



HGO NOVEMBER 2025 PRODUCTION – INVITATION TO AUDITION

THE OPERA

Monteverdi's 'L'Incoronazione di Poppea'

The opera will be fully staged with baroque ensemble and sung in Italian.

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.

ABOUT THIS INVITATION

PERFORMANCE

The production will be staged at **Jackson's Lane Theatre, Archway Road, London N6 5AA**

VENUE AND DATES

between **7 and 16 November 2025**. There will be either 6 or 8 performances (to be decided). We may seek to double-cast, subject to audition outcomes.

THE DIRECTORS

Ashley Pearson will be our Production Director. As a director and librettist, Ashley has worked for companies including HGO, Royal College of Music, King's Head Theatre, Malta Three Palaces Festival, OperaUpClose and Opera on Location. She has worked extensively as an assistant and staff director across the UK for productions including *Berenice*, *Macbeth* (Royal Opera House); *Les Mamelles de Tirésias/Une Éducation Manquée* (Royal College of Music); *Don Giovanni*, *Die Fledermaus* (Lyric Opera Studio Weimar); *Carmen*, *La Traviata* and *Ulla's Odyssey* (OperaUpClose). Ashley holds a Masters of Fine Arts in Theatre Directing from East 15 Acting School, and has studied directing at GITIS (Russian University of Theatre Arts), Powerhouse Theatre Festival and Seacoast Theatre Centre. Ashley is the Artistic Director of St. Paul's Opera, and one of the creators of Warehouse Opera.

Seb Gillot will be our Music Director. Seb is delighted to be returning to work with HGO on *Poppea*, having worked with the company on Purcell *Fairy Queen* (2024), *Blow/Purcell Dido* and *Aeneas/Venus and Adonis* (2022), and *Cavalli L'Egisto* (2021). Seb is an organist, harpsichordist and conductor with a specialism in early repertoires. He is in high demand as a chamber musician and accompanist, working with, among others, The Hanover Band, OAE, and Armonico Consort. He is a founding member of Endellienta Baroque, with whom he has performed extensively, and is organist and soloist of the St Endellion Summer Festivals, for whom he is conducting Purcell's *Dido* and *Aeneas* this summer. He is also Director of Music at St Mary Magdalene, Richmond.

AUDITIONS

Auditions will be held on 31 May and 2 June at a church in Richmond.

REHEARSAL VENUE	The rehearsal venue will be Archway Methodist Church (close to Archway Underground Station). A draft rehearsal schedule is attached.
PAYMENT	HGO will pay an honorarium of £400 each to cast members toward their expenses.
ADDITIONAL SUPPORT	HGO will supply Italian language coaching and baroque opera skills coaching to cast members.

ABOUT THE AUDITIONS

ROLES We will be casting an ensemble of around 16 singers to play all roles (multiple roles may be assigned to singers, and double casting may take place from within the ensemble). The roles in the show are as follows:

Poppea	Soprano	Ottone	Counter Tenor / Mezzo
Nerone	Soprano / Mezzo	Arnalta	Counter Tenor / Alto / High Tenor
Ottavia	Mezzo	Nutrice	Counter Tenor / Alto / High Tenor
Drusilla	Soprano	Soldier 1	Tenor
Amore	Soprano / High Mezzo	Soldier 2	Tenor
Valetto	Soprano / Mezzo	Liberto	Tenor
Fortuna	Soprano	Lucano	Tenor
Pallade	Soprano / High Mezzo	Seneca	Bass
Virtù	Soprano / high Mezzo	Mercure	Baritone / Bass
Damigella	Soprano	Littore	Baritone / Bass
Venere	Soprano / High Mezzo		

APPLICATIONS 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 1 May 2025. Please include all the following in your application:

- 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 for audition.

SINGERS' AVAILABILITY Please consider the rehearsal period (see attached schedule) 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 are unavailable. 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 commencing 27 October and 3 November, for final rehearsals and technical rehearsals at the theatre, singers' substantial availability is crucial.

INVITATION TO AUDITION	We will notify all applicants no later than 16 May whether they will be invited to audition.
AUDITION VENUE	Auditions will be held at St Mary Magdalen Church, Paradise Road, Richmond, TW9 1SN.
AUDITION DATES	When applying to audition, please include your availability for the following dates and times: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturday 31 May, 11.00am – 2.00pm • Saturday 31 May, 3.00pm – 6.00pm • Monday 2 June, 1.00pm – 6.00pm
AUDITION PANEL	The audition panel will include Ashley Pearson, Seb Gillot, Philip Sheffield (HGO) and Stuart Barker (HGO). Piano accompaniment will be provided; there is no need to send your music in advance. The pitch for the auditions will be A=440. Please let us know if you wish to bring your own accompanist.
AUDITION PIECES	Please prepare the following for the audition. The Production Director also asks that you consider the character/s you are auditioning for in your selection. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music from an Italian opera from the period 1600-1660. Something from L'Incoronazione di Poppea is preferred but not essential. • Another song/aria in Italian from the period 1580-1660
OUTLINE SCHEDULE	
REHEARSALS	Please see the outline schedule attached. Music and stage rehearsals will commence around mid-September 2025. The get-in at Jacksons Lane will be on 3 November. We will ask you to confirm your availability between mid-September and November at the time of your application, and clarification of any known NAs as a condition of offering a role.
REHEARSAL VENUE	Archway Methodist Church , Central Hall Buildings, Archway, London N19 3TD The church is adjacent to Archway Underground station (Northern Line, Barnet branch)
PERFORMANCE VENUE	Jacksons Lane Theatre , 269a Archway Road, London N6 5AA Train: The theatre is opposite Highgate Underground station (Northern Line, Barnet branch) Bus: Routes 43, 134 and 234 pass the door. Car: on-street parking is available, with some residential restrictions.
ENQUIRIES	Please address any further enquiries for information or clarification relating to this audition call by email to our Auditions Secretary Kathy Dallas (123kathy.dallas@gmail.com) including a telephone contact number.

