



HGO – North London’s leading opera company

JUNE 2021 PRODUCTION – INVITATION TO AUDITION

1. ABOUT THIS INVITATION

THE OPERA: *L’Egisto* – Cavalli’s 1643 opera, performed in Italian, in a new edition specially prepared for HGO by Marcio da Silva.

The opera will be fully staged with baroque orchestra.

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.

THE VENUE: The Cockpit Theatre, Gateforth Street, London NW8 8EH.

THE DATES: 8 performances between **Friday 4th and Sunday 13th June 2021** - two casts, four performances each. See schedule below for exact timing.

THE DIRECTOR: **Marcio da Silva.** Marcio was music director of Woodhouse Opera from 2012 until its final season in 2018, and is the founder of Ensemble OrQuesta. In these roles he has acted as both stage and music director for over 20 operas with a big focus on the baroque repertoire. He is also music director of the Grange Choral Society, and Artistic Director of Hastings Philharmonic Choir and Hastings Philharmonic Orchestra. Marcio has directed operas both at the Arcola Theatre and The Cockpit, and is also an active soloist. www.marciodasilva.com

AUDITIONS: Auditions will be held at The Music Room, 49 Great Ormond Street, London WC1 on 9, 10 and 13 November (see 2.1. below).

REHEARSALS: We anticipate using the Cally Hall for rehearsals, (see 3.1 below)

PAYMENT: We seek to pay an honorarium to singers toward their expenses.

2. AUDITION DETAILS: Our selection and audition process will be as follows:

2.1 Application submission. 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 **20 October**. Please include in your application the following:

- Your professional CV
- Contact details including telephone, e-mail and snail-mail address.
- The role(s) for which you wish to apply (if you have particular role(s) in mind, but this is not critical)
- (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)

- Your preferred date and time for audition.

The available dates and times for auditions are:

- Monday 9th November from 13.00 to 20.00
- Tuesday 10th November from 11.00 to 18.00
- Friday 13th November 11.00 - 18.00
- **Please also consult the detailed rehearsal schedule (3.2) 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.

2.2 We will notify all applicants no later than 27 October whether they will be invited to audition. The audition pieces required are specified in section 4 at the end of this invitation.

2.3 Audition venue and panel

Venue: The Music Room, 49 Great Ormond Street, London WC1

Audition Panel: The audition panel will consist of Marcio da Silva, Philp Sheffield (HGO), Howard Williams (HGO) and Sophie Levi (assistant director, L'Egisto)

Accompaniment will be provided; let us know if you would wish to bring your own accompanist

2.4 Coaching. Successful applicants may be able to arrange free coaching sessions with Marcio during April/May 2021.

3. OUTLINE SCHEDULE

Rehearsals start in mid-May 2021 and will continue generally in the period to the production. There will also be an Open Rehearsal for the friends of HGO (provisionally this could be on Sunday 17 or 26 May). The outline schedule below (3.2) gives a summary of the expected rehearsal dates. We will ask you to confirm your availability for these dates as a condition of offering a part.

3.1 Venues

Cally: Caledonian Road Methodist Church, N7 9BG

The church is on the corner of Caledonian Road (A5203) and Market Road.

Car: There is on street (metered) parking on Market Road.

Rail: The church is 150 yards south of Caledonian Road Underground station (Piccadilly Line). About 200 yards further down is Caledonian Road and Barnsbury Station connecting 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.

The Cockpit Theatre, Gateforth Street, London NW8 8EH

Train: The theatre is a few minutes walk from Edgware Road and Marylebone stations.

Buses stopping nearby are 6, 16, 18, 98, 139, 189, 332, 414

Car: Pay and display parking only available on weekdays. Free parking on weekdays after 18.30 and on Sundays.

3.2 Outline Schedule

Week			
Auditions			
	9- 13 November		The Music Room
	Week of 19 November. When casting is complete appropriate e-mails will be sent to all audiends		
Free individual coaching sessions may be arranged with Marcio during April/May 2021.			
Music Rehearsals			
Week 1	Thursday 13.5.21	10.00-16.00	Music - tutti
	Friday 14.5.21	10.00-16.00	Music - tutti
	Saturday 15.5.21	10.00-19.00	Music - tutti
Production Rehearsals			
Week 2	Monday 17.5.21	10.00-15.00	Staging
	Tuesday 18.5.21	10.00-19.00	Staging
	Wednesday 19.5.21	10.00-19.00	Staging
	Thursday 20.5.21	10.00-17.00	Reviewing
	Friday 21.5.21	10.00-17.00	Reviewing
	Saturday 22.5.21	10.30-19.00	Staging
Week 3	Sunday 23.5.21	14.00-17.00	Staging
	Monday 24.5.21	10.00-15.00	Staging
	Tuesday 25.5.21	10.00-19.00	Staging
	Wednesday 26.5.21	10.00-19.00	Staging
	Thursday 27.5.21	11.00-16.00 Cast 1	Staging
		17.00-19.00 Cast 2	Music
	Friday 28.5.21	11.00-16.00 Cast 2	Staging
		17.00-19.00 Cast 1	Music
	Saturday 29.5.21	10.00-14.00 Cast 1	Staging
	15.00-19.00 Cast 2	Staging	
Week 4	Sunday 30.5.21	14.00-17.00 Continuo only (no singers)	Continuo rehearsal
	Monday 31.5.21	11.00-15.00 Cast 1	Final Run
		16.00-20.00 Cast 2	Final Run
	Tuesday 1.6.21	10.00-15.00	Get in/set up
		14.00-17.00 (no singers)	Orchestra
		16.00-22.00	Tech/Lighting 1
	Wednesday 2.6.21	10.00-13.00	Lighting
	10.15-13.15 Orch and singers Cast 1		
	14.00 Orch and Cast 1	Pre Dress rehearsal (Tech Run)	
Thursday 3.6.21	11.00 Orch and Cast 2	Pre Dress rehearsal (Tech Run)	

		15.00-17.00 no singers	Orchestra
		18.00 Orch and Cast 1	Dress Rehearsal
	Friday 4.6.21	11.00 Orch and Cast 2	Dress Rehearsal
PERFORMANCES			
	Friday 4.6.21	19.30	Perf 1 - Cast 1
	Saturday 5.6.21	19.30	Perf 2 - Cast 2
	Sunday 6.6.21	19.30	Perf 3 - Cast 1
	Monday 7.6.21	No performance	
	Tuesday 8.6.21	No performance	
	Wednesday 9.6.21	19.30	Perf 4 - Cast 2
	Thursday 10.6.21	19.30	Perf 5 - Cast 1
	Friday 11.6.21	19.30	Perf 6 - Cast 2
	Saturday 12.6.21	19.30	Perf 7 - Cast 1
	Sunday 13.6.21	16.00	Perf 8 - Cast 2

4. Parts and Audition requirements

4.1 Parts and voices are as follows:

Egisto	High Tenor/Haute-contre
Clori	Soprano
Climene	Soprano
Lidio	Baritone/High Tenor/Haute-contre/countertenor
Hipparco	Tenor / Baritone
Dema	Low Mezzo / Counter-tenor
Amore	Soprano / Mezzo-Soprano
Aurora / Hero / Hora prima	Soprano
Semele / Bellezza	Soprano
Venere / Fedra	Soprano
Volupzia / Didone	Mezzo-Soprano
Apollo	Baritone / Low mezzo / countertenor

4.2. Singers should prepare two pieces from the XVII/XVIII century Italian repertoire. One should be an aria from *L'Incoronazione di Poppea* or from *La Calisto*. The other should be XVII century if possible, but in any event no later than Mozart.

5. 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.