HAMPSTEAD GARDEN OPERA MARCH 2027 PRODUCTION –

INVITATION TO AUDITION

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

THE OPERA **Mozart's *Don Giovanni***
The opera will be performed in Italian and fully staged with a reduced orchestra of approximately 12 players.

THE COMPANY 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.

THE VENUE **Jacksons Lane Theatre**, Archway Road, London N6 5AA

DATES & CASTING **There will be eight performances between Friday 12 and Sunday 21 March 2027**. All roles will be double cast, with Masetto and the Commendatore being sung by the same singer on alternate nights. All singers will perform in the ensemble at performances when they are not singing their role.

CREATIVE TEAM Our Conductor is **Jonathan Darbourne**.

Jonathan is a conductor based in London. As Artistic Director of Vache Baroque he has led numerous operas and concert programmes from the harpsichord, most recently at the Buxton International Festival. In 2025 he conducted HGO's production of *La Cenerentola*, which won an Off West End award for Sound and Music.

Our Director is **Cecilia Stinton**.

Cecilia is a director and Artistic Director of Spectra Ensemble. She has directed productions for Opera North, Opera Holland Park, Oxford Opera and Berlin Opera Academy, and worked as a staff or revival director at the Royal Opera House and English National Opera. Originally trained as a violinist, she holds degrees in Music and History of Art and a PhD from UCL.

ASSISTED BY Our Assistant Conductor/Repetiteur is **Kentaro Machida**

REHEARSALS The rehearsal venue is not fully confirmed but is likely to be:
Caledonian Road Methodist Church, 426 Caledonian Road, London N7 8TE

Music and stage rehearsals will commence in early February. We ask you to confirm your availability from the start of February to 21 March. 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

There will be eight performances between 12 and 21 March 2027.

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 will receive £600 as a contribution towards expenses.

ABOUT THE AUDITION

APPLICATIONS 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 6 November**. 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. 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 (from early February) 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 I and 8 March up to first night on 12 March, singers' substantial availability is crucial.

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

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

AUDITION DATES

Monday 16 November	14.00-18.00
Wednesday 18 November	10.00-14.00

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 Jonathan Darbourne, Cecelia Stinton, Kentaro Machida, Philip Sheffield and Stuart Barker. Piano accompaniment will be provided; please let us know if you wish to bring your own accompanist.

AUDITION PIECES

Singers should prepare two contrasting arias in their original language, including at least one in Italian. One or both should be by Mozart.

Singers should bring copies of the scores of audition pieces for the accompanist.

ROLES

- Donna Anna — soprano
- Donna Elvira — soprano or mezzo
- Zerlina — soprano or mezzo
- Don Ottavio — tenor
- Don Giovanni — baritone
- Leporello — bass-baritone
- Masetto & Commendatore — bass or bass-baritone

ENQUIRIES

Please address any further enquiries for information or clarification relating to this audition call to our Auditions Secretary Kathy Dallas – kathy.dallas@hgo.org.uk.