



GLYNDEBOURNE

FUNDING IMPACT REPORT
2023



Graham Carlow

Helen McCarthy

2023 felt like the comeback we had all hoped for post Covid. We were encouraged that ticket sales for both our Festival and Autumn season exceeded expectations, with audiences as eager as ever to come to Glyndebourne to experience the thrill of live opera.

After more than 50 years of touring to cities across England, a cut to our public funding meant we quickly needed to adapt and take a different approach outside of the Festival season in 2023. We focused on developing partnerships across East and West Sussex and deepening our engagement with participants, visitors and audiences in our region. We successfully launched an extended Autumn season at Glyndebourne with six weeks of opera and concerts alongside wider community outreach and participation. We are excited by the opportunities around our Autumn season and in 2024 we will be increasing the number of performances of mainstage opera at Glyndebourne as well as providing a wider offer through community outreach and engagement projects.

This report presents the impact your funding and support has on the communities we serve, the artists we engage and develop, and the audiences we reach through our work. All of this would not be possible without our wonderful and generous donors, supporters and Members. Once again, thank you for helping Glyndebourne be such an incredible place where world-class opera can be created and enjoyed.

Helen McCarthy
Director of Development

Cover image: Performances for Schools at Glyndebourne
Photo: Sam Stephenson

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Schools

We support children and young people to participate in and explore opera and the arts through activities for schools.

We think it's vital that children and young people of all backgrounds are given the opportunity to discover opera, singing and the performing arts through their lives in and out of school. We also need to support the workforce in our education systems, and provide opportunities for those who live near us but can't necessarily visit us at Glyndebourne.

Working closely with music hubs and teachers the programme is designed to respond to needs in our area, with a strategic approach to supporting singing in state schools across East and West Sussex. We provide unique and inspirational opportunities for students to **Sing with the Glyndebourne Chorus**. In 2023 we did this through two projects: *One Voice Festival of Singing* in partnership with Create Music and the *Singing Schools Network* project in partnership with Create Music and West Sussex Music.

One Voice Festival of Singing

Each year Create Music and Glyndebourne work together to provide a programme of primary school singing development open to all schools in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove. We know that the provision of arts and cultural subjects in schools is diminishing so this project provides support for teachers to develop their skills, provides high profile events for their schools to take part in, and most importantly enables high quality singing experiences for children across East Sussex and Brighton & Hove.

The project launched at Glyndebourne in the summer term when teachers from across the region were invited to meet Aidan Oliver (Chorus Director) and Mariana Rosas (choral expert). They learned the music chosen for the project and took away all the musical resources they needed to develop singing in their classrooms. In September, for the first time, members of the Glyndebourne Chorus visited the schools preparing to sing at Glyndebourne. In December, *One Voice* concerts took place. In Brighton and Bexhill pupils sang with Create Music Ensembles. Over four concerts at Glyndebourne children from 24 primary schools experienced the thrill of performing with the Glyndebourne Chorus and members of the Glyndebourne Sinfonia. By providing this opportunity for the young people taking part to sing with our Chorus and be part of a big vocal sound, we hope that they will remember this experience for the rest of their lives.



Andrew Hasson



One Voice Festival of Singing (Glyndebourne)

'I loved it because we got to sing our hearts out...'

'Amazing Chorus... I feel so happy I came here!'

'I loved every second!'

'...the biggest performance of my life'

'I felt really confident and nervous but with the chorus team wasn't worried'

'... a once in a lifetime experience'

'... I would like to come again / maybe sing as an opera singer one day??'

'Amazing and life changing'

Student feedback

'This project is a fantastic opportunity to reach out to local children and knowing that their schools and families are involved too fills me with hope for the future of opera and culture in general'

'Incredibly rewarding, a privilege to be able to give something back within such a well thought-out and executed framework'

Glyndebourne Chorus feedback

Singing Schools Network

This project is about creating deeper relationships with schools in geographical areas identified with our music hub partners as places that have higher numbers of children facing barriers to participation.

Through the year we developed relationships with schools in the Crawley and Eastbourne areas to perform music from and inspired by Haydn's *The Creation*. 296 students aged 7 to 12 from six schools – Hazelwick School, Three Bridges Primary School, Northgate Primary School, The Turing School, St Catherine's College and Shinewater Primary – worked with composer Howard Moody and singer Jennifer Witton to create their own pieces inspired by Haydn's vivid musical depiction of the seven days of creation. The average ratio of students on Free School Meals across the schools participating in the project was 26.3% (national average 23.8%) while the rate of students whose first language is not English (ESOL) was 29.1% (national average 20.9%).



Sarah Hickson

Singing Schools Network project (Crawley)

Community



Exploring a piece from the inside out, through the themes of the work and enabling students to create their own musical response to the subjects is a powerful way to connect pupils with the issues we are still discussing and debating today. In this case, the origins of our creation, the power and beauty of our dying oceans, the fragility of life on earth – these all featured in the songs written by the young people.

