talia Servadio Kenan

Wardrobe Manager

Iris Towers

Lead Costume Prop Maker

Katherine Byrne

Assistant Costume Supervisor

Izabel Hessian

Costume Assistant

TJ Sunderland

Costume Maker

Poppy Inglis

Additional Staff

Stage Management Assistant

Camilla Direk

Construction Manager

Izzy Froude

Freelance

Freelance Staff Production Management Supervisor

Simon Sturgess

Assistant Stage Manager

Meg Le Marchant

Wigs, Hair & Makeup Supervisor

Debbie Purkiss

Stage Crew

working across our Opera and Drama productions this year:

CJ Avery	Xuxu Elliott-Stuart	Izzy Johnson	Lacey Powers
Naomi Bleazard	Alex Emmens	Monty Johnston	Millie Roberts
Charlotte Boother	Ciara Falola Cook	Annabelle Jones	Emily Rowe
Dominguez	El Green	Tom Kirby	Caspian Scrivens
Autumn Star-Bragg	Rina Grošelj	Codie Lockyer	Rebecca Seibert
AJ Brandt	Jago Hannen	Maddison Loyns	Emily Short
Isabella Brugnoli	Lizzie Harrington	Hazel Lum	Milo Thomas
Clara Clow	Quinn Henry	Angus MacDonald	Oscar Thomas
Thea Cook	Matthew Hill	Jack Masters	Matilda Thomas-Baruya
Evangeline Cuthbert	Linh Hoang	Katy Murray	Megan Thurlby
Phoebe De Azevedo	Ruby Hoffer	Devesh Nandwani	Axel Toms
Gillham	Daisy Hollies	Isaac Newman	Elise Turner
Daisy Doughty	Ciel Hook	Noah Philby	Madi Watts
Robin Draper	Naomi Jansson	Hannah Phillips	Ava Whittington

Guildhall School Production & Design Department

Director of Production & Design

Hansjörg Schmidt

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 Costume

Rachel Young

Head of Design Realisation

Vanessa Cass

Head of Stage Management

Helen Barratt

Head of Theatre Technology

Mark Hartley

Associate Producer

Stuart Calder

Outreach Manager (Production & Design)

Jon Hare

Guildhall School Opera Department

Head of Opera Studies

Dominic Wheeler

Resident Producer

Martin Lloyd-Evans

Opera Department Manager

Steven Gietzen

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

Combat Coach

Jonathan Leverett

Language Coaches

Florence Daguerre de

Hureaux

Johanna Mayr

Emma Abbate

Lada Valešová

Guildhall School Scholarship Fund

Each year the Scholarships Fund enables talented young actors, musicians and production artists 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 & Fellows:

Yotham Ben Yami *The Mitchell City of London Scholarship*
Ona Černiauskaitė *John S Cohen Foundation Scholarship*
Arianna Congedi *Sally Cohen Opera Scholarship*
Alexander Dakin *Margery & Frederick Stephen Wright Eisinger Award*
Eluned Davies *Fane Ades Ingenuity Scholarship*
James Emerson *Rosemary Thayer Award; Innholders' Scholarship*
Daniel Greenway *Jack Irons Repetiteur Scholarship*
Alicia Hernández Huebra *Wolfgang Bruckner Scholarship*
Zoë Jackson *Girdlers' Scholarship; Gwen Catley Scholarship*
Diego Jimenez *Guildhall Scholarship*
Will Jowett *Behrens Foundation Scholarship*
Stuart Lee *Guildhall Scholarship*
Laura LeVoir *Gita Furber de la Fuente Prize; C & P Young Scholarship*
Max Robbins *Sidney Perry Foundation Scholarship*
Marianne Ruel *Wallis Award; Elizabeth Sweeting Award*
Cecily Shaw *Sally Cohen Opera Scholarship*
Bess Still *Guildhall Scholarship*
Ariella Stoian *Guildhall Scholarship*

Production & Design Students:

Christina Angus *Guildhall Scholarship*
Jamie Baker *Guildhall Scholarship*
Katie Ball *Guildhall Scholarship*
Rachel Butterly *Guildhall Scholarship*
Emily Carden *Guildhall Scholarship*
Eloise Fedarb *Guildhall Scholarship*
Alice Friend *Guildhall Scholarship*
Maisie Gamble *Guildhall Scholarship*
Izabel Hessian *Guildhall Scholarship*
Lara Jaques *Guildhall Scholarship*
Liam Jenkins *Guildhall Scholarship*
James Levy *City of London Scholarship*
Izzy Lovelock *Guildhall Scholarship*
Mary Lwena *Guildhall Scholarship*
Em Mason *Guildhall Scholarship*
Hannah Rhind *Guildhall Scholarship*
Jack Rudd *Guildhall Scholarship*
Charlie Tiernan *Guildhall Scholarship*
Iris Towers *Carpenters' Company Production Arts Scholarship*
Emily Wilson *Guildhall Scholarship*
Christa Yap *Vanstone Scholarship*

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

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Elizabeth Sweeting Award
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