



ROYAL
OPERA

2 JUNE 2017

CAST AMENDMENT

OTELLO (Giuseppe Verdi)

21, 24 and 28 June; 2, 6, 10 July 2017

It is with deep regret that French baritone **Ludovic Tézier** will no longer be making his role debut as Iago in *Otello* on 21, 24 and 28 June, and on 2, 6 and 10 July.

Ludovic Tézier said: ‘Due to health reasons, I was unfortunately unable to attend the first week of rehearsals for The Royal Opera’s new production of *Otello*. When it became apparent that I would be further delayed by two days for a doctor’s appointment, The Royal Opera made the difficult decision to re-cast the pivotal role of Iago. Obviously I am hugely disappointed not to be making my role debut in this new production of *Otello* but I look forward to returning to The Royal Opera next season to sing King Ferdinand in *L’Ange de Nisida*’.

Oliver Mears, Director of Opera added ‘This has obviously been a very difficult decision to make, and we are disappointed that Ludovic will now not be able to make his role debut as Iago with The Royal Opera this Season. *Otello* is a major new production for us. The relationship between Otello and Iago is central to the opera, and it is essential to work through in rehearsals the complex interaction between these two characters. We look forward to Ludovic’s return in the 2017/18 Season, and we are very grateful that Italian baritone **Marco Vratogna** will sing the role of Iago on 21, 24, 28 June and 2, 6 and 10 July.’

Serbian baritone **Željko Lučić** remains scheduled to sing the role of Iago on 8, 12 and 15 July.

Marco Vratogna has previously sung Iago for Zürich Opera, Gran Teatre del Liceu, Barcelona, and the Metropolitan Opera, New York, among other companies. He made his Royal Opera debut in 2008 as Paolo Albiani (*Simon Boccanegra*) and has since sung Amonasro (*Aida*) and Scarpia (*Tosca*) for The Royal Opera. He returns to The Royal Opera to sing Scarpia during the 2017/18 Season.

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The rest of the *Otello* cast remains unchanged, with cast members including German tenor **Jonas Kaufmann** and American tenor **Gregory Kunde** sharing the role of Otello, Italian soprano **Maria Agresta** and German soprano **Dorothea Röschmann** sharing the role of Desdemona, Serbian baritone **Željko Lučić** sharing the role of Iago with Vratogna, Canadian tenor **Frédéric Antoun** as Cassio, Estonian mezzo-soprano **Kai Rüütel** as Emilia, Korean bass **In Sung Sim** as Lodovico and South African bass **Simon Shibambu** as Montano. **Antonio Pappano** conducts all performances.

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