*Here we are,
Keeping magic alive
On this fragile land.*

*Enchanted paradise
Keeping magic alive.*

*If magic falls,
We fall.*

Lyrics by Northgate Primary School

The project culminated in song sharing sessions, where the schools came together at St. John's Church in Eastbourne and Worth Abbey in Crawley to sing their pieces with the Glyndebourne Chorus and Glyndebourne Sinfonia.

'It was fun but terrifying'

'Glyndebourne is so good at singing and making lyrics'

'I loved it. Would do again. Everyone is amazing thank you'

Student feedback



Sarah Hickson

Singing Schools Network project (Crawley)

'I need to say a massive thank you for everything you've done for us this year. Every single minute of this project has been a huge inspiration for our students and you've created an event that they'll never forget. I thought yesterday was absolutely extraordinary and I'm unbelievably proud of our students. It was such a pleasure to have been involved in this project, thank you so much for working with us'

Teacher feedback

Performances for Schools

Two performances for schools took place in the Autumn (*Don Giovanni* and *L'elisir d'amore*). Both performances were sold out and there was a waiting list of 998 seats. This indicates that schools are looking to return to live performances and, importantly, want to come and see opera. In a difficult climate for the arts in schools, this is an indication of the value our local schools place on their annual trip to Glyndebourne. Schools are allocated places based on Free School Meals percentages, involvement in other projects and distance from Glyndebourne. We distributed £5,747 to 16 schools who applied for a travel grant to support their visit, enabling schools to come who wouldn't otherwise be able to afford it.

The legacy of this programme is summed up by Amber Owen, Director of Music at Uckfield College, who went on two school trips to Glyndebourne while a student:

'It was such a great experience to see an opera live. I had never been to see a London show or musical before, so that was my first experience of proper live music with an orchestra.'

Last autumn she brought 12 of her own students to a performance for schools.

'I absolutely love my job and wanted my students to have the same experience that I did. My students loved Don Giovanni and some had told me that it was also their first time watching a proper performance live. I hope the trip can become a yearly event for the school and that we can take some of our younger students next time.'



Sam Stephenson

Performances for Schools at Glyndebourne

Open Doors careers programme

Raising awareness of the vast array of careers available to young people in the arts and specifically at Glyndebourne is essential when we think about recruiting the next generation of people to create, produce and enable performances of opera. Careers information is included across all our programmes, but specifically once a year we team up with East Sussex Careers Hub and their *Open Doors* programme. Over one week in the spring, school groups enjoyed half day visits to Glyndebourne where they were taken on a tour through the gardens, Front of House and backstage, culminating in ‘meet the makers’ sessions where students were able to speak to Glyndebourne staff from across the organisation to learn about their jobs and career pathways.

Once again, we worked with pupils and schools from lower socio-economic backgrounds, based on Pupil Premium and Free School Meal rates. Nearly 200 young people attended, from mainstream, SEND (special educational needs and disabilities) and SEMH (social, emotional and mental health) schools, virtual school for children in care, home educators and Steps for Success (an ESCC group that supports students with low school attendance).



Laura Aziz

Open Doors (Glyndebourne)

‘My favourite part was talking to the staff! They were all very nice and so informative in providing information. They also broadened my knowledge and understanding of the different types of careers’

Student feedback

‘Wonderful. Engaging for young people. Useful for considering careers. Very interesting, well organised, insightful. Thank you. Can’t wait to see the education performance’

Teacher feedback

Education professionals

An annual programme of workshops and talks supports professionals within education to reconnect with their own creativity, and provide inspiration for their use of singing and opera in the classroom. Workshop sessions for teachers are delivered as part of the One Voice and Singing Schools Network projects:

'Brought me out of my shell. I'm going away with a bigger voice than when I started. I now feel that opera is accessible to me and feel like I've been shown how to make a very daunting art form feel like it's for everyone to enjoy and understand.'

Workshop participant feedback

Student teachers from University of Sussex (Music & Drama) and University of Brighton (Visual Arts) attended a workshop in November in addition to attending school matinee performances. Working with composer Howard Moody, director Lucy Bradley and singers Shafali Jalota and Niall Anderson, the students were invited to explore the music of *Don Giovanni* in a workshop designed to give them a taste of using music in the classroom. Participants worked collaboratively exploring concepts such as leadership, vocal projection, composition, plotting, scene setting and sharing.

'As the leader of the PGCE course, it was brilliant to observe the students taking risks and feeling comfortable to be able to do so. They were taken out of their comfort zones and grew in confidence and resilience as a result. It is such a bonding day with the students, as well as everything else they learn and discover about themselves... and I have never heard them laugh as much as they did throughout the day! Fantastic.'

PGCE tutor feedback

We co-hosted a European conference in November 'Potential Unlocked: Inclusive and Holistic Talent Development in the 21st Century' with partners RESEO (the European network for opera music and dance education of which we were a founder member), Create Music (the music hub for Brighton & Hove and Sussex), and South East Dance. Delegates attended Glyndebourne's Talent Showcase Concert as part of a conference package. Glyndebourne partners Pegasus Opera presented a concert as part of the conference programme on Saturday 18 November.



