



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

21 October 2020

Press Release

#OurHouseToYourHouse

The Royal Opera House opens its doors for a series of Ballet and Opera live performances this autumn

The Royal Ballet: Live

Ariodante in Concert

Falstaff in Concert

Royal Ballet Class on Stage

The Nutcracker

Meet the Young Artists Week

The Royal Opera Christmas Concert

Twelve Days of Christmas

The **Royal Opera House** is excited to open its doors to audiences for a wealth of festive, socially-distanced events, live performances and much-loved repertory favourites from both **The Royal Ballet** and **The Royal Opera** in the run up to Christmas.

Following the celebrated ***The Royal Ballet: Back on Stage*** live-streamed performance on 9 October, The Royal Ballet returns for its first public performances with ***The Royal Ballet: Live***, two special 75-minute programmes that will run without an interval, celebrating cherished works and modern classics from the Company repertory. Dancers drawn from across the Company will perform a selection of excerpts from traditional and contemporary classics, and each evening will close with a celebrated one-act ballet. ***The Royal Ballet: Live***

– *Elite Syncopations*, 4–7 November ends with **Kenneth MacMillan**’s showstopping *Elite Syncopations*. *The Royal Ballet: Live – Within the Golden Hour*, 10–14 November ends with **Christopher Wheeldon**’s ballet of shimmering beauty, *Within the Golden Hour*.

As The Royal Ballet returns to rehearsal and daily class, we invite the public to join us in the stunning auditorium of the Royal Opera House to watch the Company take **Class on Stage**. This unique insight on **13 November** at **10.30am** reveals the daily preparation of a dancer's day as they prepare their bodies and minds for a day of rehearsal.

Christmas favourite *The Nutcracker* makes a welcome return from **7 December–2 January** in a reworked, COVID-safe version for The Royal Ballet. This restaging of **Peter Wright**’s celebrated two-act production features students of The Royal Ballet School alongside the full Company. Many of the much-loved elements of this cherished classic remain, from the magical growing Christmas tree, to the enchanting dance of the snowflakes and spectacular pas de deux with the Sugar Plum Fairy and her prince in the Kingdom of Sweets. There will be a new battle scene between the Nutcracker and the Mouse King and their armies, choreographed by **Will Tuckett**. This festive treat for the whole family has a special place in the hearts of ballet fans around the world, a production that has captivated children and adults alike since its first performance by The Royal Ballet in 1984. Combined with **Tchaikovsky**'s sumptuous score performed live by the Orchestra of The Royal Opera House and charming designs by **Julia Trevelyan Oman**, this is a magical ballet for the whole family.

We are delighted to continue our free #OurHouseToYourHouse broadcasts with a new **Friday Premiere** of Canadian choreographer **Crystal Pite**’s Olivier award-winning *Flight Pattern* (2019), which will be broadcast for free, wherever you are in the world, on **6 November** via the Royal Opera House’s YouTube channel. Her first work for The Royal Ballet, *Flight Pattern* was critically-acclaimed at its premiere and won best new dance production in 2018.

Kevin O’Hare, Director of The Royal Ballet, said: “It has meant so much to The Royal Ballet to be back on stage and we are delighted that we can now share the experience with audiences coming back into the Royal Opera House. Our art forms thrive with this connection between performer and audience. The prospect of another showcase for the brilliance of our dancers plus a festive *Nutcracker* in time for Christmas is sure to lift the spirits!”

In the run-up to the festive season, the Royal Opera House will open the doors to its historic Covent Garden home as part of its **Twelve Days of Christmas** promenades. The promenade through the world-famous London theatre will include activities for the whole family, seated performances in the beautiful Crush Room and Paul Hamlyn Hall, as well as opportunities to encounter some orchestral and choral festive highlights from artists of the **Orchestra of the Royal Opera House** and the **Royal Opera House Chorus**. More information will be announced in the coming weeks.

