



# ENGLISH CHAMBER OPERA

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English Chamber Opera was established in 2006 following a critically acclaimed, sell-out English tour of Don Giovanni, directed by Caroline Sharman and conducted by Igor Kennaway.

*"You really don't need to be an opera buff, nor even know anything of Mozart's naughty Don, to thoroughly enjoy this."*  
The Stage

English Chamber Opera's stylish productions will appeal to opera connoisseurs and first-timers alike. The company takes the highest quality performances, with superlative production values, to unusual, unconventional, and utterly unique venues in the UK and Europe.

*"There is a unity, a camaraderie...that is infectious...fine, heart-rending soliloquies that raise the hairs on your neck. And there are many times with the entire cast in full throat that bring tears of joy and admiration to the eyes."*  
The Stage

With forthcoming performances in the UK and mainland Europe, the company's 2007 calendar will also include a revival tour in Ireland of Caroline Sharman's magnificent production of Don Giovanni (designed by Simon Higlett).

Other plans include brand new productions of Cosi fan Tutte, and Handel's cruel, treacherous masterpiece, Ariodante.

*"Gripping stuff... for anyone looking for an evening of compelling entertainment, an absolute treat."*  
The Oxford Times

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## Don Giovanni 2007

English Chamber Opera's 2007 revival of Don Giovanni is fully staged with lavish period costumes, a stunning set and a seven-piece chamber orchestra.

Director - Caroline Sharman

Conductor - *(tbc)*

Design - Simon Higlett

### Cast

Don Giovanni - David Durham

Leporello - Giles Davies

Donna Elvira - Rebecca Cooper

Donna Anna - Sarah Moule

Zerlina - Beverley Worboys

Masetto - Ian Jervis

Don Ottavio - Peter Wilman

Commendatore - *(tbc)*



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### Biographies

#### David Durham - Don Giovanni

David studied at the Guildhall school of Music and Drama as a violinist. Opera roles include Scarpia, *Tosca* at St John's Smith Square and Don Giovanni for the Chipping Norton Theatre and tour. Leading roles have been composed for him for several contemporary opera festivals at Battersea Arts Centre, London, Opera Circus at Sadlers Wells and the Opera House, Amsterdam. He is currently appearing at KammerOper Vienna as lead in the world premiere of *A Good Man*. Forthcoming roles include Germont and Escamillo for Pavillion Opera.

As an actor, he has performed in Shakespeare's *As You Like It*, directed by David Poutney, as well as new productions at Nottingham Playhouse and the Sherman Theatre, Cardiff. His West End appearances include Caiaphas in the national tour for *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Mufasa in *The Lion King* at the Lyceum and Ben Stone (*Follies*) at the Royal Festival Hall. Principal roles for cinema include 'Scarred', Elysium Films and Babymother, Fourmation Films.

#### Giles Davies - Leporello

Giles studied at the Purcell School of Music, and on a scholarship at the Royal College of Music, winning prizes in the Royal Overseas League, Tillett Trust, and Association of English Speakers and Singers competitions. He has recorded for the BBC (Schumann's *Dichterliebe* at the Wigmore Hall), and as a soloist has appeared with conductors including Richard Hickox (*A Sea Symphony* and *Dido and Aeneas*), Trevor Pinnock (Handel's *Apollo and Dafne*); Mahler's *Kindertotenlieder* (Ballet Rambert) and London Mozart Players.

His many roles in opera include Puck in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the ROH, Figaro in Rossini's *Barber of Seville* (Scottish Opera, English Pocket Opera) Dr Kolenaty in Janáček's *Makropoulos Case* (SO), Schaunard in *La Boheme* (SO), the *Church Parables* of Britten (Opera du Rhin, Strasbourg), Pish Tush in *The Mikado* and Strephon in *Iolanthe* (Carl Rosa Opera). He created the title role in *The Piano Tuner* (Osborne/Holden), for Music Theatre Wales.

In 2006, Giles appeared as John Goss in Anthony Britten's new film on the life of the English songwriter Peter Warlock, screening on Sky and DVD. He also made his Italian debut in Montepulciano, in a broadcast production of *Das Wundertheater* by Henze, and Kurt Weill's *Mahagonny Songspiel*, directed by Alfred Kirchner and conducted by Jan Latham Koenig.

#### Rebecca Cooper - Donna Elvira

Rebecca was an undergraduate at the Royal College of Music, and then a postgraduate on the Opera Course at the Royal Academy of Music, receiving various awards from the RAM and the Countess of Munster Musical Trust. She currently studies with Jonathan Papp, Diane Forlano & Paolo Specca, and has recently participated in The Solti Accademia di Bel Canto where she was coached by Mirella Freni, and sang at the Palazzo Vecchio, Florence.