Sarah Hickson

PGCE workshop at Glyndebourne



Sarah Hickson

Pegasus Opera concert (RESEO Conference)

Chamber music recitals

Increasing opportunities for students across Sussex to hear contemporary music, experience the thrill of instrumental performances close-up as well as having the opportunity to find out about life as a musician is an important way in which we support students across Sussex. In November, musicians from the Glyndebourne Sinfonia (including members of the Jerwood Pit Perfect development scheme) performed chamber music recitals. These included new works by our two resident Balancing the Score composers – Lucy Armstrong and Alex Ho.

The groups performed in the University of Sussex lunchtime concert series, and in partnership with East Sussex College and West Sussex Music gave two concerts to A-level music students in Horsham and Lewes. After the performances we held Q&A sessions where the players were asked about everything from life as a freelance musician, to their favourite pieces and technical questions about extended techniques.

'It was great to hear a wide range of ensemble music – and very inspiring!'

West Sussex A-level Music student



Andrew Hasson

Chamber music recital

IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- We reached over **3,000** local schoolchildren in 2023.
- **992** children from **30** schools participated in singing and musical composition sessions with Glyndebourne. This included almost **3,000** contact hours across projects.
- **66%** of *One Voice* participants said the experience was better than they thought it would be and **31%** said it was as good as they thought it would be. **40%** said it was the best singing experience they had ever had.
- **82%** of participants Strongly Agreed or Agreed that they enjoyed the *Singing Schools Network* project. **66%** said the project increased their confidence in singing. **52%** had never sung in public before. **67%** said they'd like to do more projects with Glyndebourne in the future.
- Over **50** teaching professionals attended sessions aimed at supporting development of music and singing in schools.
- **196** students from **15** groups attended *Open Doors* careers week at Glyndebourne.

Community



Sarah Hickson



Sarah Hickson

1. One Voice project session (Portslade)
2. Singing Schools Network project (Eastbourne)
3. One Voice concert (Glyndebourne)
4. Open Doors (Glyndebourne)



Andrew Hasson



Laura Aziz

3.

4.

Children & Adults

We support children and adults to participate in and engage with opera and the arts outside of school.

Glyndebourne Youth Opera

In 2023 we launched a new project for 14-19 year olds across Sussex. We are always working hard to meet young people who might not otherwise engage in performing arts. Over the summer we delivered 34 workshop sessions for children and young people outside school, which took place in Worthing, Eastbourne, Newhaven, Brighton, Lewes, Uckfield and Bexhill-On-sea. We have worked closely with partners such as Culture Shift (Every Sort of People Can), De La Warr Pavilion and the Sussex Community Development Association (SCDA) Newhaven to reach out to communities and to offer opportunities to explore and participate in opera and music for as many young people as possible.

'I would like to say the pianist today was amazing. And the lady who hosted it made me feel at home. Thank you.'

'I really enjoyed it and it was fun singing and meeting new people!'

Workshop participants

In the autumn we set up two hubs in Eastbourne (East Sussex) and Worthing (West Sussex) where groups regularly met throughout the autumn term, with a shared meal during sessions supporting those who may not otherwise attend. Opera makers Freya Wynn-Jones (director) and Darren Abrahams (Human Hive) supported by instrumentalist/songwriter Zanghi Gichohi and artist Annis Joslin have been leading the groups in an exploration of what it's like to be in an opera ensemble and discover how opera and its cumulative art forms can be used to talk about the changes we want to see in the world today. Over fortnightly sessions, participants have been developing their skills in stagecraft and voice work; deepening critical reflection skills by exploring how other practitioners have used the arts to call for change; and are starting to create their own work with like minded young people using opera and its composite parts to ask big questions of the world and people around us. This project continues into 2024 and beyond.

Workshops for 9-13 year olds have also taken place across the year, with participants learning from a diverse group of professionals such as pianist and music educator Krystal Tunnicliffe, vocal tutor Travis Baker, pianist, coach and répétiteur Caroline Jaya-Ratnam, director, singer and animateur Freya Wynn-Jones and conductor, répétiteur and vocal coach Lesley Anne Sammons.



Sarah Hickson

Youth Opera workshop (Worthing)

Community opera

Over the years Glyndebourne has been at the forefront of commissioning and performing some of the very best community operas in the repertoire. Locally, this means we have a very committed group of adults who are used to performing at Glyndebourne. We were therefore delighted to provide the opportunity for them to audition to take part in the fabulous production of *Dialogues des Carmélites* this summer. Their most memorable moment was in the riot scene towards the end of the opera.

The composition of our next community opera *Uprising* (2025) was completed by the end of the year. This new community opera is composed by Jonathan Dove to a libretto by April de Angelis. *Uprising* will premiere at Glyndebourne in 2025 with subsequent concert performances at Saffron Hall (in Saffron Walden). There was a play through of the opera at Glyndebourne in October – an exciting and important milestone for the project. The *Uprising* performing company will be made up of a community chorus of young people aged 14-19 and a group of adults, young musicians, as well as professional musicians, singers and creative staff. We will give young people the opportunity to participate in high-quality opera performance and provide them with a world-class artistic experience they simply would not get elsewhere.