Alex Beard, Chief Executive of the Royal Opera House, said: "We are delighted to present this exciting programme in the run up to Christmas. It is vital for theatres across the UK and for our community of diverse artists, that we begin to bring our art forms safely back to our

stages. This programme of new work, events, live broadcasts and festive favourites is underpinned by our efforts to reach new and existing audiences online, showcasing the very best of our art forms in new and unexpected ways."

This October the Royal Opera House welcomes the return of **Meet the Young Artists Week** – a week dedicated to the rising stars of the opera world as they join the **Jette Parker Young Artists Programme** (JPYAP). Running from **26–31 October** this annual event provides audiences the opportunity to get to know the new intake of Young Artists and check back in with returning artists. On **Friday 30 October** to round off a packed week will be **Jukebox 2** - a live concert curated by our online audience. Each singer performs the full song that received the most votes of the excerpts they performed in Jukebox 1 earlier in the week – interspersed with interviews, this is the ideal opportunity to get to know the personalities behind the voices.

Continuing its celebration of the operas **Handel** wrote for Covent Garden, The Royal Opera presents two concert performances of ***Ariodante*** on **Friday 20** and **Sunday 22 November**. *Ariodante* was the first opera written by Handel for the first theatre on the current Royal Opera House site in 1735 and has not been performed at Covent Garden since. These concert performances bring together singers **Paula Murrihy, Chen Reiss, Gerald Finley, Sophie Bevan** and the Royal Opera Chorus with the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House conducted by Baroque music specialist **Christian Curnyn**.

Two concert performances of **Verdi's *Falstaff*** will follow on **Friday 27** and **Sunday 29 November**. World-leading singers – bass-baritone **Bryn Terfel** in the title role and baritone **Simon Keenlyside** as Ford – will join Royal Opera Music Director **Antonio Pappano**, who conducts the Royal Opera Chorus, Orchestra of the Royal Opera House and a cast including members of the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme.

In December, The Royal Opera will present three performances of a sparkling **Christmas Concert**. Soloists **Jennifer Davis, Hanna Hipp, Jeremy White** and **Roderick Williams** will perform with the combined forces of the Royal Opera Chorus, Jette Parker Young Artists and Orchestra of the Royal Opera House. The festive staging will include extracts from fairy-tale favourites **Rossini's *La Cenerentola*** and **Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel***, and from repertory classics including **Puccini's *La bohème*** and **Mozart's *The Magic Flute***. The full flavour of Christmas will come via **Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on Christmas***.

Oliver Mears, Director of The Royal Opera said: "At a time of national gloom, we are thrilled to be presenting three effervescent sets of concerts with our united forces of Orchestra, Chorus, Jette Parker Young Artists and an outstanding selection of guest artists. From Handel's historic Covent Garden debut, *Ariodante*, to a *Falstaff* with three real-life knights of the realm, and finally to Christmas Concerts that feature a wealth of much-loved repertoire from Mozart to Puccini, these concerts will offer food for the soul in a winter like no other."

Ends

Autumn at a Glance:

Meet the Young Artists Week

Jukebox 2 – Friday 30 October, 7:30pm

Streaming price: £10

Public booking opens: Tuesday 27 October

Please find imagery [here](#)

The Royal Ballet: Live

The Royal Ballet: Live – Elite Syncopations. 4,5,6,7 November at 7pm

The Royal Ballet: Live – Within the Golden Hour. 10,11,12,13,14 November at 7pm

Ticket prices: £10 - £65

Public booking opens: Tuesday 27 October

Casting will be announced in due course

Please find images here:

[Elite Syncopations](#)

[Within the Golden Hour](#)

The Royal Ballet Class on Stage

13 November 10.30am

Public booking opens: Tuesday 27 October

Ticket prices: £5 - £16

Ariodante

Friday 20 November at 6:30pm

Sunday 22 November at 3pm

Livestreamed on Friday 20 November

Ticket prices: £5 - £100

Streaming price: £10

Public booking opens: Tuesday 10 November

Please find imagery [here](#)

