

Where would we be without art in our lives?

Opera is the only art form that ravishes our ears, our eyes, our minds and our hearts, transporting us to other worlds (when the one we live in is so precarious).

Last summer's operas were a triumph - particularly the much-lauded *Tristan & Isolde*. Who knows? Perhaps, as Bryn suggested, we'll do The Ring. His audience roared approval. That's something to think about.

Next summer join us when we thrill you with rollicking comedies and heart-rending stories of passion, betrayal and mystery.

(Meanwhile the Bamber Dressing Rooms and Treetop Studio are taking shape.)

Come to the Surrey Hills for a heavenly sojourn of music, conviviality, and all that is good in life.

Public booking opens in March.

hantun







### A luxurious evening

### ... with luxury casts in epic operas

It seems 14<sup>th</sup> century West Horsley Place was made for this. Henry VIII dined here, Elizabeth I stayed for a week, BBC *Ghosts* was filmed here.

- Guests arrive early and, champagne glass in hand, wander the five acres of walled gardens. The city seems far away.
- A short walk through the ancient orchard passing a 300-year-old mulberry tree takes you to the five-tier opera house with a superb acoustic.
- Take your seat for Act I with internationally recognised artists, rousing opera choruses and 60+ players in the orchestra pit.
- The leisurely long interval is all-important. Many say the restaurant within that house of deep history tops all country house offerings. Where else can you walk on the very flagstones trod by a tudor King and Queen?

Alternatively claim your own secret picnic spot within a parterre.

What better way to spend a summer evening?

Many say it is like opera in the old days.

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## **Summer 2024**

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June				
Thu 6	Bryn Double: Aleko / Gianni Schicchi	5:45pm		
Sat 8	Daughter of the Regiment	5:15pm		
Thu 13	Daughter of the Regiment	5:45pm		
Sat 15	Bryn Double: Aleko / Gianni Schicchi	5:15pm		
Sun 16	Katya Kabanova	5:15pm		
Wed 19	Daughter of the Regiment	5:45pm		
Thu 20	Bryn Double: Aleko / Gianni Schicchi	5:45pm		
Sat 22 .	Katya Kabanova	5:15pm		
Sun 23	Bryn Double: Aleko / Gianni Schicchi	5:15pm		
Wed 26	Bryn Double: Aleko / Gianni Schicchi	5:45pm		
Thu 27	Katya Kabanova	5:45pm		
Sat 29	Bryn Double: Aleko / Gianni Schicchi	5:15pm		
Sun 30	Daughter of the Regiment	5:15pm		
July				
Wed 3	Katya Kabanova	5:45pm		
Thu 4	Daughter of the Regiment	5:45pm		
Sat 6	Daughter of the Regiment	5:15pm		
Sun 7	Bryn Double: Aleko / Gianni Schicchi	5:15pm		
Thu II	Island of Dreams	5:45pm		
Fri 12	Katya Kabanova	5:45pm		
Sat 13	Island of Dreams	5:15pm		
Sun 14	Wynne whizzes it up	5:15pm		



#### **RACHMANINOFF & PUCCINI**

## **Bryn Double: blood & bounty**

Thu 6, Sat 15, Thu 20, Sun 23, Wed 26, Sat 29 **JUNE** Sun 7 **JULY** 



### Aleko

#### **VIEW THE CAST**

### Aleko is Rachmaninoff at his most effusive,

in an exquisite score brimming with his trademark soaring melodies.

Sir Bryn Terfel is Pushkin's Romantic hero, a tormented victim of passion with a knife at the ready for any wrong-doing.

He has turned his back on the ordinary world to be with Zemfira who breaks him. The blood-drenched show-down presents a side of Bryn that is rarely – if ever – seen.

Bizet's *Carmen*, written two decades before, was drawn from this same Pushkin verse story.

### Gianni Schicchi

#### **VIEW THE CAST**

In marked contrast, Bryn is Puccini's comic trickster Gianni Schicchi (pronounced Junny Skikki), called in by the wealthy Donatis to solve a family problem.

He refuses – until his daughter sings Puccini's most famous aria *O mio babbino caro*.

This comic masterpiece (Puccini's only comedy and written towards the end of his life) is built on every family's nightmare: the reading of a will that goes disastrously wrong.

If you've never laughed out loud at an opera, try this!

Did you know the word "zany" comes from Gianni (the diminutive of Giovanni)?

Bryn Terfel takes centre-stage in a tragedy / comedy pairing of bloodshed and bounty.