Masterclass events

Experiencing the power of the Glyndebourne Chorus up close is a very special moment. In December Aidan Oliver led over 200 singers (in the stalls in the Glyndebourne auditorium) through choruses from Handel's *Messiah* with members of the Chorus dotted throughout. This immersive experience, and the sound created was extraordinary. From post-event surveys we know that the event increased confidence in singing, inspired participants to want to work on their singing, learn more about opera and gave them a challenge. Participants sing in 62 different choirs – many in Sussex but some as far afield as Birmingham and Hertfordshire.



Andrew Hasson

Messiah Masterclass

Good Company: Music in Care Homes

Building on the wealth of experience that Glyndebourne has in the field of arts and dementia, we rolled out a new programme of dementia-friendly ‘Coffee and Chamber Music’ sessions across care homes in East Sussex.

In September over 130 care home residents across Sussex enjoyed making music with members of the Glyndebourne Sinfonia and Glyndebourne Chorus as part of *Good Company*. As well as playing opera extracts and well-known tunes, the ensemble also worked with the residents to create improvised music, offering them an opportunity to join in and contribute. These events create an opportunity to connect with a section of the community that might not otherwise engage with music and opera.

We worked with St Clare’s and St Rita’s care homes in Ditchling, Lime Tree House and Parris Lawn care homes in Ringmer, Lydfords Care Home in East Hoathly, Holy Care Cross Home in Heathfield and two groups from the Raise Your Voice charity.



Sam Stephenson

Good Company project

‘The joy and enthusiasm Glyndebourne’s talented artists brought to our home created a memorable experience for everyone present and their performance was not only captivating, but also deeply moving for our residents. I look forward to future collaborations!’

Activities Coordinator at Lydfords Care Home

‘The engagement we see in the sessions is truly inspiring’

Lucy Perry, Head of Learning & Engagement

IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- **428** children and young people participated in youth opera workshops across the year. This included three youth opera taster workshops at the Hillcrest Centre in Newhaven where **100%** of participants were new to Glyndebourne.
- **52** young people performed on the main stage at Glyndebourne with professional singers and musicians as part of the Autumn season.
- **204** people from **62** different choirs participated in the *Messiah* Masterclass led by Chorus Director Aidan Oliver.
- **182** people from across Sussex enjoyed sessions with musicians through the Good Company project.

Community



Sarah Hickson



Sarah Hickson

1. Youth opera workshop (Glyndebourne)
2. Youth opera workshop (Worthing)
3. Good Company project
4. *Messiah* Masterclass



Sam Stephenson



Andrew Hasson

1.

2.

3.

4.

On stage & exhibitions

We provide a platform for exciting emerging talent and international artists through our Festival and Autumn seasons.

Debut artists

In the Festival there were many Glyndebourne debuts among creative teams and principal singers including, for example, conductors Dalia Stasevska and Evan Rogister, director Adele Thomas and principals Victoria Randem, Mikhail Timoshenko and Jennifer Johnston. There were also Glyndebourne debuts for a number of other artists in the autumn, such as tenor Nico Darmanin, soprano Kseniia Proshina and contralto Jess Dandy.

The Autumn season provided performance and development opportunities for an array of rising stars. Among the artists involved were soloists such as New Zealand-Tongan tenor Filipe Manu, making his Glyndebourne debut, and Mariam Battistelli, an Italian soprano born in Ethiopia, who performed as Nemorino and Adina respectively in *L'elisir d'amore*. The season also involved exciting young conductors Stephanie Childress (*Don Giovanni*) and Adam Hickox (*L'elisir d'amore*) and assistant conductors Charlotte Corderoy and Ashley Beauchamp.

After his excellent work conducting *L'elisir d'amore*, Adam Hickox was appointed Principal Conductor of the newly named Glyndebourne Sinfonia – following in the line of great conductors given the opportunity to develop on the Tour such as Jane Glover, Ivor Bolton, Robin Ticciati, Jakub Hrůša, Edward Gardner and, most recently, Ben Glassberg.

Our Talent Showcase was a star-studded celebration of our long standing commitment to nurturing young and emerging artists. Opera stars Nicky Spence, Emma Bell, John Tomlinson and Mariam Battistelli, along with the Glyndebourne Sinfonia and Glyndebourne Chorus, performed alongside emerging soloists, young people from Glyndebourne Youth Opera, participants from Glyndebourne Academy and musicians from the Jerwood Pit Perfect scheme. Plus, there was new music from our Balancing the Score composer Lucy Armstrong.



Tristram Kenton

Autumn season production of *L'elisir d'amore*

Cover artists in association with Riverstone

During a full Festival season there will inevitably be multiple occasions where a cover artist will be required to step in to perform. Glyndebourne operates a unique and comprehensive programme.

During a five-week rehearsal period, Glyndebourne's cover artists receive intensive coaching from the same staff directors, music and language coaches who are working with the principals on the Festival production.

This supports these artists to be fully prepared when the call does come. In *Semele*, for example, Stuart Jackson's cover, Hugo Hymas, sang five of the performances including both the filmed shows. Jack Ridley also scored a big success when he stepped in for Robin Ticciati conducting *The Rake's Progress*. There were 52 cover roles in the Festival and 14 during the Autumn season.

