



**NORFOLK
SCHOOLS OPERA
PROJECT 2019**
**A KIND OF
MAGIC FLUTE**

NORWICH
THEATRE
ROYAL

Norfolk
Music HUB 

NORWICH THEATRE ROYAL
23 JUNE 2019



Credit: Julian Claxton Photography

Introduction

I am delighted to welcome you to this afternoon's premiere performance of **A Kind of Magic Flute** and particularly the friends and family of the amazing students from Admirals Academy, The Bishop's Primary Academy, Drake Primary School, Redcastle Family School, our Gifted & Talented Orchestra, and all our Audience Schools.

It has been a huge pleasure for everyone in the project team to work alongside these children over the past few months. Their enthusiasm, hard work and creativity has been outstanding. The commitment and dedication of the school staff who have wholeheartedly embraced this project is remarkable, and humbling.

Norfolk Schools Opera Project was established by Norwich Theatre Royal in 1997. Over the past 23 years the project has worked with over 3,800 children and 360 teachers from across the county. We are thrilled that this year's project has expanded to include working with 15 schools, as well as an orchestra of exceptional young musicians.

Since November 2018, pupils and staff from have worked with the project to explore the world of opera. They have been involved in teacher training workshops, singing workshops, backstage tours, a performance of English Touring Opera's Paradise Planet and a week-long residency with professional directors and musicians. Together this has given our participants a wealth of opportunities to take part in, which we know supports their learning in other subjects as well as developing a range of personal, social and transferable skills.

A Kind of Magic Flute is a brand new children's opera, adapted from Mozart's opera The Magic Flute by an exceptional creative team. Jonny Gee, Jonathan Preiss and Ellie Bowers-Jolley have worked together to create a celebration of Mozart's most famous melodies, which beautifully interweaves some Latin spice in the form of joyous Salsa rhythms.

Mozart once said that 'music should never be painful to the ear, but should flatter and charm it, and thereby always remain music.' We hope that your ears are flattered and charmed by today's performance.

Stephen Crocker

Norwich Theatre Royal Chief Executive

Synopsis

Welcome to the 'Realm of the Circle of the Sun'.

In a land filled with the magic of song, the music of the Magic Flute is the most powerful magic of all. Following the death of the old King, his wife the **Queen of the Night** has lost her mind: she is temporarily mad with grief, and so the Circle of the Sun is being ruled by **Sarastro**, the sorcerer. Sarastro has taken the Queen's daughter, **Princess Pamina**, to the Temple where she is feeling trapped.

The Queen sends young **Prince Tamino** (with the help of his unlikely new friend **Papageno**) on a quest to rescue the Princess equipping him with the Magic Flute. Once inside the temple, Tamino meets and falls in love with Princess Pamina and Papageno meets and falls in love with **Papagena**, united through their shared love of birds.

The Circle of the Sun sets four great challenges to test Tamino & Pamina: Earth, Air, Fire & Water. If they succeed – by demonstrating Truth, Humility, Courage & Love – Pamina and Tamino will together ascend to the throne and rule the land.

Characters:

The Queen of the Night	Angela Brun
Sarastro	Sam Evans
Papageno (a Birdwatcher)	Tom Appleton
Papagena (the Artist in Residence)	Ellie Bowers-Jolley
Prince Tamino	Children's Chorus
Princess Pamina	Children's Chorus

Prince Tamino and Princess Pamina are represented by the onstage chorus; the characters are identifiable by costume. Other pupils in the chorus represent the characters' emotions and actions through drama and movement on stage.

Please note, this event is being professionally photographed. Please refrain from taking photos and videos during the performance unless you are given specific authorisation. No images or video can be shared on social media without permission from the schools involved.



Programme

1. Prologue: The Circle of the Sun

This is the story of The Circle Of The Sun...

2. A Supernatural Sound

The Queen of the Night breaks the harmony of this musical land, destroying the circle and scattering the birds far and wide.

3. Ornithology & Ophidiophobia

Young Prince Tamino meets a peculiar birdwatcher called Papageno! Papageno rescues the Prince from a very scary magic serpent and the most unlikely friendship is formed.

4. The Queen of the Night

The Queen makes a dramatic entrance. She sends Prince Tamino and his new sidekick Papageno on a quest to rescue her daughter, Princess Pamina, from the Temple. Pamina is imprisoned by Sarastro the sorcerer.

5. The Flute 'n' Uke

Tamino and Papageno set out on their quest. As they walk they look at the Magic Flute'n'Uke, echoed by the birds in the trees.

6. We Weep Alone

Tamino, with Magic Flute, heads for the Temple where Pamina is feeling trapped. The Queen is left alone.

7. The Temple

A Humble Doorman – is sitting, philosophising, on an especially large stone. Tamino is unaware the humble doorman is really Sarastro in disguise. Can the power of the Magic Flute unlock the doors of the temple?

