

CHORUS

Joe Chalmers is a Bass-Baritone who is currently studying on the prestigious Opera course at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama under the tutelage of John Evans. In Autumn 2021 Joe made his Colosseum debut for the English National Opera; notably stepping in for the final performance in the role of Captain Corcoran in HMS Pinafore. Other recent operatic performances include Nettuno (la liberazione di ruggiero dall'isola d'alcina, Longborough Festival Opera), Narratore (I Due Timidi, Guildhall School Opera), Martino (L'occasione fa il Ladro, British Youth Opera), Bass Shepherd and cover Plutone and Caronte (L'orfeo, Garsington Opera), Chorus and Waiter (Der Rosenkavalier, Garsington Opera), Count Almaviva (Le Nozze di Figaro, Guildhall), Belcore (L'elisir d'amore, Guildhall Scenes), Sid (Albert Herring, Guildhall Scenes) and Escamillo (Carmen, Guildhall Scenes). Concert credits include recitals with Giles Terera MBE and Jamael Westman, the original West End cast of Hamilton and Debut Ltd., as well as work with conductors including Yshani Perinpapayagam, Laurence Cummings and Jordan de Souza.

Suniel Makh has a rich background in the music industry as a rapper, producer, and MC, coupled with experience as a radio host and documentary presenter. Suniel has embarked on a new journey into the realm of on-screen acting and theatre, which began by appearing in Sky Art's 'Gods of the Game', the project on which PJ and Hannah met. He is developing and honing his skills and evolving as a versatile performer in this new field. Suniel is a lifelong Leeds supporter and former semi-pro footballer.

Susie Buckle trained at Trinity Laban as an Eve Malpass and Kathleen Roberts vocal scholar. Susie specialises in contemporary opera and music theatre and has sung in multiple new works and world premieres. They created the role of Emily in Dead Equal (directed by Ella Marchment) for Helios Collective and Nance in Banished (directed by Elaine Kidd) at Blackheath Halls. Most recently, Susie sang the title role in Borka: the Adventures of a Goose with no Feathers by Russel Heppelwhite for Ignite Music. Further roles include Sam-I-Am Green Eggs and Ham (Opera North); cover Despinio Greek Passion (Opera North); Pamina Magic Flute (OperaUpClose); Ruth Ruddigore (Charles Court Opera); Madrigal Singer Manon Lescaut (Opera Holland Park); cover Alyson The Rattler (Mahogany Opera Group); Bridesmaid Marriage of Figaro (Opera Holland Park); Chief Hen Cunning Little Vixen (British Youth Opera); Josephine HMS Pinafore (Opera Anywhere); Rowan The Little Sweep and Lady-in-Waiting Macbeth (Blackheath Halls Opera).

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Sarah Parkin is a Soprano. Select performances include: Plastic Bodies (Co-creation – Tête-à-Tête Festival); Roll Up! (Mahogany Opera); Voices of the Sands (Michael Betteridge); Student 3, Innocence (Kaija Saariaho – Cover – Royal Opera House); p.e.r.s.o.n.a.l.c.l.u.t.t.e.r. (Dark Music Days); A Kinder Society (Amy Bryce -Stiftung Kunst und Musik für Dresden); Robe (Alistair White – Tête-à-Tête and Métier). In 2023–24, Sarah will be co-creating 'On Being Vocal', a one-woman micro-opera with composer Rania Chrysostomou; and will take part in the inaugural cohort on VOICEBOX (Juliet Fraser with Britten Pears Arts; City, University of London; Sound Festival and Dartington Music Summer School).

Warren Graham trained at the Italia Conti School of Performing Arts on the Acting course. He has appeared in a number of different plays at venues such as Theatre 503 and Blue Elephant theatre, he also makes appearances in the upcoming short films 1up and Jujuman. This is his first time delving into Opera and he's elated to be part of this process and can't wait to put the skills learnt during this period to use. He is also an Arsenal fan.

