



HGO November 2022 PRODUCTION – INVITATION TO AUDITION

1. ABOUT THIS INVITATION

THE OPERA **Janáček's *Příhody lišky Bystroušky* (*Cunning Little Vixen*)**

The opera will be fully staged with reduced orchestra, and sung in Czech.
Language coaching will be provided for casts – no previous experience of singing in Czech is necessary.

THE COMPANY HGO's core objective is 'advancing young singers'. We do this by staging top-level professional productions at affordable ticket prices enabling tomorrow's opera singers to perform leading operatic roles in public, and thereby also giving them experience in ensemble work with fellow singers and musicians. HGO, which was founded in 1990, is a registered charity. You can see more about us and our recent productions at our website www.hgo.org.uk and our Facebook page www.facebook.com/hgopera.

THE VENUE **Jackson's Lane Theatre, Archway Road, London N6 5AA**

THE DATES 8 performances between **Friday 4 November and Sunday 13 November 2022** - two casts, four performances each. See schedule below for exact timing.

THE DIRECTORS Our Production Director is **Eleanor Burke**. Eleanor has worked with companies including Opera Holland Park, English Touring Opera, Silent Opera, British Youth Opera, Royal Academy Opera, HGO and Grimeborn Festival. Recent productions: *Die Zauberflöte*, *Carmen*, *Bastien und Bastienne*/*Der Schauspieldirektor*, *Tosca*, and *The Rape of Lucretia*. Eleanor is the Artistic Director of Green Opera, an environmentally sustainable opera charity.

Our Music Director is **Lada Valešová**. Lada is a British/Czech conductor who has built an international career as a pianist and a vocal and language coach having worked in all major UK opera companies and abroad. Last season Lada conducted Young Artists' performances of *Figaro* at Opera Holland Park and *Eugene Onegin* for Opera West Green House. This season she has assisted Oksana Lyniv on the ROH production of *Tosca*. Lada is one of the RPS Women Conductors 2022-2023 in partnership with the Northern Sinfonia and Sage Gateshead

AUDITIONS Auditions will be held in Central London **on 7, 13 and 14 March**. Available times could be between 10 am and 7pm.

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| REHEARSALS | We anticipate using the Caledonian Road Methodist Church for rehearsals, (see below) |
| COACHING | We will be making arrangements for language coaching for successful applicants led by our music director Lada Valešová, in the period before staging rehearsals commence. |
| EDITION | We are using the Universal Edition version. |
| PAYMENT | HGO will pay an honorarium of £200 each to cast members toward their expenses. |

2. APPLYING TO AUDITION

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| APPLICATION SUBMISSION | <p>We invite applicants to notify their interest to our Auditions Secretary Kathy Dallas (kathy.dallas@hgo.org.uk) as soon as convenient, and no later than 25 February 2022. Please include in your application the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your professional CV • Contact details including telephone, e-mail and snail-mail address. • The role(s) for which you wish to apply (if you have particular role(s) in mind, but this is not critical) • A sound or video recording in the form of video link or video/sound file. • Photo (small and low-resolution please) • Any dates and times in our proposed audition schedule when you will not be available for audition. |
| YOUR AVAILABILITY FOR REHEARSALS | Please also consider the rehearsal period (see section 3 below) before applying to ensure that you will be available during this period. We anticipate a minimal or zero number of non-available days, but it is essential to inform us at this stage if there are any dates you know you cannot do. |
| INVITATION TO AUDITION | We will notify all applicants no later than 28 February whether they will be invited to audition. The audition pieces required are specified in section 4.2 at the end of this invitation. |

3. AUDITION PROCESS

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| AUDITION PANEL | The audition panel will include Eleanor Burke, Lada Valesova, and Philip Sheffield (HGO). Accompaniment will be provided; let us know if you would wish to bring your own accompanist |
| AUDITION VENUE | Central London (to be advised) |
| AUDITION REQUIREMENTS | Singers should prepare an aria of their choice and a 20 th -century piece. Ideally one of these should be in a foreign language (doesn't have to be Czech!) |

3. OUTLINE SCHEDULE

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| REHEARSAL DATES | Music rehearsals will commence around end-September and staging rehearsals around start-October. There will also be an Open Rehearsal for the friends of HGO (provisionally this could be on 23 October). The get-in at Jacksons Lane will be on Monday 31 October. |
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A detailed rehearsal schedule will be sent to successful audiends. We will ask you to confirm your availability during late September, October and November, and clarification of any known NAs, as a condition of offering a part.

4. VENUES

REHEARSALS

Caledonian Road Methodist Church, 426 Caledonian Road, London N7 8TE

The church is on the corner of Caledonian Road (A5203) and Market Road.

Car: There is on street (metered) parking on Market Road.

Rail: The church is 150 yards south of Caledonian Road Underground station (Piccadilly Line). About 200 yards further down is Caledonian Road and Barnsbury Station connecting to Dalston and Liverpool Street to the east and south and Kew, Richmond and Watford to the west.

Bus: Routes 17, 91, 259 and 274 pass by the church.

PERFORMANCES

Jacksons Lane (JLT): 269a Archway Road, London N6 5AA

Train: The theatre is opposite Highgate Underground station (Northern Line, Barnet Branch)

Bus: Routes 34, 134 and 263 pass the door.

Car: on street parking with some residential restrictions.

5. PARTS AND AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

PARTS AND VOICES

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|---------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Gamekeeper | baritone | Mosquito | tenor |
| Gamekeeper's Wife | mezzo soprano | Lapak, a dog | mezzo soprano |
| Schoolmaster | tenor | Cock | soprano |
| Parson | bass | Chocholka, a hen | soprano |
| Harasta, poacher/poultry dealer | bass | Badger | bass |
| Pasek, innkeeper | tenor | Woodpecker | mezzo soprano |
| Mrs Paskova, his wife | soprano | Owl | mezzo soprano |
| Pepik, the Gamekeeper's | soprano | Jay | soprano |
| grandson Frantik, his friend | soprano | Hens, Forest creatures | Women's chorus |
| Vixen Bystrouška | soprano | Voice of the Forest | Mixed chorus |
| Fox | mezzo soprano/ soprano | | |

We will be doubling some of these roles, and some of the small/ animal roles may be given to children.

6. ENQUIRIES

Please address any further enquiries for information or clarification relating to this audition call by email to our Auditions Secretary Kathy Dallas (kathy.dallas@hgo.org.uk) including a telephone contact number.