



Joanna Lumley's Perfect Opera Picnic

The sun is shining, trees are in blossom, the end of lockdown is in sight and it's almost time for the Grange Park Opera, Surrey season – which means it's also picnic season.

National Treasure Joanna Lumley is often seen at Grange Park Opera. Her husband is acclaimed conductor Stephen Barlow - who is conducting both *The Life & Death of Alexander Litvinenko* and *La Bohème* in the 2021 season – and she is Trustee too.

She hates the idea that first-timers to Grange Park Opera might feel intimidated by the picnic and so to help out, she has devised 'Joanna Lumley's Perfect Opera Picnic' (also ideal for all other al fresco eating occasions not involving classical music!?)

Joanna says ...

"I would have:

- *Hard boiled eggs. If you add flaky onion skins to the water as they cook, they go tawny brown, and you can write people's names on them in gold pentel*
- *Cheddar cheese cut into small chunks*
- *Small squares of quiche*
- *Sandwiches: my favourites at the moment are Marmite flavoured humous with pumpkin seeds.*
- *Celery, radishes, cherry tomatoes*
- *Crisps*
- *Salted peanuts and Medjoul dates*
- *Small twists of paper filled with salt and pepper*
- *Strawberries*
- *Cornwall Chocolate Cove chocolates and fudge*
- *A Thermos of hot strong coffee*
- *Water. Champagne and Elderflower fizz*
- *Napkins, and a damp cloth in a plastic bag scented with rosewater for fingers.*

This is what I would love to have at a picnic: and wonderfully all the above can be eaten without cutlery."

2021 Grange Park Opera season - 10 June – 18 July 2021

The curtain-raiser is an unmissable production of *Falstaff* with opera superstar Bryn Terfel in the title role. Of equal importance, is the world premiere of *The Life & Death of Alexander Litvinenko*, the tragic story of the poisoning of the Russian dissident.

Opera giant David Pountney directs Rimsky-Korsakov's hidden gem: *Ivan the Terrible* - composed shortly before Tchaikovsky's *Onegin* - and then there's the world's favourite opera, *La Bohème*.

- *Falstaff* – Verdi (10 June – 18 July)
- *La Bohème* - Puccini – (12 June – 8 July)
- *Ivan the Terrible* - Rimsky Korsakov (19 June – 14 July)
- *The Life & Death of Alexander Litvinenko* (15 & 17 July)

NOTES FOR EDITORS

Grange Park Opera was founded in 1998 by Wasfi Kani, CBE. Since then, it has performed to over 300,000 people with more than 75 productions and 450 performances, during the course of 22 festivals. Productions take place at the Theatre in the Woods, a five-tiered, 700-seat opera house on the estate of the 14th century West Horsley Place, which was inherited by Bamber Gascoigne from his aunt, the Duchess of Roxburghe. The £11.5m cost of the building – was raised by Kani herself from private donations in just one year.

Website www.grangeparkopera.co.uk

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