Falstaff

Friday 27 November at 7pm

Sunday 29 November at 5pm

Ticket prices: £6 - £120

Public booking opens: Tuesday 10 November

Please find imagery [here](#)

The Nutcracker, 7 December 2020 – 2 January 2021

December 7,8,9,10,11,12,15,16,17 at 7pm

December 19,21,22,23,24,29,30,31 at 2pm

January 1,2 at 2pm

Ticket prices: £5 - £100

Public booking opens: Tuesday 10 November

Casting will be announced in due course

Please find imagery [here](#)

The Royal Opera Christmas Concert

December 18, 19 at 7pm

December 20 at 3pm

Livestreamed on Friday 18 December

Ticket prices: £4 - £75

Streaming price: £10

Public booking opens: Tuesday 10 November

Twelve Days of Christmas

Further information will be announced in the coming weeks

Notes to Editors

For further information or interview requests please contact:

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Please note that all ROH performances and participating artists are subject to change due to Covid-19 restrictions. In order to ensure the safety of artists and creative teams and to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus, mitigations have included strict social distancing in the rehearsal studio alongside testing for those in physical contact during rehearsal, administered privately at no expense to the NHS.

With the safety of audiences and our community of staff and artists at their heart, significant mitigations have been put in place across the organisation to ensure we can bring audiences the best of our art forms while preventing any further spread of Covid-19.

Full casting and on-sale information will follow in the coming weeks, visit roh.org.uk.

All livestreams are available via: stream.roh.org.uk, available for 30 days on demand.

#OurHouseToYourHouse

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About The Royal Opera

The Royal Opera, under the artistic direction of Antonio Pappano, Music Director, and Oliver Mears, Director of Opera, is one of the world's leading opera companies. Based in the iconic Covent Garden theatre, it is renowned both for its outstanding performances of traditional opera and for commissioning new works by today's leading opera composers, such as Harrison Birtwistle, Mark-Anthony Turnage and Thomas Adès.

About The Royal Ballet

Under the directorship of Kevin O'Hare, The Royal Ballet unites tradition and innovation in world-class performances and is a driving force in the development of ballet as an art form. Based at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, it brings together today's most dynamic and versatile dancers with a world-class orchestra and leading choreographers, composers,

conductors, directors and creative teams to share awe-inspiring theatrical experiences with diverse audiences worldwide. The Company's extensive repertory embraces 19th-century classics, the singular legacy of works by Founder Choreographer Frederick Ashton and Principal Choreographer Kenneth MacMillan, the compelling new canon of work by choreographers today including Resident Choreographer Wayne McGregor and Artistic Associate Christopher Wheeldon, and the bold and complementary programming in the Linbury Theatre.

About the Royal Opera House

Home to The Royal Ballet, The Royal Opera and the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House our vision is to give everyone access to exceptional ballet and opera.

Since closing our doors due to the global pandemic in March 2020, the Royal Opera House has continued to bring together the world's most extraordinary artists and curated the #OurHouseToYourHouse programme of 19 streams, 4 socially distanced live concerts and a suite of online content that has been viewed over 315 million times in 183 countries.

The Royal Opera House continues its #OurHouseToYourHouse programme this autumn, bringing audiences the best of the ROH through a new series of live performances, cinema screenings, Friday Premieres and cultural highlights in partnership with the BBC and Sky Arts.

The Royal Opera House is committed to widening participation and deepening learning for all ages. This summer we launched Create and Learn, offering free online home-learning opportunities for children and young people. In addition, The Royal Ballet partnered with Cast and Doncaster Council to support Doncaster residents with online resources and remote direction to create a unique community dance film, Doncaster Dances.

Royal Opera House Recovery Campaign

Live performance is a shared experience, and our audiences are at the heart of what we do on our stages, backstage, online, in cinemas and in our communities. This year's global pandemic has affected all arts organisations across the world. We have lost £3 in every £5 of our income, and any Government loan will take us only part of the way. We need your help with our Recovery Fund to bring artists back to our stages. roh.org.uk/donate