8. A Bit of Fury

The Queen appears to Pamina using magic – she is furious with Sarastro and demands that her daughter kills him.

9. Lost in Darkness

Pamina feels alone and lost, she sings I am imprisoned. Can this be my fate? Lost in darkness. I must escape. The birds and chorus sing to her to give her strength.

10. Love has Wings

Set in the temple, Papageno & Papagena (a.k.a. Stage-Manager/Artist-in-Residence) finally meet. Papageno (ornithologist & terrible photographer) is flabbergasted by Papagena's beautiful paintings of birds and they fall in love. And the Queen and Sarastro... well maybe all wasn't quite as it seemed.

11. Find the Sunshine in your Mind

Sarastro guides Tamino to find his true spirit and seek Pamina from her entrapment. The libretto quotes words from Nelson Mandela's Walk to Freedom: Cast off your chains, leave bitterness behind. There is no easy walk to freedom. Tamino helps Pamina find courage and they too fall in love.

12. Truth, Humility, Courage and Love

Sarastro reminds the young couple of the challenges they face if they are to be crowned and rule the land: To side-by-side ascend and both be crowned upon the throne, you must succeed and triumph over hardships yet unknown, to earn the right to rule here in the Temple Of The Sun, Four challenges await you, which you both must overcome. The Queen and Sarastro seek peace and forgiveness from one another.

13. The Four Challenges

Earth – seek the truth
Air – seek humility
Fire – seek courage
Water – seek love

14. Wisdom and Joy

Everyone celebrates the restoration of the ring and harmony returns to the land under their new leaders – Prince Tamino and Princess Pamina.

And that concludes 'A Kind of Magic Flute'

Adapted from Mozart's opera 'The Magic Flute' by Jonny Gee

Libretto by Ellie Bowers-Jolley & Jonny Gee

Music by W.A.Mozart, with original music & arrangements by Jonathan Preiss

Commissioned by Norwich Theatre Royal and Norfolk Music Hub, in association with the Come & Sing Company

Summer 2019

Biographies



Jonny Gee - Writer

Jonny is a composer and orchestrator, as well as one of the UK's most versatile double bassists. He studied classical, jazz & baroque double bass at Trinity College of Music, University of London & the Danish Royal Conservatory.

An accomplished Salsa and Jazz musician he has broadcast and toured internationally with La Mariposa Tango from Buenos Aires, and with Columbian timbalero Roberto Pla's Latin Jazz Ensemble. He has worked on projects with English Touring Opera, Brandenburg Sinfonia, The Contemporary Music Group, and Pimlico Opera.



Jonathan Preiss - Arranger

Jonathan is a Music Producer, Arranger, Orchestrator and Copyist. He trained in classical and jazz guitar at Leeds College of Music, and in classical guitar and composition at Trinity College of Music, London.

Jonathan has worked on a number of major projects for recording, publication and live performance. Publication work has included transcribing, arranging and typesetting for songbooks such as Sting's "Songs from the Labyrinth". His experience in music preparation, copying, arranging and orchestrating for live performance includes work for major artists including the British Philharmonic Orchestra, Michael Ball, Aled Jones and Katie Melua, and for events including the BBC Proms and Hampton Court Festival.



Ellie Bowers-Jolley - Librettist

Having been a professional soprano for 14 years, Ellie's passion for music and singing has led to her performing numerous operatic roles in opera houses across Europe.

Ellie also acts as a soloist and consort member for groups such as the Monteverdi Choir and King's Consort.

Ellie is also Co-Founder of the Come and Sing Company.

Tom Appleton

Tom Appleton is a former chorister of St. Paul's Cathedral Choir, the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain and the Monteverdi Choir.

Tom now works primarily as a conductor and educator. He is a 'Friday Afternoons' Ambassador, Music Director of the King's Lynn Festival Chorus and Stowmarket Chorale, Assistant Director of Aldeburgh Voices and Co-founder of the Come and Sing Company.



The Come and Sing Company

The Come and Sing Company bring people together in song. We work with a number of organisations including the National Trust, the Norfolk and Norwich Festival, Snape Maltings, Silver Spoon, Wexford Mental Health Association and music hubs and schools across the UK.

We believe that when diverse individuals come together in song, amazing things happen!

 @Comeandsingco



David Stowell

David began his career at the Royal Military School of Music and on leaving the Coldstream Guards performed with many orchestras including the London Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

David has worked as a composer and conductor on many television and radio productions and recently won awards for Best Original Score in Toronto and Japan. He also composes for the ABRSM exams.

David is Conductor of the Norfolk County Symphonic Wind Band and teaches Brass and Composition for Norfolk Music Service.





Peter Beck

Peter is a freelance theatre director who has directed works by both established playwrights and new writers. He is the director of Restless Natives, and directs the Norwich Medieval Mystery plays, as well as numerous shows for Norwich Theatre Royal's Young Company. Peter graduated with an MA in Theatre Direction from UEA in 2008.