Chorus development

The Glyndebourne Chorus provides the much needed transition from opera course at a conservatory to the professional world. There were 61 singers in the Festival Chorus made up of more established choristers and a large number of emerging singers straight out of music college. Five solo roles were performed by choristers in the 2023 season. There were 32 singers in the Glyndebourne Chorus for the Autumn season, which continues to provide an exceptional platform to showcase and develop current and former choristers. In addition to the former choristers that performed principal roles, there were also roles for the current group. Ffion Edwards performed the role of Giannetta in *L'elisir d'amore* and Mark Christian Bautista, Jade Moffat and Inguna Morozova all performed as soloists in the Christmas concert series. There were also six cover roles for Glyndebourne choristers during the autumn.



Richard Hubert Smith

Festival production of *Semele*

Visual arts exhibitions & residencies

We exhibited the work of international artists including works by David Hockney and Lubaina Himid, who we also commissioned to create the 2023 Programme Book cover. Himid's exhibition 'What Does Love Sound Like?' was a major exhibition of site-specific work, marking the artist's first collaboration with an opera house. The exhibition was on site during Festival 2023 and on display in our Old Green Room and gallery space. 'Staged Nature' (Festival 2023) included work by David Hockney and contemporary British and American artists alongside archival material including photographs, ephemera and costumes relevant to the Festival repertoire. In autumn 2023 'Fair Ground' returned with a showcase of work by 24 local artists.

'The art in recent years has been exceptional from top British contemporary artists...'

'Wonderful to see a Turner Prize artist at Glyndebourne.'

'We loved it. The art is always a treat, but this year was the best I can remember.'

Audience and visitor feedback



'What Does Love Sound Like?' exhibition © Lubaina Himid.
Courtesy of the artist and Hollybush Gardens, London.

In collaboration with the Learning & Engagement team, our Art & Collections department supported the Teaching Artist Residency programme, working with three PGCE students from the University of Brighton to create work in response to the Festival season. The programme concluded with an exhibition in the Archive Gallery throughout autumn 2023. Work by one of the artists - Tessa Moldan - was featured on the front cover of the autumn programme book and her work was also included in Fair Ground where her work was sold on the opening night.

IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- Over **850** artists, musicians and technical staff were involved in Glyndebourne's productions across the year. This included over **160** people across our technical departments such as costumes, props, stage management and lighting.
- Over **300** musicians, from the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and the Glyndebourne Sinfonia, played at Glyndebourne in 2023.
- **79** principal and **66** cover singers involved across the Festival and Autumn season.
- There were **32** Glyndebourne debuts among lead creative artists and principal singers across the year.
- We exhibited the work of **38** artists in total across the year. 'Fair Ground' – our annual Sussex exhibition - returned with a showcase of work by **24** artists from recent graduates to those more established.

Talent development

We provide a range of talent development programmes for emerging singers, composers and musicians.

Supporting the next generation of singers, composers and instrumentalists is important, not just for Glyndebourne but for the future of the art form. Many of today's household names credit the training and performance opportunities they had with Glyndebourne as key to their future success.

Laura Aziz



2023 Jerwood Young Artists

Jerwood Young Artists

Our development programme for aspiring soloists from the Glyndebourne Chorus involved three talented young singers in 2023 – Annabel Kennedy, Michael Ronan and Jamie Woollard. The programme supports singers through coaching, masterclasses and performance opportunities.

Annabel Kennedy (mezzo soprano) is a very accomplished recitalist as was amply demonstrated in the Jerwood Young Artist concert at the Brighton Festival. She covered the role of Hermia for our production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Annabel will join the Young Artist Programme at the Deutsche Oper am Rhein, Düsseldorf in September.

Michael Ronan (bass-baritone) covered Masetto in *Don Giovanni* and Nick Shadow in *The Rake's Progress*. He also performed the roles of Second Commissioner in *Dialogues des Carmélites* and Keeper of the Madhouse in *The Rake's Progress*. He was also with us for the Autumn season, performing the role of Masetto in *Don Giovanni*.

Jamie Woollard (bass) performed the small role of Thierry in *Dialogues des Carmélites* and demonstrated natural comedic gifts when covering Snug in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He has started a two year programme as a Jette Parker Young Artist at the Royal Opera House where he will gain much experience in a variety of small roles on the stage.

Glyndebourne Youth Opera – on stage

2023 was a busy year for Glyndebourne Youth Opera. The youngest members were invited to audition for a role in *Semele* resulting in two children being selected to perform. 52 young people performed across 6 performances during the autumn. This included the Glyndebourne Talent showcase on our main stage in November where they performed alongside our chorus and orchestra as well as other international opera stars. In the Talent Showcase the youth chorus performed songs from Benjamin Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Friday Afternoons, Today we travel* (Lullaby) from *Belongings* (2017), a Glyndebourne youth opera production composed by Lewis Murphy to a libretto by Laura Attridge, as well as other pieces alongside the Glyndebourne Chorus. Youth opera participants also had the opportunity to perform alongside the Glyndebourne Chorus on our main stage across four sold-out Christmas concerts in December and were invited to perform at a Friends of Sussex Hospices charity Christmas concert alongside Felicity Lott on 25 November.