#### DONIZETTI

## **Daughter of the Regiment**

OPERA IN TWO ACTS

Sat 8, Thu 13, Wed 19, Sun 30 JUNE Thu 4, Sat 6 JULY

#### **VIEW THE CAST**

# Donizetti's Daughter of the Regiment is delicious French whimsy, written by an Italian, and sung in English.

A canteen girl brought up by a rollicking regiment of soldiers is expected to marry a soldier but her heart strays elsewhere. Cue: much hilarity and many high notes from both the canteen girl and her lover Tonio – whose aria Ah mes amis! features a terrifying sequence of top C's.

Soprano Julia Sitkovetsky is famed throughout Europe for her high notes. Her signature role, Queen of the Night, has taken her to Hamburgische Staatsoper, Semperoper Dresden, Deutsche Oper am Rhein and Welsh National Opera.

Harriet Thorpe (Ab Fab, EastEnders and much more) makes a celebrity guest appearance in the speaking role of the formidable Duchess of Crakentorp.

## JANÁČEK <u>Katya Kabanova</u>

**OPERA IN THREE ACTS** 

Sun 16 Sat 22, Thu 27 **JUNE** Wed 3, Fri 12 **JULY** 

#### **VIEW THE CAST**

### Katya Kabanova is one of the 20th century's greatest

**operas.** Janáček wrote music of blazing intensity inspired by his own love for a young woman. A second inspiration was Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* which, he says, was the impetus musically and dramatically.

Director David Alden (ROH, the Met, Munich, Vienna) creates the claustrophobic village for acclaimed soprano, Natalya Romaniw, in the title role. Trapped in a loveless marriage, she is driven to despair by the Kabanov clan led by her vile mother-in-law, Kabanicha. This epic character is none other than Susan Bullock.

Janáček's score brims with vocal and orchestral writing of extreme beauty. "Katya", he wrote, "is one of my most tender works".





#### BOLTON

## **Island of Dreams**

Thu II, Sat 13 JULY

#### **VIEW THE CAST**

**Shakespeare's** *Tempest* **has attracted composers across the centuries.** Its most recent reinvention comes from Anthony Bolton, whose *Life & Death of Alexander Litvinenko* thrilled Grange Park Opera audiences in 2021.

We welcome back director Sir David Pountney who adopts an ingenious filmic approach to conjure the magic of Prospero's island and the magic carpet.

Sir Simon Keenlyside stars as Prospero in this world première.



#### FINAL FLING

## Wynne whizzes it up

The Master of Masterchefs is our Final Fling Sun 14 JULY

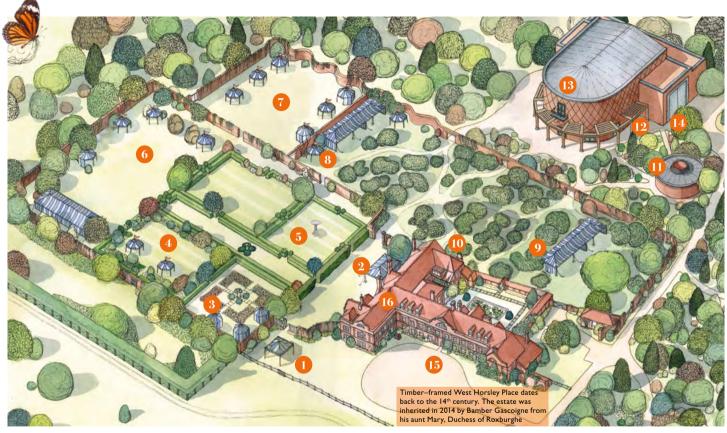
**Winner of Celebrity Masterchef**, Opera Singer, BBC Radio Presenter & Broadcaster, but to most ... the GoCompare man.

Wynne Evens is a trustee at Grange Park Opera and, before the GoCompare days, he appeared in several of our operas.

For this last night of the season – the Final Fling – Wynne is on the whisk rustling up six dishes with interludes from ballet dancers, xylophones, opera, non-opera ... more soon.







- 1 Box Office & Welcome Tent
- 2 White Wisteria bar
- 3 Rose Garden (pre-performance bookings & pavilions)
- 4 Mole Lawn (pavilions 6–7)

- 5 Birdbath Garden
- **6** Croquet Lawn (marquee & pavilions 1–5)
- 7 Crinkle-crankle Garden (pavilions 8-13)
- 8 Orchard (marquee & pavilions 16-17)
- 9 Walnut Tree marquee

- 10 Duchess lavatories
- 11 Lavatorium Rotundum (never queues)
- 12 A little shop (which we call the Kiosk a Turkish word, used by Queen Elizabeth I)
- 13 THE OPERA HOUSE

(which we sometimes call The Theatre in the Woods)

Illustration by Theo Creswell

- 14 Opera house drop-off
- 15 Duchess drop-off
- 16 DUCHESS RESTAURANT