Abigail Moore

Abbie is a drama facilitator and director who has worked with children and young people delivering high quality drama workshops around the world.

She has coordinated international theatre projects for teenagers and stage managed performance evenings for the Shakespeare Schools Festival. She is the Creative Director of Hello Drama.



Michelle Thompson

Michelle is a theatre director and choreographer who has worked with children across Norfolk. She studied Drama, Applied Theatre and Education at university, and has worked with the Shakespeare Schools Festival, Rose Bruford Youth Theatre, Stratford Circus, and Polka Theatre.



Harvey Salmon

Harvey is a professional actor, storyteller and highly experienced theatre practitioner. He worked for ten years at the V&A National Theatre Museum in London, and has directed school drama projects leading to performances at Norwich Castle and Cromer Museum. Harvey is a founder of Dramatic Impact.



Ella Daymond

Ella is the Learning and Education Assistant at Norwich Theatre Royal. She delivers drama workshops for pupils, as well as drama CPD for teachers. She studied Drama and English at the UEA and has worked in a number of roles across the different stages of Norwich including acting, stage management, and puppet making.



Angela Brun

Australian born soprano Angela Brun completed an Advanced Diploma of Opera at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music in 2008. She specialises in coloratura repertoire and has performed and understudied a number of roles for Opera Australia.

Angela was successful in a number of prestigious competitions, including the Opera Foundation Vienna State Opera Award. She has enjoyed a career both as a concert artist as well as an operatic soloist.

Since beginning a family in 2014, Angela has enjoyed directing a number of local choirs in Norfolk and sharing her love of music through teaching.



Sam Evans

Sam received his early musical education in the choirs of St Paul's Junior School Kingston, Tiffin School and Kingston Parish Church, and took up a choral scholarship at King's College Cambridge in 1998.

He has sung regularly with the Monteverdi Choir since 2001, and has performed with most of the major professional UK choirs. As a soloist, he trained on the post-graduate singing course at the Royal Academy of Music, and later at the Royal College of Music International Opera School.

He is much in demand as a singing teacher: He teaches annually on the Eton Choral Courses and for the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain. He teaches the choral scholars at Queens' College Cambridge, and is Head of Vocal Studies at Highgate School in North London.



Musicians

The musicians playing in today's performance include some of Norfolk's most gifted and talented young musicians aged between 10-18, conducted by David Stowell and supported by staff from Norfolk Music Hub. The students worked alongside professional musicians and the Kings Lynn Festival Chorus to record the resources in April 2019 which enabled the pupils performing on the stage and from the audience to learn the opera.

Schools

The schools on stage

Four schools from Thetford have spent the last week working together with a team of directors to stage and produce 'A Kind of Magic Flute'.

Admirals Academy
Drake Primary School

The Bishop's Primary Academy
Redcastle Family School



Audience schools

The audience today includes over 300 primary school pupils who have been working with their school teachers to learn the songs from the opera.

Churchill Park Academy

Mulbarton Primary School

Colman Junior School

Seething and Mundham Primary School

Costessey Junior School

Sheringham Primary School

Dersingham Primary School

St Peter & St Paul Carbrooke Primary Academy

Great Dunham Primary School

Langley Preparatory School at Taverham Hall

Tacolneston Primary School

Morley Primary School

Thomas Bullock Primary Academy

"I used to think opera was just high notes – but now I know it's much more than that – it tells a whole story and its really amazing music and is full of strong emotions."

Thank you

Norwich Theatre Royal would like to thank the following organisations for their support and commitment:

Funders and Supporters



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Additionally, Norfolk Schools Opera Project would like to thank everyone involved in bringing A Kind of Magic Flute to the stage; Including the creative team, recording artists, backstage crew, Norwich Theatre Royal and Norfolk Music Hub staff, and all the teachers and senior staff at participating schools.

Supporters are central to our work

Our supporter schemes each have unique opportunities for you to get closer to what we do including special events and insight experiences.

If you would like more information, or to join us as a supporter we would love to talk to you.

Please contact the Norwich Theatre Royal Development Team.

Development@theatreroyalnorwich.co.uk or call 01603 598556



Help us get 600 children to London to perform a massed ensemble performance of A Kind of Magic Flute!

Norfolk Music Hub and Norwich Theatre Royal have been invited to put on a Massed Ensemble Performance in the 2019 Music for Youth Proms at the Royal Albert Hall!

We need your help to get the 600 children taking part to London for this amazing opportunity.

A donation of £25 will pay for one child to travel to the Royal Albert Hall, a donation of £750 will pay for a whole class to travel.

Please donate at our JustGiving page.

www.justgiving.com/campaign/norfolkmassedensemble2019

#AKindofMagicFlute