Operatic roles include Nerone (*L'Incoronazione di Poppea*) and Fox (*The Cunning Little Vixen*) under Sir Charles Mackerras for Royal Academy Opera, Fox for Opera East Productions, Constanze (*The Abduction from the Seraglio*) for Surrey Opera and Violetta (*La Traviata*) for Vox Lirika, Donna Elvira (*Don Giovanni*), for The Theatre Chipping Norton, Madame Herz (*The Impresario*) at the Taunton Festival, and the title role in Gluck's *Armide* (cover) for Buxton Festival Opera. Future plans include Violetta in Italy.

Concert performances have included Haydn's *Nelson Mass* under Sir David Willcocks, Mozart's *Requiem* at Southwark and Bristol Cathedrals and St Martin-in-the-Fields, Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* at the Anvil, Dvorak's *Stabat Mater* and Mendelssohn's *Elijah*. She has given recitals at Leighton House, St James' Palace, The Goethe Institut, Southwark Cathedral and in the Winchester and Buxton Festivals.



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#### Sarah Moule - Donna Anna

Sarah read English at Cambridge University, and in 2006 she studied singing in Bologna and Venice with a scholarship from the Finzi Trust. She has also trained on ENO's *The Knack* on a Lilian Baylis bursary, and further studies have been supported by the Madeline Finden Memorial Trust and Concordia Foundation.

Opera roles include Anne Trulove (*The Rake's Progress*, Stravinsky, Dartington Festival), Morgana (*Alcina*, Handel, Hampstead Garden Opera), Jenny (*Three sisters who are not sisters*, Ned Rorem, Bridewell Theatre) and Donna Anna (*Don Giovanni*, The Theatre Chipping Norton). Her interest in baroque music has led to regular concerts at Handel House, London, and as a recitalist, she has a particular passion for early 20th century song. She has sung premieres at Wigmore Hall, St. John's, Smith Square and St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London.

#### Beverley Worboys - Zerlina

Beverley trained as a dancer before graduating from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and is currently based in Switzerland. Opera credits include Despina in *Così Fan Tutte* (Lucerne, Dir. Andrew Dunscombe), Venus in *Orpheus in the Underworld* (Zurich), Valencienne in *The Merry Widow*, Papagena/Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte* (Teatro Giardino, Ascona), Barbarina/Susanna in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, and Adele in *Die Fledermaus*. She also created the role of Cameriera in Thomas's *Ligeia*, directed by Luca Ronconi and conducted by Gianluca Taverna at the Contemporary Music festival in Spoleto.

Her many musical theatre roles include Christine Daae in *Phantom of the Opera* at the Musical Theater Basel and at Her Majesty's Theatre London, Rose Vibert in Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Aspects of Love*, Mabel in *Pirates of Penzance* by Gilbert and Sullivan alongside Paul Nicholas in a twelve-month national tour, Johanna in *Sweeney Todd* for Derby Playhouse and Jesse in Kurt Weill's *Mahagonny Songspiel* at the Tonhalle Zurich. Beverley regularly performs with the Zurich Pocket Opera and is a founder member of the vocal group West End Live. She has also released a CD of Scottish and Irish ballads, entitled Her Call.

#### Ian Jervis - Masetto

Ian studied at The Birmingham Conservatoire and The Royal College of Music. Roles include Don Alfonso and Leporello for Mid-Wales Opera; Benoit, *La Bohème*; Bartolo in *The Barber of Seville*, English Touring Opera; Colline, *La Bohème* for Music Theatre London. Ian has worked extensively with Garden Opera, singing such diverse roles as The Woodsman, (*Hansel and Gretel*), Figaro and Count Almaviva (*Marriage of Figaro*) and Dr. Dulcamara (*The Elixir of Love*).

Ian has a dual career as an actor and his television appearances include *Crocodile Shoes* and *The Bill*. He has appeared in *A Christmas Carol*, for Liverpool Playhouse and *Privates on Parade* at The New Vic, Newcastle-under-Lyme and as the odious Mr McGregor in *Peter Rabbit and his Friends*, and Herr Ringlemann in the new opera *Clockwork* by Stephen McNeff for Unicorn Theatre, and two Christmas seasons at Chester Gateway Theatre. He has played Dennis Nilsen's grandfather in *Black and Blue* and will be appearing on BSKyB Artsworld in the title role of the film *Falstaff*.

#### Peter Wilman - Don Ottavio

Peter graduated from Christchurch University with a Masters Degree in piano under Ronald Smith. Operatic roles include Tamino in *The Magic Flute* for English Touring Opera, Ferrando, *Così Fan Tutte* for Co-Opera Ireland and Swansea City Opera (where he has also played Almaviva in *The Barber of Seville*) Bardolph for the Opera Project, Don Ottavio for The Theatre, Chipping Norton and The Rector in *Peter Grimes* at the Canterbury Festival.

Recent concert engagements include Mozart *C Minor Mass* in Exeter and Canterbury Cathedrals, Rossini *Petite Messe Solenne* in St. Albans, Handel *Samson* in Gloucester, and Finzi's great tenor song cycles at both the Nottingham and Canterbury Finzi Festivals, including *Dies Natalis*, conducted by the composer's son.