Alfred Mitchell is a British Tenor currently studying on the Masters programme in Vocal Performance at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland under Iain Paton. Alongside this, in the 2023/24 season he will be working with the Alexander Gibson Opera Studio as a guest artist. Previously he has performed across the country in principal roles with companies including St. Paul's Opera, North Wales Opera and made his international debut in Opera Loki's 2022 season. Recently he performed as part of the chorus in the 2023 Longhope Opera Festival. Future plans include portraying Ivor Novello in the world premiere of 1944: Home Fires (Tête à Tête Opera Festival) and the title role in the world premiere of Robert the Bruce (Rhakhat-Bi Abdyssagin).

CREATIVE

PJ Harris is a stage director and theatre maker. Since being listed as 'one to watch' by the BBC in 2015, PJ has worked across Europe including at the Royal Opera House, Glyndebourne, Royal Swedish Opera, Opéra de Lyon, Norwegian National Opera, Scottish Opera and Polish National Opera. PJ aims to create work that is original, innovative, engaging and with the potential to reach as many people as possible. He is especially interested in large-scale site-responsive projects with strong community engagement. PJ is on a mission to create work that positively represents & amplifies the voices of queer families on stage & screen. In 2020, PJ directed the first ever socially distanced drive-in production of *La Bohème* for English National Opera to critical acclaim. It was broadcast live on Sky Arts, for which it won a BAFTA. In 2022 PJ directed the world premiere of *Gods of the Game*, an opera about corruption in football for Sky Arts and Grange Park Opera.

Hannah Kumari is a writer, director and former actor. She has a BA Hons. in Acting from Bretton Hall and spent over 10 years working as an actor across TV, film and Theatre in the UK and Spain, and speaks fluent Spanish. After transitioning from acting to creating her own work in 2020, Hannah has been commissioned by The Wardrobe Ensemble, Sky Arts, Coventry City of Culture, The Space Arts and Exeter Northcott Theatre, as well as securing Arts Council funding for several of her own projects, including *Displaced*. Hannah's debut short film *Devi – देवी* which she wrote and starred in alongside Nina Wadia was broadcast on Sky Arts in May 2022. Her acclaimed solo-show *ENG-ER-LAND*, which she wrote and performed, toured to over 25 venues in the UK, culminating in a run at the Arcola theatre in Hackney in Summer 2023, and being nominated for Best Stage Production at the 2022 Asian Media Awards. Hannah makes regular media appearances which have included BBC Newsnight, BBC Squad Goals, Talk Sport and BBC Sportshour, and she is currently a mentor on the Squint Playwriting Award Scheme, for writers from east London from low socio-economic backgrounds.

Omar Shahryar is an award-winning composer and facilitator. Recent commissions include *Songs to Remember* (Birmingham Opera Company), the participatory concerts *Six Fables and Cours, cours, cours !* (Orchestra National d'Auvergne) and the digital mini-opera *Blue, Red, Yellow* for English National Opera's "Finish This" programme that has inspired over 14,000 primary school children around the UK to compose their own mini-operas. His comedy opera about terrorism, *A Shoe Full of Stars*, won the YAMAward Prize for Best Opera for Young People 2018. From Colombia to Canada, from Norway to Oman, Omar's expertise in participatory opera is internationally recognised and sought after.

CREATIVE

Olivia Clarke is a British/Irish conductor. Sighted as a 'name to watch' (Observer) and BBC Music Magazine Rising Star, Olivia works across opera and symphonic genres. This season Clarke will make her debut with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Royal Opera as well as returning to the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Southbank Sinfonia and Glyndebourne. Last season Clarke made her debut with the Philharmonia and Opéra de Rouen Normandie, alongside regular engagements with English National Opera, Glyndebourne and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. In summer 2023, Clarke was named as Music Director for the Norfolk Into Opera Festival where she conducted multiple performances of Carmen as well as a family opera Captain Blood's Revenge by Lynne Plowman. From 2020–2023 Clarke held the position of Mackerras Conducting Fellow at English National Opera where she conducted a number of main stage performances as well as orchestral concerts. Clarke recently jumped in at Cadogan Hall to conduct ENO Orchestra in concert with the National Opera Studio: 'Among the rising stars at this showcase, none shone more brightly than the one who waved the baton' (Opera Magazine). From 2022–2023 Clarke also held the position of Assistant Conductor with the CBSO.