

19, 20, 23 & 24 March 2026
7pm
Milton Court Studio Theatre

**GUILD
HALL
SCHOOL**

Spring Opera Scenes

Creative Team

Ashley Dean director
Elizabeth Rowe music director
Louie Whitemore designer
Lili Warden lighting designer
Koren Little assistant costume designer

Milton Court Studio 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.

Guildhall School of Music & Drama

Founded in 1880 by the City of London Corporation.

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Armin Zanner FGS

Director of Production & Design

Hansjörg Schmidt

Welcome

Please note that performances will contain the use of weapons and reference to suicide. There will also be the use of haze.

The performance will last approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes, without an interval.

Digital Programme

Scan the QR code or visit:

guildhall-programmes.co.uk/2026-spring-opera-scenes



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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.

Programme & Synopses

Claude Debussy

Pelléas et Mélisande

Act 2, Scene 1

Mélisande

Marianne Ruel

Pelléas

James Emerson

Arianna Congedi | repetiteur

On a hot day, Pelléas has taken Mélisande – his half-brother Golaud’s young wife – to see a spring known as the Fountain of the Blind. While they stand beside the water, Mélisande plays with the ring Golaud gave her when they married, tossing it into the air and catching it. Pelléas warns her not to lean too far over the edge, but she continues. As the castle bells ring noon, the ring slips from her fingers and falls into the deep spring. They watch it disappear and realise it is lost. Mélisande asks what they should tell Golaud. Pelléas replies that they must tell him the truth.

Charles Gounod

Roméo et Juliette

Act 4, Scene 1 Duet

Roméo

Sebastian Hill

Juliette

Laura LeVoir

Daniel Greenway | repetiteur

Roméo and Juliette have just been secretly married, but Roméo has killed Juliette’s cousin Tybalt in a fight and been banished from Verona on pain of death. The newlyweds steal a precious night together in Juliette’s bedroom. As dawn approaches, distant birdsong warns that Roméo must flee before he is discovered. Juliette insists it is still night and begs him to stay longer, but Roméo knows the danger is too great. Gradually the light of day forces them to face reality, and Roméo descends from the balcony and escapes into exile. Juliette remains behind, watching him go and fearing that this farewell may be their last.

Jules Massenet

Cendrillon

Act 1 excerpt

Dorothée

Marianne Ruel

Noémie

Laura LeVoir

Madame de la Haltière

Cecily Shaw

Pandolfe

Twm Tegid Brunton

Chorus lines

Zoë Jackson

Sebastian Hill

James Emerson

Arianna Congedi | repetiteur

Madame de la Haltière has received an invitation to the royal ball. Thrilled at this social triumph, she orders her daughters, Noémie and Dorothée, to make themselves as beautiful as possible so that they can make a grand impression at the palace, with the hope that one of them will capture the Prince's heart and secure their fortune. Cendrillon's father, Pandolfe, enters and watches the mounting commotion with bewilderment as Madame de la Haltière instructs her daughters in the arts of seduction and courtly behaviour. The household erupts in frantic preparation – gowns, jewels, powders and perfumes. Finally, resplendent and ridiculous, the three women are ready to depart for the ball.

Benjamin Britten

A Midsummer Night's Dream Op 64

Act 2 Quartet

Hermia

Marianne Ruel

Helena

Zoë Jackson

Lysander

Sebastian Hill

Demetrius

James Emerson

Daniel Greenway | repetiteur

The fairy Puck mistakenly anoints Lysander with an enchanted flower that makes him fall in love with the first person he sees. Lysander wakes, sees Helena, and begins pursuing her through the forest, passionately declaring his love and abandoning Hermia. Helena believes he is cruelly mocking her. When Demetrius is later affected by the same enchantment, both men pursue Helena while scorning Hermia. Hermia arrives bewildered to find Lysander rejecting her. Helena, convinced everyone is conspiring to humiliate her, turns angrily on Hermia. The two men quarrel over Helena while the women accuse one another of treachery.

Ruggero Leoncavallo

Pagliacci

Silvio & Nedda Duet

Silvio

Twm Tegid Brunton

Tonio

James Emerson

Nedda

Laura LeVoir

Daniel Greenway | repetiteur

Nedda, the young wife of Canio, leader of a travelling theatre troupe, is left alone after having to fend off Tonio, another member of the company who has just declared his love for her. When she rejects him and mocks his advances, Tonio leaves humiliated and angry. Soon after, Silvio, Nedda's secret lover, appears and begs her to run away with him that very night. Nedda begs Silvio not to tempt her, fearing Canio's violent jealousy if they are discovered. Silvio insists they must seize their chance for freedom, and at last she agrees to meet him after the evening's performance so they can escape together.

George Frideric Handel

Ariodante HWV33

Act 2, Scene 1

Ariodante

Cecily Shaw

Polinesso

Marianne Ruel

Lurcanio

Sebastian Hill

Dalinda

Zoë Jackson

Daniel Greenway | repetiteur

The villainous Polinesso, jealous of Ariodante's engagement to Princess Ginevra, stages an elaborate deception. He dresses Ginevra's maid Dalinda in her mistress's clothing and arranges a secret meeting on the palace balcony. Watching from concealment, Ariodante sees "Ginevra" embracing Polinesso and is devastated by what appears to be her betrayal. Overcome with despair, he resolves to take his own life. His loyal brother Lurcanio emerges from hiding and persuades him not to destroy himself, urging him instead to endure his suffering.

