

PRESS RELEASE

HAMPSTEAD GARDEN OPERA TO MOVE TO JACKSONS LANE

After many successful productions at the Gatehouse, Hampstead Garden Opera Trust announces today that, from 2016, its operas will be performed at the Jacksons Lane theatre – also in Highgate. Chairman, **Roger Sainsbury**, said, “ This move will allow HGO to grow to a yet higher level. Our singers will be able to project their voices into a more generous space, our directors to have more scope for their creativity, and our musicians to be better appreciated – by the larger audiences this venue will allow. We look forward to performing at Jacksons Lane, the ethos of which very much aligns with our mission of giving performance opportunities to young people”.

Hampstead Garden Opera provides North London with high quality live opera experiences at accessible prices. The company is a magnet for singers and musicians especially those having recently graduated from music colleges. HGO provides them with the opportunity to showcase their talent and to learn from and work alongside other professional artists. A small orchestra, typically 12-14 musicians, accompanies productions. This is relatively rare for fringe opera, which often reduces a score down to piano accompaniment only. The recent orchestral reduction of Vaughan Williams's *Hugh the Drover*, created by HGO Principal Musical Director, **Oliver-John Ruthven**, has now been published by Faber & Faber.

The company has steadily grown in reputation and their quality of work has gone from strength to strength, attracting many young singers to audition and winning excellent reviews. The most recent HGO production, Handel's *Xerxes*, was widely praised. Other recent successes have included Britten's *Albert Herring*, Cavalli's *La Calisto* and Jonathan Dove's *Mansfield Park*. In 2012, their production of *Così fan tutte* won Best Opera Production at the Off West End Awards.

The theatre at Jacksons Lane has a spacious stage and raked seating for 166, every seat having a 100% stage view. The venue, a vibrant eclectic creative space, has a café and bar. Access by public transport is particularly good, with buses and the Northern Line just outside the door.

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