



MAHOGANY OPERA RETURNS TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS WITH SNAPPY OPERAS

Mahogany Opera announces the ‘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.

Mahogany Opera is to bring its award-winning Snappy Opera programme into schools up and down the country from East Sussex to Edinburgh, from June 2021 until July 2022. Around 750 children, aged 7-11, from 21 different schools will join Mahogany Opera in a magical year of singing, making and theatre.

The programme is delivered using Mahogany Opera’s twelve uniquely commissioned Snappy Operas with a specially trained team of delivery artists – director, music director and répétiteur – working alongside the children and teachers in their schools. The ‘Year of Snappy Operas’ will include Snappy Operas written by Errollyn Wallen* and two new Snappy Operas by composer/writer teams Raymond Yiu & Russell Plows and Pippa Murphy & Karine Polwart, developed remotely with children in schools over the last year.

Mahogany Opera will also bring its Snappy Opera programme to Scotland for the first time and is delighted that this has been made possible through a new partnership with Edinburgh International Festival.

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.

“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

mahoganyopera.co.uk

@mahoganyopera

Snappy Opera trailer:

https://youtu.be/DMK_k8_MODM

*Mahogany Opera is a co-commissioner of Errollyn Wallen’s lauded new opera Dido’s Ghost, which opened at the Barbican in June ‘21 and will tour to Buxton International Festival and Edinburgh International Festival this summer. More details can be found here: <https://www.mahoganyopera.co.uk/productions/dido-s-ghost/>

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NOTES TO THE EDITOR

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. Mahogany Opera's work is made possible through the generosity of individual supporters and by essential funding of our core costs by John Ellerman Foundation, Garfield Weston Foundation, and the Arts Council England Culture Recovery Fund.

A Snappy Opera is a ten-minute opera for primary aged children (7-11) which introduces all the essential elements of opera – singing, acting and making – in fun, colourful and bite-size chunks. Each unique opera is designed to be performed by a class sized group of children, divided into groups and accompanied by professional musicians. Working with partners & schools across the UK, Mahogany Opera has collaborated with over 2,500 primary school children from across the country through its Snappy Opera programme.

Additional information about Snappy Operas can be found here: [Mahogany Opera & Snappy Operas - additional info \(PDF\)](#)

PARTNERS

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.

FUNDERS

The 'Year of Snappy Operas' is generously supported by Arts Council England – National Lottery Project Grant, Chapman Charitable Trust, The John S. Cohen Foundation, Didymus Charity, The Foyle Foundation, Scops Arts Trust, The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust.

The commission of the two new Snappy Operas was supported by a grant from The PRS Foundation Open Fund for Organisations, and generous donations from The Finn Family Fund and Dr. Joan Hester.

APPENDIX (partner details):

About Edinburgh International Festival

Edinburgh International Festival is the world's leading performing arts festival, featuring the finest performers from the worlds of dance, opera, music and theatre. Created in 1947 to celebrate the enduring human spirit, the International Festival normally serves as an annual cultural exchange, every August, for an international audience exceeding 400,000 per year.

The 2020 Edinburgh International Festival was cancelled for the first time in its history due to concerns around the Covid-19 pandemic but will pioneer the return to live performance in Scotland on 7-29 August 2021 with 170 music, theatre, opera and dance performances. For more information visit www.eif.co.uk.

Edinburgh International Festival's Learning and Engagement Programme

The International Festival connects annually with thousands of people through its year-round Learning and Engagement programmes.

Working across four key pillars of activity – children, young people, communities and talent development – the International Festival aims to reach as many people as possible of all ages both locally and internationally, and is committed to ensuring the annual global celebration of culture is accessed by all through a year-round bespoke programme of projects and opportunities. This summer will see the International Festival partnering with a range of companies and organisations to support this work including Snappy Operas, Akram Khan Company, Imaginate, the National Theatre of Scotland, the Royal Botanical Gardens Edinburgh, The Royal Lyceum Theatre, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Starcatchers and Vox Liminis.

See www.eif.co.uk/learning-and-engagement for more information.

Hull Music Service: <https://www.hullmusic hub.com/>

Leicester-Shire Schools Music Service: <https://leicestershiremusic hub.org/>

North Tyneside Music Education Hub: <https://ntmeh.org.uk/>

Villages Music Festival: <https://www.villagesmusic festival.org/>