



HGO APRIL 2025 PRODUCTION – INVITATION TO AUDITION

1. ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

THE OPERA	<p>Rossini's 'La Cenerentola' The opera will be fully staged with reduced orchestra and sung in Italian.</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>Jackson's Lane Theatre, Archway Road, London N6 5AA</p>
PERFORMANCE DATES	<p>Eight performances between Friday 4 and Sunday 13 April 2025. We will seek to double-cast, subject to audition outcomes.</p>
THE DIRECTORS	<p>Our Production Director is Finn Lacey. Finn is an award winning director and musician based in East London. Finn has worked with companies such as the National Opera Studio at Opera North, St Paul's Opera, Green Opera, HGO, Royal Academy of Music and National Youth Music Theatre. Last year, Finn produced and directed Bernstein's <i>Trouble in Tahiti</i> at the Arcola Theatre, winning an Off West End Award in the Opera Production Category. Alongside directing, Finn sings professionally as a Countertenor having sung with groups such as The English Concert, The Gesualdo Six and The Sixteen.</p> <p>Our Music Director is Jonathan Darbourne. Jonathan is artistic director and co-founder of Vache Baroque, for which he has led four operas and numerous multi-artform programmes from the harpsichord. He leads a number of regular groups, both choral and instrumental, and has been assistant conductor at the Grange Festival (Handel's <i>Tamerlano</i>) and for the Nederlandse Bachvereniging. Singing opera from a young age, he read Music alongside a choral scholarship at Magdalen College, Oxford, and continued onto further vocal training in Basel, Mainz, and Isernia, Italy.</p>
ADDITIONAL SUPPORT	<p>HGO will supply Italian language coaching to cast members.</p>
VENUES AND DATES	<p>REHEARSALS</p> <p>The rehearsal venue will be within easy access of central London. The precise location will be confirmed to cast members.</p> <p>Music and stage rehearsals will commence around mid/end-February. The get-in at Jacksons Lane will be on 31 March.</p>

A detailed rehearsal schedule will be sent to successful audiends. We will ask you to confirm your availability mid-February through April 2025 and clarification of any known NAs, as a condition of offering a role.

PERFORMANCES

Jacksons Lane Theatre, 269a Archway Road, 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.

Performance dates:

April 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12 2025 at 19.30

April 6, 13 2025 at 16.00

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

2. AUDITIONS

APPLICATION 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 Thursday 14th November**. Please include in your application the following:

- Your professional CV
- Contact details including telephone, e-mail and postal 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

AVAILABILITY Please also consider the rehearsal period (February, March and early April 2025) before applying to ensure that you will be available during this period. We anticipate a minimal number of non- available days, but please let us know at this stage if there are dates you know you cannot do. In creating a rehearsal schedule, we will attempt to be flexible with NA requests that are made well in advance or for important last-minute auditions. In the weeks of March 24 and 31 for final rehearsals at the theatre, singers' substantial availability is crucial.

INVITATION TO We will notify all applicants no later than **Sunday 17th November** whether they will be invited to audition.

THE AUDITION Audition pieces required are specified below.

AUDITION VENUE The audition venue will be

St. James's Islington

Prebend Street

Islington

London, N1 8PF

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/h4gbqiq8N8ugE5sVA>

- AUDITION DATES** **Friday 22 November 14.00 – 19.00**
Saturday 23 November 10.00 – 14.00
Please indicate in your application which audition times would be convenient for you.
- AUDITION PANEL** The audition panel will include Finn Lacey, Jonathan Darbourne, and Philip Sheffield (HGO). Piano accompaniment will be provided; let us know if you would wish to bring your own accompanist.
- AUDITION** Singers should prepare two contrasting pieces in Italian from the period. At least one should be by Rossini.
Singers auditioning for specific roles should prepare (not necessary to learn off-book; any edition is OK):

Cenerentola

Act 1, Finale, bars 724-736 ('Sprezzo quei don...')

Clorinda

Act 2, No. 14 (Sextet), bars 66-81 ('Donna sciocca...')

Tisbe

Act 1, No. 1 (Introduzione), bars 26-52 ('Sì, sì...')

Ramiro

Act 1, Scene 5 (Recit), bars 1-14 ('Non so che dir...')

Act 1, Finale, bars 736-745 ('Di quella voce...')

Magnifico

Act 1, No. 2 (Cavatina), bars 112-end ('Fertilissima...')

Act 1, No. 2, Recit. after Cavatina, bars 27-34 ('Cenerentola, presto...')

Dandini

Act 1, No. 4 (Cavatina), bars 21-41 ('Come un'ape...')

Act 1, No. 4, Recit. after Cavatina, bars 1-8 ('Allegrissimamente!...')

Alidoro

Act 1, No. 6 (Aria Alidoro), bars 14-57 ('Vasto teatro...')

ROLES

Angelina (La Cenerentola)	Soprano/Mezzo
Clorinda	Soprano
Tisbe	Mezzo/contralto
Don Ramiro	Tenor
Dandini	Baritone
Alidoro	Bass
Don Magnifico	Bass

3. 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.