



ROYAL
OPERA

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JETTE PARKER YOUNG ARTISTS 2016

The Royal Opera House is delighted to announce the three music staff who will join the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme in September, selected from 68 applicants from 20 countries.

British conductor/répétiteur **James Hendry**

British associate répétiteur **Nick Fletcher**

British ballet conductor **Matthew Scott Rogers**

The audition process for the selection of the Jette Parker Young Artists music staff began in October 2015. Fourteen opera conductors and/or répétiteurs were selected for the first of two rounds, with five progressing to the second round. The panel consisted of **Antonio Pappano**, Music Director of The Royal Opera, **David Gowland**, Artistic Director of the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme, **David Syrus**, Head of Music for The Royal Opera, **Mark Packwood**, senior music staff member for The Royal Opera and **Siri Fischer Hansen**, Administrator of the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme. Seven ballet conductors and pianists were auditioned for The Royal Ballet, with a panel consisting of **Koen Kessels**, Music Director of The Royal Ballet, **Robert Clark**, Head of Music for The Royal Ballet and **David Gowland**.

The new music staff replace conductor/répétiteur **Jonathan Santagada** and ballet pianist **Colin J. Scott**, who leave the Programme in July 2016 at the end of their two-year contract. Both have already been invited back to work for The Royal Opera and The Royal Ballet respectively in the 2016/17 Season.

The new music staff will be joined in September by five singers new to the Programme (their names were announced earlier in January: American soprano **Francesca Chiejina**, British mezzo-soprano **Angela Simkin**, New Zealand tenor **Thomas Atkins**, Hungarian baritone **Gyula Nagy** and South African bass **Simon Shibambu** <http://www.roh.org.uk/news/five-singers-to-join-jette->

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LOTTERY FUNDED

[parker-young-artist-programme-in-september-2016](#)). Six current Young Artists continue on the Programme into their second year in the 2016/17 Season: Russian soprano **Vlada Borovko** and Irish soprano **Jennifer Davis**, Australian mezzo-soprano **Emily Edmonds**, Korean tenor **David Junghoon Kim**, British bass **David Shipley** and British stage director **Richard Gerard Jones**.

Full biographical information for the new music staff of the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme is below, and high resolution headshots are attached.

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE JETTE PARKER YOUNG ARTISTS PROGRAMME

The Jette Parker Young Artists Programme supports the artistic development of young professional singers, conductors, directors and répétiteurs. The Young Artists are an international group of outstanding professionals at the start of their careers who have undertaken formal training and have already worked with professional companies. They are not students, but contracted, salaried employees of the Royal Opera House, who work here full time over two years.

There is no age limit for those on the Programme, but when choosing the Young Artists the audition panel takes into consideration the stage individuals have reached in their careers and where they will be in terms of career development and age after working for two years on the Programme.

The Young Artists work on productions for The Royal Opera, singing small roles, covering larger roles or (for directors, répétiteurs and conductors) joining the music or directing staff. They also receive coaching in all opera disciplines. They work with Royal Opera music staff, a wide range of freelance music and language coaches and visiting singers, directors and conductors. Every facility of the Company is made available to them so that their talents are nurtured through total immersion in the life of the Royal Opera House. The Young Artist Ballet Pianist/Conductor plays for Royal Ballet rehearsals, and assists the conductor for selected Royal Ballet productions. For further information, visit www.roh.org.uk/about/jette-parker-young-artists-programme

BIOGRAPHIES

James Hendry: Conductor/Répétiteur

British conductor/répétiteur James Hendry received a First Class Honours degree from the Royal Northern College of Music, where he studied piano under Helen Krizos. He continued his studies at Master's Degree level as a Répétiteur in the Vocal Studies department at the RNCM, under Kevin Thraves. Originally from Kingston upon Hull, he was one of the first students to be

accepted onto the Yorkshire Young Musicians (YYM) programme, where he studied the piano with concert pianist Robert Markham and received expert tuition in chamber music, accompaniment, musicianship and composition. Outside of his studies in Manchester, he has been a member of the Hallé choral team, working as Assistant Director of the Hallé Youth Choir. He also helped to prepare the choruses for the Hallé's recent BBC Proms concert of Vaughan Williams *Sancta Civitas*. He is also Vocal Coach and Accompanist for the Hallé Choir Academy. He is Associate Musical Director of the National Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company, for which he has conducted an 11-week UK tour of *The Mikado*, *HMS Pinafore* and *The Gondoliers*. As a répétiteur, he has worked on numerous opera projects including *Così fan tutte*, *L'elisir d'amore*, Menotti's *The Old Maid and the Thief* and *The Turn of the Screw*. He has also worked as répétiteur on a new recording of Balfe's *Satanella* (conducted by Richard Bonyngé) for Victorian Opera Northwest, released by Naxos.

Matthew Scott Rogers: Ballet Conductor

British conductor Matthew Scott Rogers studied conducting with Neeme and Paavo Järvi, Bernard Haitink and Christopher Seaman. He is a graduate of Jorma Panula's class at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, and of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and the University of Glasgow. He is currently the Doctoral conducting student at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, supported by a Guildhall School Scholarship and the Radford Trust. Conducting engagements include performances with New York City Ballet Orchestra at the David H. Koch Theatre, New York, appearances with Melbourne Symphony Orchestra as a member of the prestigious Symphony Services International Conductor Development Program, *La traviata* and *Lucia di Lammermoor* with Winslow Hall Opera, *Così fan tutte* at the Dubrovnik Summer Festival, the European premiere of Charles Coleman's Violin Concerto at the Pärnu Music Festival, a tour to Bucharest with BBC Concert Orchestra and concerts in Estonia with the VU-Orkest Amsterdam and Estonian National Youth Orchestra. He has prepared orchestras for conductors such as Ilan Volkov, Stéphane Denève, and Donald Runnicles, and worked with Yannick Nézet-Séguin and the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, and with John Eliot Gardiner. Next season, he becomes Artistic Director of the South West Chamber Orchestra and Principal Conductor of the Newham Philharmonic Orchestra. He will tour Japan with The Royal Ballet this summer before joining the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme in September 2016.

Nick Fletcher: Associate Répétiteur

British répétiteur and conductor Nick Fletcher studied at the University of Edinburgh and the Royal Academy of Music and was a trainee répétiteur at the National Opera Studio. Since then, he has worked for Welsh National Opera and Scottish Opera, for which company he was Musical Director for a tour of *Così fan tutte*, and will work as répétiteur for *L'elisir d'amore*. He is currently a trainee répétiteur at English National Opera, working this season with conductors Mark Wigglesworth and Richard Armstrong on productions of *Die Zauberflöte*, *Madame Butterfly* and *Jenůfa*. He has a long association with Fulham Opera, for which company he has played piano reductions of *Das Rheingold* and *Götterdämmerung* in performance and conducted *Gianni Schicci*. He has also conducted *La bohème* for Opera 24 at the Grimeborn Festival and performed at the Aldeburgh and Tête-à-Tête festivals with Silent Opera.

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