

## CAST

### **ANNIE**

**Kitty Whately** is an award winning mezzo who trained at Chetham's School of Music, Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and Royal College of Music's International Opera School. Recent engagements include Hansel Hansel and Gretel and Elvira Don Giovanni (Scottish Opera), Hermia A Midsummer Night's Dream (Rouen, Aix en Provence, Bergen, Beijing), Kate Owen Wingrave (Grange Park Opera), Meg Little Women, Rosina Il barbiere di Siviglia and Stewardess Flight (Opera Holland Park), Dorabella Così fan tutte (OHP and The Grange Festival), Annina Der Rosenkavalier (Garsington), Turnage's Coraline (world premiere, Barbican; Royal Opera) and The Cunning Little Vixen (CBSO; Birmingham, Paris, Hamburg, Dortmund).

### **JACOB**

**Neil Balfour** is an Indian-Scottish baritone who studied at Leeds College of Music, the RNCM and National Opera Studio. He is a former Britten-Pears, Concordia, Momentum and Samling artist. Highlights in recent seasons include his American debut as Father Thumbprint (Portland Opera); Prince Yamadori Madama Butterfly and Safin The Shoemaker (Welsh National Opera); Alice Through the Looking Glass (London Symphony Orchestra); Man 2 Frida (Northern Opera Group); Jean Arp Sophie (Tête à Tête); Punch Crocodile (Hull Urban Opera); a recital with Roderick Williams (Thaxted Festival) and recitals of Schumann and Sondheim (Oxford International Song Festival).

### **ADELA**

**Georgia Mae Bishop** is a mezzo-soprano originally from Jersey, highlights of the 2022/23 season include her debut with the BBC Symphony Orchestra singing the Alto solo in the UK premiere of George Walker's Mass, performances as the Sorceress in Dido and Aeneas at the inaugural season at the Ustinov Studio, Erda (cover) in The Rheingold at English National Opera, Giovanna in Rigoletto at Opera Holland Park and the title role in Carmen with Into Opera.

Georgia studied at Trinity Laban and the Opera Course at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, she has been an Alvarez Young Artist at Garsington Opera performing Alto shepherd in Monteverdi's Orfeo, and an Opera Holland Park Young Artist performing Madame Arvidson in un ballo in maschera. Recently she commissioned, curated and led the Jèrriais Song Project, which premiered the first song cycle in Jersey's native language and took music and language into primary school workshops across the Island.

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### **FRANCIS**

**Kieran Rayner** is a London-based New Zealand baritone. Engagements include Junius The Rape of Lucretia (Royal Opera House); Escamillo Carmen, Billy Bone Captain Blood's Revenge (Norwich Opera Festival); Sorcerer Dido & Aeneas (Waterperry Festival Opera); Papageno Die Zauberflöte, Silvio I Pagliacci (Festival Opera NZ); Gasparo Rita, Aeneas Dido & Aeneas (IF Opera); Dancaire Carmen, Forester The Cunning Little Vixen (Longborough Festival Opera); The Prince Fantasio (Garsington Opera); Ucello Bambino (Scottish Opera/Improbable); Marcello La Bohème (Mid Wales Opera); Eisenstein Die Fledermaus (NAFA Singapore); plus concert solos at the Royal Albert Hall and Buckingham Palace. As a writer-performer, he has created interactive play/recitals for the Aldeburgh Festival and Samling Arts. Winner of the 2022 Sing Finzi Competition, International Handel Competition Finalist and Wigmore Hall Song Competition Semifinalist. Previous Young Artist with Britten Pears Arts, Independent Opera, Verbier Festival, Samling Arts, Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation, and NZ Opera. A Royal College of Music and Victoria/NZSM graduate.

### **WILLIAM**

**Michael Vincent Jones** is a graduate of the Royal Northern College of Music, his studies were kindly supported by the Richard Newitt Fund. In 2018 Michael played the role of Dieter in the world premiere of Adam Gorb's The Path to Heaven and performed the role of Lurcher for a recording of Cellier's Dorothy with Victorian Opera under the baton of Richard Bonyngue. He has worked with English National Opera, the National Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company, Iford Opera (as a young artist), Hull Urban Opera and Radius Opera. Most recently he performed the role of Don Jose with Bolton Symphony Orchestra in a concert performance of Carmen.

### **SAL**

**Gweneth Ann Rand** is a former Vilar Young Artist at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and represented England at Cardiff Singer of the World. She is currently an Associate Artist at Wigmore Hall. Highlights in recent seasons include acclaimed performances of 4.48 Psychosis (The Royal Opera/Lyric Hammersmith, Prototype Festival, Opéra national du Rhin, Philharmonie de Paris); Rooker Giant (Aldeburgh Festival); Tiger Lily Peter Pan, the dark side (Teatro Comunale di Bolzano); and Serena Porgy and Bess, Mother Bailey It's a Wonderful Life (English National Opera). She is widely noted as an exponent of the works of Messiaen.