



HGO NOVEMBER 2026 PRODUCTION – INVITATION TO AUDITION

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

THE OPERA	<p>Vincenzo Bellini's <i>'La sonnambula'</i></p> <p>The opera will be fully staged with a reduced orchestra of approximately 13 players.</p>
THE COMPANY	<p>HGO's key objective is to advance early-career 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>
DATES & CASTING	<p>Eight performances between Friday 6 November and Sunday 15 November 2026. All main roles will be double cast.</p>
THE DIRECTORS	<p>Our Production Director is John Wilkie. John works internationally, with his productions performed in the UK, Europe, Australia and New Zealand. He is a member of the artistic team at New Zealand Festival Opera and National Youth Opera Aotearoa. Additionally, he serves as a stagecraft tutor at The Aotearoa New Zealand Opera Studio and is a founding member of Opera Bohemia in his homeland of Scotland.</p> <p>Our Music Director is Stefano Boccacci. Colombian-Italian conductor, Boccacci is a versatile symphonic, opera, and ballet conductor. He works with orchestras and opera productions in Europe, the USA and Latin America. Boccacci is the current Leverhulme Conducting Fellow and assistant conductor of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. Future commitments include assistant conductor with Opera Holland Park (2026) and Scottish Opera (2027).</p>
ADDITIONAL SUPPORT	<p>Assistant Conductor/Repetiteur – Alex Norton</p> <p>Assistant Director – Valeria Perboni</p>
REHEARSALS	<p>The rehearsal venue is not fully confirmed but is likely to be:</p> <p>Caledonian Road Methodist Church, 426 Caledonian Road, London N7 8TE</p>

train: The church is 150m south of Caledonian Road underground station (Piccadilly Line). About 200m further down is Caledonian Road & Barnsbury station (overground) connection 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.

Music and stage rehearsals will commence at the end of September or the first few days of October. A detailed rehearsal schedule will be sent to successful auditionees. We will ask you to confirm your availability between mid-September and 15 November. Clarification of any known NAs will be a condition of the offer of a role.

PERFORMANCES

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

train: The theatre is opposite Highgate underground station (Northern Line, High Barnet branch)

bus: Routes 34, 134, 234 and N20 pass by the door.

car: on-street parking with some residential restrictions

Performance dates are likely to be 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 November.

PAYMENT

This opportunity is open to singers in the early stages of their careers. All participating singers will receive a payment in recognition of the time and commitment involved. Singers offered a named role will receive £500 as a contribution towards expenses. We recognise the particular demands of some leading roles and will seek to support successful auditionees as appropriate.

AUDITIONS

APPLICATIONS

We invite applicants to notify their interest to our Auditions Secretary Kathy Dallas – 123kathy.dallas@gmail.com – as soon as convenient, no later than 1 May. Please include the following in your application:

- Your professional CV
- Contact details including telephone, email and postal address
- The role/s for which you wish to apply
- A video recording of one or more arias in Italian that you feel show your vocal and dramatic skills, and demonstrate your suitability to this rep. You may send an audio recording in addition. All recordings should be shared in the form of viewing links.
- Photo (small or low-resolution)
- Any dates and times in our proposed audition schedule when you will not be available

AVAILABILITY

Please consider your availability for the rehearsal period (late September and October) before applying. We anticipate a minimal number of NAs but please let us know at this stage if there are dates you know you will not be available. In creating a rehearsal schedule, we will attempt to be flexible with NA requests made well in advance or for important last-minute auditions. Please note: in the weeks of 26

October and 2 November up to first night on 6 November, singers' substantial availability is crucial.

INVITATION TO AUDITION We will notify all applicants no later than 10 May whether they will be invited to audition.

AUDITION VENUE The audition venue will be in central London at a location to be advised.

AUDITION DATES **Friday 22 May 14.00-18.00**
Monday 25 May 12.00-17.00

Please indicate in your application if you are unavailable for any of those times. Singers who are viewed as strong candidates may still be considered if they are not able to attend the scheduled auditions.

AUDITION PANEL The audition panel will include John Wilkie, Stefano Boccacci, Philip Sheffield and Stuart Barker. Piano accompaniment will be provided; let us know if you would wish to bring your own accompanist.

AUDITION PIECES Singers should prepare two or three contrasting pieces, all bel canto, verismo and Romantic art song, at least one in Italian.

For the roles of Amina and Lisa, at least one piece should be an aria by Bellini in Italian.

Singers are asked to bring copies of the scores of audition pieces for the accompanist and the panel.

ROLES

- Count Rodolfo Bass/Baritone
- Amina Soprano
- Elvino Tenor
- Lisa Soprano
- Teresa Mezzo-soprano
- Alessio Bass/Baritone
- Notary Tenor

ENQUIRIES Please address any further enquiries for information or clarification relating to this audition call to our Auditions Secretary Kathy Dallas – 123kathy.dallas@gmail.com.