Pegasus Mentoring scheme

We partnered with Pegasus Opera for a second year, presenting a mentoring scheme that offers aspiring and emerging artists of African and Asian heritage a bespoke programme of coaching and mentoring opportunities. Jasmine Flicker, Moloko Letsoalo, Carlos Felipe Cerchiaro and Masimba Ushé were selected to take part.

Moloko Letsoalo, South African soprano, obtained her Bachelor of Music from the University of Cape Town in 2019 and she later completed a Master of Performance degree specialising in opera at the Royal College of Music in London on scholarship. Bass **Masimba Ushé** holds a Masters' degree in Vocal Studies from the Royal Academy of Music, Colombian-Italian baritone **Carlos Felipe** was a Master's student at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and **Jasmine Flicker**, born in London, is a British classical singer and violinist who completed her undergraduate studies at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance.

The four Pegasus participants were given opportunities to observe rehearsals and shadow established artists at the 2023 Glyndebourne Festival, as well as receive opportunities to perform for key artistic staff and receive feedback to aid their development. Avishka Edirisinghe, who began his career with Pegasus, joined Glyndebourne as Assistant Chorus Director for the Festival.



Sarah Hickson

Pegasus Opera concert (RESEO conference)

Glyndebourne Academy

As access to music education, and specialist training is reducing, we are determined to continue supporting young singers who may have faced economic, social, geographical and other barriers that prevent them from progressing their ambition to pursue a career in opera.

We launched Academy (ages 16-26) in 2012 and in 2023 we completed a pilot programme aimed at young people aged 14-19 across the country. 77 young people applied. 25 took part in the initial training sessions online and in London. 10 were selected to take part in a 3-day summer residential in Bexhill which included a trip to Glyndebourne to have a tour, and experience wigs, hair, make-up and costumes close up.

'Participating in the Glyndebourne Youth Academy has been a fantastic experience. I have developed so much from the programme, especially from the Italian coaching and movement work. My confidence has increased substantially since participating and the process was so rewarding'

Academy participant, 2023

Glyndebourne Academy (16-26) ran from July until October and involved intensive training, mentorship and guidance on future development and career pathways from our top talent consultants and creative teams. 64 young people applied and 9 were selected for the programme at Glyndebourne. In addition, 10 Academy alumni performed with international opera stars and rising stars as part of the Glyndebourne Talent Showcase on our mainstage in November.

'Thank you again for such a wonderful experience with you this weekend, and for the whole Academy process. From start to finish it has been enjoyable, engaging and incredibly informative. I have learnt a huge amount and will be putting my learnings into practice for a long time to come, and only wrapping my head around bits of it for even longer. Please, if there is ever an opportunity to be involved again in the future, or to give back, let me know; I would love to be involved. Otherwise, I will definitely stay in touch'

Academy participant, 2023

Sarah Hickson



Josh, who was one of the Academy participants in 2023, has a rare condition called Oculocutaneous Albinism. He is registered blind, and is extremely sensitive to light. As a result of this, he often has to approach common tasks, musical or otherwise, a little differently, including heavy reliance on technology especially when it comes to reading sheet music. Josh said the following about his time on the Academy programme:

'The week spent with the Academy was absolutely phenomenal – one of the best weeks of my life... Every single one of the participants and members of the staff was kind, friendly, incredibly talented and supportive of what we were all trying to achieve. This created a safe, friendly environment where questions could be asked without fear of ridicule, and where curiosity and ambition were both encouraged... It was very clear when and where we were meant to be for each session, and administrative staff were always available to take you to the next session. This meant that, unusually for me, I rarely got lost, leading to a very comfortable time...'

'...and of course, the training (physical, vocal, linguistic and musical) were all amazing. I feel that I have progressed a lot during this short week, abolishing many bad habits and introducing new positive habits. The staff were all aware of my vision, and adapted their teaching accordingly without me ever needing to prompt for assistance in this regard. The term 'inclusive' is often thrown around, but this is the only organisation that I have been a part of that actually truly embodies the word!... I haven't always been the most confident person, and have recently been struggling with self-belief. After this week, that is no longer an issue. I feel able to be myself, commit to what I believe in, and ultimately ready to take the next step on my musical journey...'

Balancing the Score

Glyndebourne has always been committed to supporting composers and the development of new opera. Early in the year we selected two composers as part of our Balancing the Score scheme, a career development programme that aims to nurture composers from backgrounds currently underrepresented in the world of operatic composition. **Alex Ho** and **Lucy Armstrong** were selected and started their three-year residency. Alex Ho is a British-Chinese composer based in London and Lucy Armstrong studied at the Royal Northern College of Music and at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Lucy and Alex wrote fanfares for the opening night of Festival 2023 and created new work performed as part of our Chamber Music recitals in the autumn. Lucy's new piece was also performed on the main stage as part of the Glyndebourne Talent Showcase.

Alongside these opportunities, the composers are able to attend rehearsals and performances in the Festival and Autumn season. The residency provides a range of development resources to the composers, who are mentored by Glyndebourne's Artistic Director Stephen Langridge. The composers also receive an annual bursary and the opportunity to access a Research & Development fund to support the creation of new work.



