



HGO APRIL 2024 PRODUCTION – INVITATION TO AUDITION

1 ABOUT THIS INVITATION

THE OPERA	<p>Purcell's <i>The Fairy Queen</i></p> <p>The opera will be fully staged with baroque orchestra and sung in English.</p>
THE COMPANY	<p>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.</p>
THE VENUE	<p>Jacksons Lane Theatre, London N6</p>
THE DATES	<p>8 performances between Friday 19 and Sunday 28 April 2024.</p> <p>The production will be single cast. See below for rehearsal and performance dates and times.</p>
THE DIRECTORS	<p>Our Production Director is Eloise Lally. Eloise is an international theatre & opera director, creating imaginative, entertaining and empowering work. She is a regular revival director for Katie Mitchell, touring her productions to Europe's leading opera houses. This has included: <i>Miranda</i> for Oper Koln, <i>Jenufa</i> for WNO and <i>Ariadne auf Naxos</i> for the Gran Teatre del Liceu. Recently, she has opened a new production of Donizetti's <i>Lucrezia Borgia</i> for English Touring and this year will direct a double bill for Mountview Academy, assist Ella Marchment on <i>L'Aube Rouge</i> at Wexford Opera Festival and Paul Carr on <i>Powder Her Face</i> for the Netherlands Reisoper. Eloise graduated with an MA in Theatre Directing from Mountview Academy under Peter James CBE and a first-class BA in theatre studies from the University of Surrey.</p> <p>Our Music Director is Seb Gillot. Seb is a conductor and keyboard player specialising in early repertoires. He returns to HGO having been Music Director for the company's productions of <i>Venus & Adonis/Dido & Aeneas</i> (2022) and Assistant Music Director for Cavalli's <i>L'Egisto</i> (2021). Seb is a continuo player and accompanist for a number of ensembles including The Hanover Band, OAE, and the Hampstead Collective. He is a founder member of Endelienta Baroque, a period-instrument ensemble with whom he performs a wide variety of baroque music up and down the country.</p>
ADVISOR	<p>Dame Emma Kirkby has kindly agreed to be an artistic advisor to the production, and will be offering coaching and advice.</p>

VENUES AND DATES REHEARSALS

Archway Methodist Church, Central Hall Buildings, London N19 3TD

Train The church is adjacent to Archway Underground Station

Rehearsals start in March 2024, from Monday 11 March, with a week off 25 March. There may be some weekend calls closer to the production. Get-in to Jacksons Lane will be on Monday 15 April and rehearsals from that date on will be at the theatre.

A detailed rehearsal and production schedule will be sent out as soon as possible after auditions are completed. The schedule will be created to work around everyone's needs. Please let us know if you believe you may be unavailable at any time from 11 March to 28 April 2024 (apart from the week of 25 March).

PERFORMANCES

Jacksons Lane Theatre, 269a Archway Road, London N6 5AA

Train The theatre is opposite Highgate Underground Station (Northern Line, Barnet branch)

Bus Routes 34, 134 and 234 pass the door

Car There is on street parking with some residential restrictions

Performance dates:

April 19, 20, 24, 25, 26, 27 at 19.30

April 21, 28 at 16.00

PAYMENT HGO will pay an honorarium of £400 each to cast members toward their expenses.

2 AUDITION PROCESS

APPLICATION SUBMISSION We invite applicants to notify their interest to our Auditions Secretary, Kathy Dallas (123kathy.dallas@gmail.com) as soon as convenient, and no later than **10 November**.

Please include in your application the following:

- Your professional CV
- Contact details including telephone, e-mail and snail-mail address.
- (If possible) Sound or video recording in the form of video link or video/sound file – (does not have to be baroque opera if you don't have an example of that period).
- Photo (small and low-resolution please)
- Any dates and times in our proposed audition schedule of 20, 21 and 27 November when you will not be available for audition.

Please also consult the outline rehearsal schedule (3.1) before applying to ensure that you will be available. 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 Applicants will be notified no later than **15 November** whether they will be invited to audition.

AUDITION VENUE	<u>St. Cuthberts Church, Philbeach Gardens, London SW5 9EB</u> Train The nearest Underground Station is Earls Court
AUDITION DATES	20 November 18.00-21:00 21 November 19:00- 21:00 27 November 18:00-21:00 Applicants will be asked for their availability once they have been invited to audition.
AUDITION PANEL	The audition panel will include Eloise Lally, Seb Gillot, and Philip Sheffield (HGO). Accompaniment will be provided; let us know if you would wish to bring your own accompanist.
PARTS	We are not defining the roles in the traditional way and casting will entirely depend on what the panel hears. All singers will also be part of the ensemble. There will be opportunities for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5 sopranos - 2/3 mezzos / counter tenors - 3 tenors - 3 bass / bass baritones
AUDITION REQUIREMENTS	Singers should prepare two contrasting pieces in English from the seventeenth century; at least one piece should be by Purcell. A link to a score of <i>The Fairy Queen</i> is here and it would be ideal for audiends to sing something from the opera.
PLEASE NOTE	The production and audition will be sung at 392hz rather than the modern 440. For the production we will be using the Stainer & Bell edition, (ed. Wood/Pinnock); singers will be provided with a score. The soloists will also form the chorus. Successful applicants can arrange coaching sessions with Seb and with Dame Emma Kirkby in early 2024.
3 ENQUIRIES	Please address any further enquiries for information or clarification relating to this audition call by email to our Auditions Secretary Kathy Dallas, including a telephone contact number: 123kathy.dallas@gmail.com