

**MAHOGANY OPERA AND HULL MUSIC SERVICE ANNOUNCE A WEEK OF OPERA PERFORMANCES BY
PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN**



'Year of Snappy Operas' performance, photo credit: Peter Cripps

Mahogany Opera and Hull Music Service are excited to announce a week of Snappy Opera performances starting with a sharing of *Teacups & Tentacles* at the Albemarle Music Centre on Monday 15 November by children from Kingswood Parks Primary School. This will be the first outing for this new opera, created during the pandemic with Year 5 children from Kingwood Parks Primary. Inspired by the famous Hull Fair, *Teacups & Tentacles* was developed by composer Raymond Yiu and local writer Russell Plows using material and ideas gathered through remote and in-school workshop sessions with children. The same children, now in Year 6, will perform the new commission as part of a city-wide Snappy Opera project in partnership with Hull Music Service.



Snappy Opera rehearsals in Hull



Snappy Opera rehearsals in Hull



The rest of the week will be jam packed with performances of five other Snappy Operas including *Peck!*, *The Feast That Went Off With A Bang*, *The Itch Witch*, *The Lighthouse Wave* and *The Magical Music Tree*, taking place each day in schools across the city (a full list of performances is below). For each performance the children will be accompanied by a small chamber ensemble of professional musicians.

Over the last term Hull based director, Lisa Coates, music director, Camille Malaawy, and pianist, Graziana Presicce have headed into five schools to collaborate and rehearse with 212 children before these upcoming performances. It will be magical week celebrating the power of children's creativity and the importance of music and theatre making in schools.

This activity in Hull forms part of Mahogany Opera's 'Year of Snappy Operas' in partnership with Edinburgh International Festival, Hull Music Service, Leicester-Shire Schools Music Service, North Tyneside Music Education Hub and Villages Music Festival. Over 750 children, aged 7-11, from 21 different schools will participate joining Mahogany Opera in a year of singing, making and theatre. As children recover from the impacts of the pandemic the 'Year of Snappy Operas' will provide an opportunity for school communities to reconnect through the joy of singing and the restorative power of music and theatre.

To organise a ticket for Monday 15 November and/or to find out more about Snappy Operas please email Marc Dunleavy, marc@mahoganyopera.co.uk.

Performances:

Press performance: Monday 15 November, 2.30 – 3pm, the Albemarle Music Centre, *Teacups & Tentacles*, Kingswood Parks Primary School

Tuesday 16 November, 1.45pm – 2.15pm, the Albemarle Music Centre, *The Feast That Went Off With A Bang*, Paisley Primary School

Wednesday 17 November, Priory Primary School, *Peck! & The Itch Witch*

Thursday 18 November, Maybury Primary School, *The Lighthouse Wave*

Friday 19 November, Oldfleet Primary School, *The Magical Music Tree*

Snappy Opera trailer:

https://youtu.be/DMK_k8_MODM

NOTES TO THE EDITOR

For all press enquiries please contact Ally Rosser, ally@mahoganyopera.co.uk or Marc Dunleavy, marc@mahoganyopera.co.uk, 02031111940.

ABOUT MAHOGANY OPERA

Mahogany Opera is a leading commissioner and producer of new opera and music theatre. Since 2014, under the artistic direction of Frederic Wake-Walker, Mahogany Opera has commissioned 19 new works and toured them extensively across the UK and internationally. The company has worked with a broad range of creative partnerships from international festivals, regional venues, music education hubs, universities and orchestral ensembles, receiving many accolades and awards for its boundary-pushing and inclusive work.

Snappy Operas is our award-winning schools programme, making and performing new mini-operas with primary-aged children.

A Snappy Opera is a ten-minute opera, created for and by children with some of the UK's top composers & writers, which introduces all the essential elements of opera in fun, colourful and bite-size chunks.



Working with partners including local Music Education Hubs, festivals and venues, we select schools that would most benefit from involvement in the programme – as well as an introduction to opera, children gain music and performance skills, improve confidence and team working, and have the opportunity to express themselves in a new, creative way. We train artists to work in school settings, provide Continuing Professional Development to teachers to develop creative approaches to their teaching, and bring schools and audiences together in venues to create a sense of community through the joy of opera.

“Our dream at Mahogany is for every child to experience opera before they leave school; not just to foster a life-long love of music and theatre but because of the incalculably positive affect creative expression can have on young people’s lives. Within opera lie the fundamental building blocks of human development and Snappy Operas are the most wonderful learning tools to access this.” Frederic Wake-Walker, artistic director, Mahogany Opera

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#MakeitSnappy

ABOUT HULL MUSIC SERVICE

Hull Music Service – Lead Partner for Hull Music Hub is committed to “putting music at the heart of Hull”. The Service teaches over 5000 children and young people in schools and colleges across the City. From the Albemarle Music Centre, the Music Service also provides a comprehensive range of groups, choirs, ensembles, band and orchestras, as well as a range of additional workshops and opportunities for schools.

Through an increasing network of partnerships, the Music Service is engaging with schools and the wider community through a variety of projects. The Service is committed to supporting the most vulnerable young people, ensuring that access to music opportunities in Hull is both equitable and relevant to the needs of the children and young people across the city.

For more information:

Web: <http://www.hullmusichub.com>

Phone: 01482 318800

Twitter: @hullmusichub

YouTube: Hull Music Service

Facebook: Albemarle Music Centre

FUNDERS

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