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Eugene Onegin Op 24

Act 3, Final Scene

Eugene Onegin

Twm Tegid Brunton

Tatyana

Zoë Jackson

Arianna Congedi | repetiteur

Years after coldly rejecting Tatyana's heartfelt declaration of love, Onegin encounters her again at a St Petersburg ball. She is now Princess Gremina, married to an elderly war hero and transformed into an elegant and composed woman of society. Suddenly aware of what he has lost, Onegin realises that he has always loved her. He writes to her begging for her affection and throws himself at her feet, pleading for her love. Tatyana admits that she still loves him – but she is bound by honour and duty to her husband. Despite her anguish, she refuses to abandon her marriage and leaves Onegin alone in despair.

Synopses by Ashley Dean

Production Team

Opera Department Students and Fellows

Repetiteurs

Arianna Congedi
Daniel Greenway

Freelance & Additional Staff

Intimacy Coordinator

Abigail Kessel

Movement Coordinator

Victoria Newlyn

Wigs, Hair & Makeup Supervisor

Debbie Purkiss

Freelance Stage Management Tutor

Caroline Moores

Language Coaches

Emma Abbate (Italian)
Héloïse Bernard (French)
Daria Bitsiuk (Russian)

Production & Design Students

Production Manager

Elliott Stradling

Assistant Production Manager

Jack Rudd

Stage Manager

Isabel Taxman

Deputy Stage Manager

Charlie Tiernan

SM Props Supervisor

Eloise Fedarb

Assistant Stage Managers

Scarlett Horsburgh
Howard James
Shakespeare

Production Electrician

James Broadhurst

Assistant Production Electrician

Vincent Farey

Lighting Programmers

Izzy Lovelock
James Levy

Technical Manager

Samuel Gilbert

Props Coordinator

Jasmine Greene

Lead Prop Maker

Em Mason

Prop Makers

Nyah Felix
Phoenix Lok Stallabrax

Scenic Art Coordinator

Christina Angus

Lead Scenic Artists

Imogen Marinko
Eddie Comerford

Scenic Artist

Maisie Gamble

Costume Supervisor

Meg Jordan

Wardrobe Manager

Koren Little

Costume Assistants

Aimee Fields
Izabel Hessian

Costume Maker

Blair Addison

Stage Crew

working across our Opera and Drama productions this year:

Marvin Amrine	Xuxu Elliott-Stuart	Izzy Johnson	Lacey Powers
CJ Avery	Alex Emmens	Monty Johnston	Zac Reynolds
Naomi Bleazard	Ciara Falola Cook	Annabelle Jones	Millie Roberts
Charlotte Bother	El Green	Tom Kirby	Emily Rowe
Dominguez	Rina Grošelj	Codie Lockyer	Caspian Scrivens
Autumn Star-Bragg	Adam Gulamali	Maddison Loyns	Rebecca Seibert
AJ Brandt	Jago Hannen	Hazel Lum	Emily Short
Isabella Brugnoli	Lizzie Harrington	Sian Lynch-Lewis	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 Coach

Victoria Newlyn

Combat Coach

Jonathan Leverett

Language Coaches

Florence Daguerre de

Hureaux

Johanna Mayr

Emma Abbate

Lada Valešová

Repetiteur Coaches

Elizabeth Rowe

Susanna Stranders

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 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 Department Students & Fellows:

Twm Tegid Brunton *The Scouloudi Foundation Scholarship*
Arianna Congedi *Sally Cohen Opera Scholarship*
James Emerson *Rosemary Thayer Award; Innholders' Scholarship*
Daniel Greenway *Jack Irons Repetiteur Scholarship*
Sebastian Hill *Girdlers' Scholarship; Tobacco Pipe Makers' Scholarship*
Zoë Jackson *Girdlers' Scholarship; Gwen Catley Scholarship*
Laura LeVoir *Gita Furber de la Fuente Prize; C & P Young Scholarship*
Marianne Ruel *Wallis Award; Elizabeth Sweeting Award*
Cecily Shaw *Sally Cohen Opera Scholarship*

Production & Design Department Students:

Blair Addison *Guildhall Scholarship*
Christina Angus *Guildhall Scholarship*
Eloise Fedarb *Guildhall Scholarship*
Maisie Gamble *Guildhall Scholarship*
Samuel Gilbert *Guildhall Scholarship*
Izabel Hessian *Guildhall Scholarship*
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Charlie Tiernan *Guildhall 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@gsmd.ac.uk / 020 3834 1561.

Forthcoming events

Vocal Scenes

25 March 2026
Milton Court Concert Hall

Vocal and Historical Performance students collaborate on a vibrant presentation of operatic scenes, uniting historically informed practice with contemporary stage direction.

Junior Guildhall Symphony Orchestra & String Ensemble

28 March 2026
Milton Court Concert Hall

Experience the brilliance and vitality of British and Irish music in this spirited concert from Junior Guildhall's outstanding young musicians.

The Gold Medal

30 April 2026
Barbican Hall

The final of Guildhall School's most prestigious music prize returns to the Barbican Hall, presenting three outstanding instrumentalists in concerto performances with the Guildhall Symphony Orchestra.

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