



ROYAL
BALLET

MAY 2018

PRESS RELEASE

**THE ROYAL BALLET AND BIRMINGHAM ROYAL
BALLET ANNOUNCE NEW CONDUCTING
FELLOWSHIP**

The Royal Ballet and Birmingham Royal Ballet announce a new conducting fellowship for aspiring conductors of ballet. *The Constant Lambert Fellowship* is a two year programme working across both companies and is named after composer and conductor **Constant Lambert**, Founding Music Director of The Royal Ballet. The Fellowship will be the first of its kind in the UK.

The Constant Lambert Fellowship will provide a tailor-made programme for conducting for ballet. The Fellowship will include cover conducting for specific Royal Ballet productions at the Royal Opera House and on tour with Birmingham Royal Ballet. The position also includes opportunities to gain experience conducting rehearsals, education projects, workshops and touring events. The successful candidate will be chosen from an audition process and will be primarily mentored by **Koen Kessels**, Music Director of The Royal Ballet and Birmingham Royal Ballet.

Auditions will take place in London in June 2018 and the role will commence from September 2018.

Music Director Koen Kessels said, “It is a great moment in the musical history of the Royal Ballet companies to undertake this joint initiative in establishing the next generation of conductors for ballet. We are presenting an opportunity for the Lambert Fellow to immerse themselves in the musical heritage of both companies and to learn from our world-class musicians in London and Birmingham. I am delighted that I will be assisted in the mentoring process by two long-standing colleagues and friends, Mr Barry Wordsworth (Principal Guest Conductor, The Royal Ballet) and Mr Paul Murphy (Principal Conductor, Birmingham Royal Ballet).”

Interested applicants should visit recruitment.roh.org.uk for further details and the online application form. Closing date for applications is Friday 18 May 2018.

-Ends-

NOTES TO EDITORS

Constant Lambert

English composer and conductor Constant Lambert (1905–51) was Founder Music Director of The Royal Ballet, and with Ninette de Valois and Frederick Ashton one of the key figures in guiding the initial artistic direction of the Company. He conducted both the first ballet (*The Sleeping Beauty*) and the first opera (*The Fairy Queen*, in his arrangement) that reopened the Royal Opera House in 1946.

Koen Kessels

Koen Kessels is Music Director of The Royal Ballet. He made his Royal Ballet debut in 2008 conducting *The Nutcracker* and was appointed Music Director in 2015. Kessels repertory includes *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Giselle* and *Symphony in C* and the world premieres of *Raven Girl*, *Untouchable*, *Wolf Works*, *Frankenstein* and *Multiverse*.

Kessels studied at the Royal Flemish Conservatory of Music. He was appointed Music Director of Birmingham Royal Ballet in 2010. He is a regular guest conductor for Opéra National de Paris, and has conducted for a number of companies including New York City Ballet, the Théâtre du Capitole, Dutch National Ballet, Vienna State Opera, Teatro

dell' Opera di Roma, Teatro Real, Madrid, the New National Theatre, Tokyo and the Bayerisches Staatsballett, Munich.

Kessels is an honorary professor of Birmingham University, Artistic Director of Inspiratum and is a Professor and President of the Artistic Staff at the Royal Conservatory of Antwerp.

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