Richard Hubert Smith

Lucy Armstrong on stage with Artistic Director, Stephen Langridge, during the Talent Showcase

Jerwood Pit Perfect

An exciting and diverse group were selected to take part in our Jerwood Pit Perfect orchestra development scheme: Ukrainian violinist **Yuliya Ostapchuk**, **Eriol Guo Yu** (violin) who is a former member of Asian Youth Orchestra and NYO-China, **Theo Bentley Curtin** (cello) who grew up in Totnes in rural south Devon, **Lee Yat Hei** (bass) completed his undergraduate study at Hong Kong Baptist University, **Yijia Cui** double bassist based in London, Hong Kong-born bassoonist **Hazalen Tang** and **Nick Cowling** (timpani) who grew up in Cambridgeshire.

The Jerwood Pit Perfect scheme is our unique programme where young recently-graduated professional instrumentalists join the Glyndebourne Sinfonia, gaining their first professional operatic experience. The scheme, which has now run for six years, has nurtured the talents of more than 50 graduates, by providing a pipeline of new talent for the orchestra. The 2023 players performed as part of the Glyndebourne Talent Showcase as well as in other mainstage opera and concert performances throughout the Autumn season. A further 9 former Pit Perfect players also performed in the Talent Showcase, which meant 50% of the orchestra was made up of current and former Pit Perfect players.

'I'm feeling very equal and welcomed, I think Glyndebourne is not only an amazing opera company that focuses on what's going on [on] the stage and at the concert hall, but also really cares and [is] doing a lot for the future of opera as well, for the sustainable development of opera'

Jerwood Pit Perfect instrumentalist, 2023

IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- **101** young singers, composers and musicians participated in our talent development programmes in 2023.
- **7** former Jerwood Young Artists performed solo roles in the 2023 Festival and **5** performed as soloists in the autumn.
- **48** young instrumentalists have now completed the Jerwood Pit Perfect scheme since it was launched in 2018. **100%** of players involved in the 2023 Pit Perfect scheme said they would recommend it to friends and colleagues.
- **12** young artists from the National Opera Studio were involved in a workshop day at Glyndebourne working on our main stage with Glyndebourne's Artistic Director Stephen Langridge.

Sam Stephenson



Pit Perfect players 2023. Left to right: Hazalen Tang (bassoon), Guo Yu (violin), Theo Bentley Curtin (cello), Yijia Cui (bass), Nick Cowling (timpani), Yuliya Ostapchuk (violin) and Yat Hei Lee (bass)

Festival season

Each summer, from May to August, we stage the Glyndebourne Festival – our flagship season of world-class opera where audiences enjoy the thrill of live performances in our state-of-the-art indoor auditorium.

Festival 2023 finished with our highest paid attendance figures since 2017 and the lowest number of unsold seats since 2016. Two performances were added during the season. This was due to the exceptional demand with a welcome return to pre-pandemic attendance levels.

The 2023 Festival season included 75 performances of six productions from May until the end of August. The season included director Mariame Clément's new production of Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, Donizetti's romantic comedy *L'elisir d'amore*, a Glyndebourne premiere for Poulenc's revolutionary modern masterpiece *Dialogues des Carmélites*, a return for Peter Hall's classic magical production of Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the Festival's first-ever staging of Handel's *Semele* and the return of Glyndebourne's 1975 production of *The Rake's Progress*.

'I have experienced many powerful nights at the opera, but I can't remember any leaving me as emotionally wrenched as what Barrie Kosky achieves with this Glyndebourne staging of Poulenc's 1957 masterpiece. With superb singing and orchestral playing evident throughout, you should beg, buy or perhaps (for this story of religious martyrdom) pray for a ticket'

Dialogues des Carmélites review in The Times



Richard Hubert Smith

Dialogues des Carmélites

Autumn season

In autumn, Glyndebourne comes to life once more, with opportunities for audiences of all ages to engage with live opera, concerts, recitals and family days.

There were many ways to join in and be part of the Glyndebourne Autumn season in 2023, from experiencing live opera or concerts featuring emerging soloists, our renowned Chorus and the Glyndebourne Sinfonia to participation projects in our local communities. Glyndebourne's Autumn season provided artists and audiences, as well as local communities from across Sussex, with many memorable moments.

We staged two operas directed by two of the foremost women directing opera today, Mariame Clément and Annabel Arden. The autumn programme included six weeks of main stage performances in November and December of Mozart's *Don Giovanni* and Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore* (each of which had a special matinee performance for schools). The Autumn season also included concert performances of Haydn's *The Creation* and Handel's *Messiah*, and the return of the annual Glyndebourne Christmas Concert, including one family-friendly chilled performance. Plus we held a one-off Talent Showcase concert performance involving leading international singers who launched their careers at Glyndebourne alongside other soloists and stars of the future from our talent development programmes.

