

# Not Far-to-go for Figaro

Bromley based Opera Nova is presenting Mozart's much loved opera *The Marriage of Figaro* at the Barn Theatre from 8 - 11 September.

This popular and humorous work will be sung in English and features some of Mozart's most beautiful and familiar music that opera fans of all ages will enjoy.

Opera Nova's *The Marriage of Figaro*, with both professional and amateur soloists and chorus, will be directed by Russell Plows and conducted by Peter Fender.

Russell comments "we've tried to combine an 18<sup>th</sup> century sensibility with a modern approach. The period details are not slavish and our focus has instead been Mozart's ability to combine painful emotion with comedy. We've tried hard not to emphasize one at the expense of the other and hope, above all, that the result is true to Mozart's great spirit."

Russell has worked with Welsh National Opera, Wexford Festival Opera and English Touring Opera and has directed nearly 30 productions including *La Boheme*, *Così Fan Tutte* and *Don Giovanni* for the Trinity College of Music, Royal Sutton Opera and Hampstead Garden Opera. He is a founder member of the original Opera Up Close for whom he directed *The Kaiser of Atlantis*, *La Voix Humaine* and Milhaud's *Médée*. Future work includes the British premiere of Milhaud's first opera, *The Lost Sheep*, for his new company, London Fringe Opera.

Peter Fender, a successful freelance violinist formed the Baroque Aid Choir and Orchestra in 1986. He is musical director of the Whitecross Chamber Orchestra in London. In 2007 he founded the orchestra Philharmonia Britannica, with whom he gives a number of orchestral and choral concerts each year. Still an active instrumental performer, Peter has performed as violinist, baroque violinist and violist all over the world.

The opera will be staged from Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September to Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30 pm with a Saturday matinee at 2.30 pm.

Ticket prices are £13 on Wednesday and Thursday and £15 on Friday and Saturday (OAPs £13 at Saturday matinee). Tickets may be purchased from the Box Office on 0208 325 3490 or online (Booking fee) via The Barn website or at [www.operanova.co.uk](http://www.operanova.co.uk).

*The Marriage of Figaro* is the tenth fully staged opera to be performed by Opera Nova, which celebrates its 21<sup>st</sup> birthday next year.

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## Oxted Operatic Society

### AGM

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> July saw a good turn out at the Society's AGM, and the following members were elected for the forthcoming year:

Chairman - Peter Reed (01883 625731)

Secretary - Dena Watts (01883 723084)

Treasurer - Janette White.

Executive Committee - Trevor Constable, Katherine Jones, Debbie Pitt, Teresa Reed.

I was pleased to be able to reflect on a very sound year for the Society, with grateful thanks to the dedication of a very hard working Committee, and hoped that the effort they have put in this year will bear fruit in those to come. Both of the Society's productions this

year, *The Music Man* and *Mack & Mabel*, had received very positive feed back from the audience and press, although attendance at the former was rather poor. Happily, however, the overall financial position of the Society remains stable, and we are very positive about the future.

Next year's challenging and exciting programme offers something for everyone, with the terrifically powerful *Jekyll & Hyde* this November, Lerner & Loewe's *Gigi* next April, and ending with the Junior's production of *Disco Inferno* in July 2011.

In an award winning year, Monica Allen was presented with Life Membership of the Society in appreciation of her dedicated service to the Society for more years than she cared to remember.

### Mack & Mabel

In the last edition of BTN, it was too soon to report on what the critics had said about *Mack & Mabel*, but now I can ...

"...*This production was excellent in its setting and concept and the players perfect with their entrances and their superb ensemble playing...*" (Peter Steptoe - Surrey Mirror)

"*All gave very commendable performances and are highly praised. You could not help but be drawn into the action, and overall this was a very polished production and excellent entertainment...*" (John Barnes - NODA)

I am very please to announce that OOS was awarded the *NODA South East 'Councillor's Musical Accolade of Excellence'* for this production at the NODA South East Conference. The certificate will be on display somewhere at the Barn in due course..

### Jekyll & Hyde

Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> - Sat 27<sup>th</sup> November (Evenings - 7:45pm)

Book and Lyrics by Leslie Bricusse. Music by Frank Wildhorn

I can only describe this show as totally terrific! With Nigel Kemp (Director) and Graham Wright (Musical Director), we hope this will be a production to be very proud of. Still in the early stages, as rehearsals proper begin in September we have had a great response from our members to be involved. We do still need some more men for the numerous character roles, so do contact us to find out what you're missing.

The show is based on Robert Louis Stevenson's story about a doctor whose experiments with human personality create an evil and murderous counterpart. Convinced the cure for his father's mental illness lies in the separation of Man's evil nature from his good, Dr. Henry Jekyll unwittingly unleashes his own dark side, wreaking havoc in the streets of late 19<sup>th</sup>-century London as the savage Edward Hyde. *Jekyll & Hyde* is pure, pulse-pounding theatre, with a lush, romantic score hailed as a modern classic even before the show began its smash-hit Broadway run.

Tickets £10 - £13 from Ticket Secretary 01883 714103 and after 2<sup>nd</sup> November from Ibbett Mosely 01883 712241

For information about getting involved with *Jekyll & Hyde*, please contact Katherine Jones or email [productionsecretary@oxtedoperatic.co.uk](mailto:productionsecretary@oxtedoperatic.co.uk).

### Post Script

The Society are currently trying to set up an Oxted Operatic website, and are currently appealing for volunteers with experience in this field to assist in its creation. If you think you might be able to help with this endeavour, we would be glad to hear from you.

PJR