

★Opera Live At Home★ 29th September 2020

Claire Lees, soprano | Dylan Perez, piano accompaniment | Helen Astrid, presenter

Programme

Endless Pleasure, 'Semele' George Frederic Handel

Dido's Lament, 'Dido and Aeneas', Henry Purcell

Padre, germani, addio, 'Idomeneo', Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Prendi, 'L'elisir d'Amore', Gaetano Donizetti

O mio babbino caro, 'Gianni Schicchi', Giacomo Puccini

Saper Vorreste, 'Un Ballo in Maschera', Giuseppe Verdi

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Texts and translations

Dido's recitative and aria

Thy hand, Belinda, darkness shades me,
On thy bosom let me rest,
More I would, but Death invades me;
Death is now a welcome guest.

When I am laid, am laid in earth,
May my wrongs create
No trouble, no trouble in thy breast;
Remember me, remember me, but ah! forget my fate.
Remember me, but ah! forget my fate.

Endless Pleasure, from Semele

Endless pleasure, endless love,
Semele enjoys above!
On her bosom Jove reclining,
Useless now his thunder lies;

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To her arms his bolts resigning,
And his lightning to her eyes.

Padre germani, addio, from Idomeneo

Quanti mi siete in torno carnefici spietati?
Orsù sbranate vendetta, gelosia,
odio ed amore, sbranate sì, quest'infelice core!

Padre, germani, addio! Voi foste, io vi perdei.
Grecia, cagion tu sei. E un greco adorerò?
D'ingrata al sangue mio So che la colpa avrei;
Ma quel semblante, oh Dei!
Odiare ancor non so.

How many are you around me merciless butchers?
Then up tear to pieces, revenge, jealousy,
hate and love, tear to pieces yes, this unhappy heart!

Father, brothers, goodbye! You are no more, I have lost you.
Greece, you are the cause of all my sorrow, and yet it is a Greek that I must love?
I know I will be guilty of being ungrateful to my own blood.
But his face, oh gods?
How could I ever hate him?

Prendi, per me sei libero, from L'elisir d'Amor

Prendi; per me sei libero,
Resta nel suol natio, non v'ha destin sì rio,
Che non si cangi un dì, resta!
Qui, dove tutti t'amano, saggio, amoroso, onesto, ah!
Sempre scontento e mesto no, non sarai così, ah no!

Take it; through me you are free,
Stay here in your hometown, there is no destiny that is so bitter,
That it cannot be changed in a day. Stay here!
Here where everyone loves you: wise, loving, and honest, ah!
Always unhappy and sad, no, you will not always be this way, ah, no!

O mio babbino caro, from Gianni Schicchi

O mio babino caro, mi piace è bello, bello
Vo' andare in Porta Rossa a comperar la nello,
Sì, sì, ci voglio andare! E se l'amassi indarno,
Andrei sul Ponte Vecchio, ma per buttarmi in Arno!
Mi struggo e mi tormento!
O Dio, vorrei morir,
Babbo, pietà, pietà!

Oh my daddy dearest, he pleases me, he is handsome;
I want to go to Port Rossa to buy the ring!
Yes, yes, I want to go there! And if I love him in vain,
I will go to Ponte Vecchio, but to throw myself in the Arno!
I suffer and I am tormented!
Oh God, I want to die! Daddy, pity, pity!

Saper vorreste, from Un Ballo in Maschera

Saper vorreste di che si veste,
Quando l'è cosa ch'ei vuol nascosa.
Oscar lo sa, ma nol dirà, Tra là, là là....
Pieno d'amore mi balza il core,
Ma pur discreto serba il secreto.
Nol rapirà grado o beltà, Tra là, là là....

You would like to know what he is wearing,
When it is the very thing he wants to conceal.
Oscar knows, but he will not say, Tra la....
Full of love my heart throbs,
But still discreet it keeps the secret.
Neither rank nor beauty will seize it, Tra la la...

Thank you for joining us. Our next concert will be on 24 November 2020!

Biographies

Claire Lees

Claire is the winner of the **2019 Wil Keune Mozart Prize** at the **Veronica Dunne International Singing Competition**. She recently performed Adina L'elisir d'amore with **Iford Arts** and made her **Opera Holland Park** debut singing the role of Oscar
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in the Young Artists' performance of Un ballo in maschera. She is a Samling Artist and a recipient of an Independent Opera Voice Scholarship and Fellowship. On graduating from the Opera Course at the Guildhall School of music and Drama (GSMD) Claire Lees joined the **Glyndebourne Festival Opera** where she covered the role of Yniold in Debussy's Pelleas et Melisande and performed in the chorus of Handel's Giulio Cesare and Saul, and in the new production of Barber's Vanessa. She then joined GFO for their 50th anniversary tour covering a Spirit in Massenet's Cendrillon and singing in the chorus of La Traviata. She was engaged to return to Glyndebourne Festival Opera this summer to cover Oberto in Alcina.

Dylan Perez, piano accompaniment

American pianist Dylan Perez is the current Lord & Lady Lurgan Collaborative Piano Fellow. He graduated from the Royal College of Music in 2018 with Distinction with an Artist Diploma and in 2016 with Distinction with an Artist Masters from the Guildhall School where he studied with Eugene Asti, Andrew West, Iain Burnside, Julius Drake, and Pamela Lidiard. He recently made his Wigmore Hall recital debut and has performed at Barbican Hall, Milton Court Concert Hall, St. Martin-in-the-Fields and Cadogan Hall. Dylan can be heard frequently on **BBC Radio 3**, whether it is for a **Proms Extra concert**, a **Total Immersion** performance, or live on **InTune**.

Helen Astrid, presenter

Helen Astrid is a former opera singer with English National Opera, Garsington Opera Festival, The Linbury Studio Covent Garden, Chelsea Opera Group and she performed in several UK premiere's including Die ägyptische Helena and Daphne, both Strauss. In 2017, Helen produced The Juniper Tree by Philip Glass, receiving its UK premiere in London to great critical acclaim.

She has considerable experience in giving talks on the history of opera both online and in the classroom and her Tedx Talk 'Tell me the Truth about Opera' has been viewed by thousands. Helen lectures on opera for Bishopsgate Institute, Cambridge University and Imperial College London and the International School of London. She is also Director of Corporate Singing Workshops delivering bespoke training sessions both online and in situ, for companies and organisations worldwide.

For more information please visit www.thehelenastridsingingacademy.com or www.corporatesingingworkshops.com

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