DATE	DAY	SESSION	TIME	VENUE	ITEM
15/09/2025	MON	AM	10:00-13:00	AMC	Music
	MON	PM	14:00-17:00	AMC	Music
16/09/2025	TUE	AM	10:00-13:00	AMC	Music
	TUE	PM	14:00-17:00	AMC	Music
17/09/2025	WED	AM	10:00-13:00	AMC	Music
	WED	PM	14:00-17:00	AMC	Music
19/09/2025	FRI	AM	10:00-13:00	AMC	Music
	FRI	PM	14:00-17:00	AMC	Music
22/09/2025	MON	AM	10:00-13:00	AMC	Music
	MON	PM	14:00-17:00	AMC	Music
23/09/2025	TUE	AM	10:00-13:00	AMC	Music
	TUE	PM	14:00-17:00	AMC	Music
24/09/2025	WED	AM	10:00-13:00	AMC	Music
	WED	PM	14:00-17:00	AMC	Music
26/09/2025	FRI	AM	10:00-13:00	AMC	Music
	FRI	PM	14:00-17:00	AMC	Music
29/09/2025	MON	AM	10:00-13:00	AMC	Music
	MON	PM	14:00-17:00	AMC	Music
30/09/2025	TUE	AM	10:00-13:00	AMC	Staging
	TUE	PM	14:00-17:00	AMC	Staging
01/10/2025	WED	AM	10:00-13:00	AMC	Staging
	WED	PM	14:00-17:00	AMC	Staging
03/10/2025	FRI	AM	10:00-13:00	AMC	Staging
	FRI	PM	14:00-17:00	AMC	Staging
06/10/2025	MON	AM	10:00-13:00	AMC	Music
	MON	PM	14:00-17:00	AMC	Music
07/10/2025	TUE	AM	10:00-13:00	AMC	Staging
	TUE	PM	14:00-17:00	AMC	Staging
08/10/2025	WED	AM	10:00-13:00	AMC	Staging
	WED	PM	14:00-17:00	AMC	Staging
10/10/2025	FRI	AM	10:00-13:00	AMC	Staging
	FRI	PM	14:00-17:00	AMC	Staging
13/10/2025	MON	AM	10:00-13:00	AMC	Music
	MON	PM	14:00-17:00	AMC	Music
14/10/2025	TUE	AM	10:00-13:00	AMC	Staging
	TUE	PM	14:00-17:00	AMC	Staging

15/10/2025	WED	AM	10:00-13:00	AMC	Staging	
	WED	PM	14:00-17:00	AMC	Staging	
17/10/2025	FRI	AM	10:00-13:00	AMC	Staging	
	FRI	PM	14:00-17:00	AMC	Staging	
20/10/2025	MON	AM	10:00-13:00	AMC	Music	
	MON	PM	14:00-17:00	AMC	Music	
21/10/2025	TUE	AM	10:00-13:00	AMC	Staging	
	TUE	PM	14:00-17:00	AMC	Staging	
22/10/2025	WED	AM	10:00-13:00	AMC	Staging	
	WED	PM	14:00-17:00	AMC	Staging	
24/10/2025	FRI	AM	10:00-13:00	AMC	Staging	
	FRI	PM	14:00-17:00	AMC	Staging	
27/10/2025	MON	AM	10:00-13:00	AMC	Staging	
27/10/2025	MON	PM	14:00-17:00	AMC	Staging	
28/10/2025	TUE	AM	10:00-13:00	AMC	Staging	
28/10/2025	TUE	PM	14:00-17:00	AMC	Staging	
29/10/2025	WED	AM	10:00-13:00	AMC	Staging	
29/10/2025	WED	PM	14:00-17:00	AMC	Staging	
30/10/2025	THU	AM	10:00-13:00	AMC	Staging	
30/10/2025	THU	PM	14:00-17:00	AMC	STUDIO RUN	TUTTI
31/10/2025	FRI	AM	10:00-13:00	AMC	Working Notes	
31/10/2025	FRI	PM	14:00-17:00	AMC	Working Notes	
				AMC	Sitzprobe	
03/11/2025	MON	AM	TBC	JLT	Get-In	Technical crew
03/11/2025	MON	PM	TBC	JLT	Get-In	Technical crew
03/11/2025	MON	EVE	TBC	JLT	Get-In	Technical crew
04/11/2025	TUE	AM	TBC	JLT	Stage & Piano	TUTTI
04/11/2025	TUE	PM	TBC	JLT	Stage & Piano	TUTTI
04/11/2025	TUE	EVE	TBC	JLT	Tech Notes	Technical crew
05/11/2025	WED	AM	TBC	JLT	Stage & Orchestra	TUTTI
05/11/2025	WED	PM	TBC	JLT	Stage & Orchestra	TUTTI
05/11/2025	WED	EVE	TBC	JLT	Tech Notes	Technical crew
06/11/2025	THU	AM/PM	TBC	JLT	Tech Contingency	TBC
06/11/2025	THU	EVE	TBC	JLT	DRESS REHEARSAL	TUTTI
07/11/2025	FRI	AM/PM	TBC	JLT	Tech Contingency	TBC
07/11/2025	FRI	EVE	TBC	JLT	SHOW 1	TUTTI