Resound programme

We delivered a host of activities that took place alongside our main stage autumn productions as part of the 'Resound' programme. Resound runs from September to December and involves bringing together Glyndebourne artists with communities across Sussex to support children and adults to experience and participate in opera and music. It includes participation projects such as opportunities for schoolchildren to Sing with the Glyndebourne Chorus as well as audience outreach, all featuring Glyndebourne artists, with activities on our world-renowned stage and in community settings.

Activity within the Resound programme provides opportunities to engage new audiences. From September to December over 8,500 participants, visitors and audiences engaged in additional activities taking place at Glyndebourne or in community settings. This included, for example, nearly 2,500 parents and families watching children Sing with the Glyndebourne Chorus in concert events.



Sarah Hickson

Singing Schools Network project (Crawley)



Sarah Hickson

Singing Schools Network project (Eastbourne)

Family Open Days

We were delighted to welcome so many visitors to our family open days in September. The events offered people of all ages the chance to discover the creative community within our opera house and to take part in a variety of hands-on activities. Inspired by the work of Glyndebourne Festival 2023 visual artist, Turner Prize-winning Lubaina Himid, the weekend explored the sights, sounds, tastes and smells of opera and were suitable for all the family to enjoy.

Laura Aziz



Family Open Day at Glyndebourne

'This was the highlight trip of our summer holiday. It was astonishing value and everything was beautifully thought out and of very high quality.'

'This is one of the best days out we have had as a family. We will definitely be back.'

'An enchanting and joyous day! We felt privileged to have the opportunity to discover opera in a glorious setting with the most welcoming artists and passionate staff.'

'It was perfect. Our daughter has autism and wore her headphones when she needed to... and the outdoor space was perfect. We all really loved it.'

Visitor feedback

From September to December, taking into account all performances and participation events, over 32,000 people engaged in the artistic programme at Glyndebourne, in community settings and other venues in the South East.

IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- Over **125,000** attended live performances and events at Glyndebourne in 2023.
- The total attendance during the 2023 Festival was **93,145** across 75 performances of six productions.
- The total attendance for performances and events during the Autumn season was over **32,000**.
- We reached over **5,000** children through performances and events during the autumn. **2,274** tickets were sold for our two dedicated performances for schools. **95%** of tickets were allocated to state schools. Visiting groups included 6 special educational needs (SEN) schools, home educator groups and a virtual school for children in care.
- **1,983** visitors across our two Family Open days. **71%** of ticket bookers for the Family open days were new to the Glyndebourne database.
- Our Under 30s scheme saw 1,759 new registrants, bringing our signed-up pool to 8,833 (registration is free). We sold **1,697** Festival tickets to Under 30s at heavily subsidised rates.

Audience



Richard Hubert Smith



1.

Sam Stephenson



2.

Sam Stephenson



3.

Tristram Kenton



4.

1. *Don Giovanni* (Autumn season)
2. Performances for Schools at Glyndebourne
3. Performances for Schools at Glyndebourne
4. *L'elisir d'amore* (Autumn season)

Looking ahead



For Festival 2024 we stage new productions of Bizet's *Carmen* and Franz Lehár's *The Merry Widow*, alongside revivals of Handel's *Giulio Cesare*, Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* and Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde*. Our new production of *Carmen* will be directed by Diane Paulus in her Glyndebourne debut. The first performance run sees mezzo-soprano Rihab Chaieb in the role of Carmen and tenor Dmytro Popov as Don José. In August, those roles will be performed by Aigul Akhmetshina and Evan LeRoy Johnson. It will be the first Glyndebourne staging of Franz Lehár's operetta *The Merry Widow*. The new English-language version by Stephen Plaice and Marcia Bellamy will be directed by Cal McCrystal and conducted by John Wilson with a cast including Danielle de Niese, Germán Olvera and Thomas Allen.

We will be announcing the Autumn season shortly. Thank you to everyone who came to our autumn 2023 performances. We are delighted to be increasing the number of performances of main stage opera in autumn 2024 as well as providing a wider offer through community outreach and engagement projects.

Autumn 2024 will see an increase in our Chamber Music recital programme with four public performances in venues across Sussex, four in educational settings and two performances at Glyndebourne. We are working with Applause Rural Touring to identify and engage venue organisations across Sussex to support us to reach wider audiences through the recital programme. During the Autumn season we will also expand our Good Company project, visiting up to 20 care homes across the county. We will also commission a composer to write a small-scale piece to be performed as part of this project. Building on the success of our *Messiah* Masterclass with Chorus Director Aidan Oliver in 2023, we will deliver two Masterclass events in 2024.

We will continue to work with primary and secondary schools across Brighton & Hove, Crawley, Eastbourne and other parts of East Sussex through a programme of singing in state schools which culminates in the thrill of performing alongside the Glyndebourne Chorus and Glyndebourne Sinfonia in special events. With the demand among schools for tickets to opera at Glyndebourne, we are also looking to expand the number of dedicated performances for schools we deliver in autumn 2024 and 2025.



Richard Hubert Smith

Talent Showcase at Glyndebourne

Thank you



With thanks to the generous individuals, Trusts & Foundations and organisations that have shown support to Glyndebourne and who help ensure we can continue to be a special place where world-class opera is created and enjoyed.



Laura Aziz

Family Open Day at Glyndebourne

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