



DO  
THE DORSET OPERA  
**FESTIVAL**  
MMXVI

## The 2016 Festival: Sensational casts in an extraordinary Dorset Opera summer

Every Dorset Opera Festival we endeavour to offer you a greater all-round experience than the previous year. 2016 is certainly no exception. Our casts this year have already been described by one national opera critic as 'simply sensational'.

Some of those sensations are (naturally) tenor-based, and we take great pride in introducing our audiences to this year's principal tenor line-up. Two are 'new' tenors - both of whom have come through the Dorset Opera system and who extol the virtues of our unique model; one is a well established tenor who is beloved of audiences and is currently taking the Royal Opera by storm; and the fourth is a veteran whose career began with Herbert von Karajan and who went on to conquer The Met. (See inside: all will be revealed!)

With our two contrasting operas - Tchaikovsky's poignant but salutary *Eugene Onegin* and Verdi's magnificent manipulation of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, the latter marking the Shakespeare400 celebrations - we hope to satisfy all operatic tastes.

As we go to press, *Eugene Onegin* is almost sold out on 28 & 30 July, and there are very few seats remaining for *Macbeth* on 29 July. If you are still to book your seats (and picnics) we really recommend you do so now before we embark on our final extensive publicity campaign.

See inside for more major cast revelations. Full casts are listed at [dorsetopera.com](http://dorsetopera.com)

Dorset Opera News | Spring 2016 | Issue 22

Cover Image | Anna Patalong (See page 10)



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## Join us on our trip to Budapest 10-14 November 2016

The details of our late autumn visit to Budapest have captured the imagination of our wonderful supporters. Within days of the announcement of the dates for the trip, it was sold out. As this newsletter goes to press however, a couple has pulled out and there are just two places remaining.

In choosing our tour destinations, we have always linked them to either productions or personalities that have a Dorset Opera Festival connection. The Budapest trip is no exception and we are delighted that Hungarian bass András Pallerdi (who appeared in *Aïda* and *Fidelio*) will be looking after us. Not only will he and his wife be joining us at the welcome dinner on the arrival night, but we hope he will be able to give us a guided tour of the Hungarian State Opera House, and those of us that have chosen to see the production of Gounod's *Faust* will see

him sing the role of Méphistofélès!

The whole group will get the opportunity to see a performance of *Tosca* and there is a choice of either *Faust* or *Die Walküre* as the second opera. For a small supplement, you can elect to see all three operas.

We will of course be visiting the main sights in the Buda and Pest sides of the city - which famously straddles the Danube - and we will be staying in the 4-star K+K Hotel opposite the Opera House.

If you would like to grab those last two places, contact our tour partner Travel for the Arts on 0208 799 8350 and quote: BUD2.





DO  
CAST  
MEMBER



Mark S Doss

## Mark S Doss

### Macbeth in *Macbeth*

Our Grammy Award-winning Dorset Opera audience favourite returns this summer to give us his role debut as a most exciting 'bass-baritone' Macbeth! Mark's incredible vocal range permits him to perform roles normally considered to be the preserve of the baritone, but that bass quality that he takes to the top of his extraordinarily fine voice is what makes his portrayals so compelling.

Mark's landmark performances for the Dorset Opera Festival - the Dutchman in *Der fliegende Holländer*; the cruel Pizarro in *Fidelio*; and Amonasro in *Aida* - make him one of our most requested returnees.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear Mark in this magnificent role. The British press are already clamouring to see both this season's productions.

## Air Cooling again!

We know that last summer was not as warm as it has been in recent years, but the temporary installation of air cooling did make a significant difference to the temperature in the Coade Theatre. In fact, it was so cold at one performance, audience-goers were asking us to turn off the cooling units!

Rest assured, the cooling systems will be back again this year but whilst we hope to keep the temperature in the auditorium to an acceptable level, we do hope that outside the theatre, our Dorset summer is a little warmer than 2015!



Ermenegildo Zegna



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## Four fantastic tenors for the Festival...



Leonardo Capalbo

### Leonardo Capalbo

**Macduff in *Macbeth***

The Dorset Opera Festival is delighted to welcome back Leonardo Capalbo, who will be singing the role of Macduff in this year's *Macbeth*. He is sandwiching us between his two appearances at the Royal Opera House this year: Ismaele (with Domingo as Verdi's *Nabucco* in June) and the title role in *Les Contes d' Hoffmann* in November. (If there are any left, get your tickets now!) His Nemorino helped make last year's *L' elisir d' amore* possibly the most memorable production in our history.

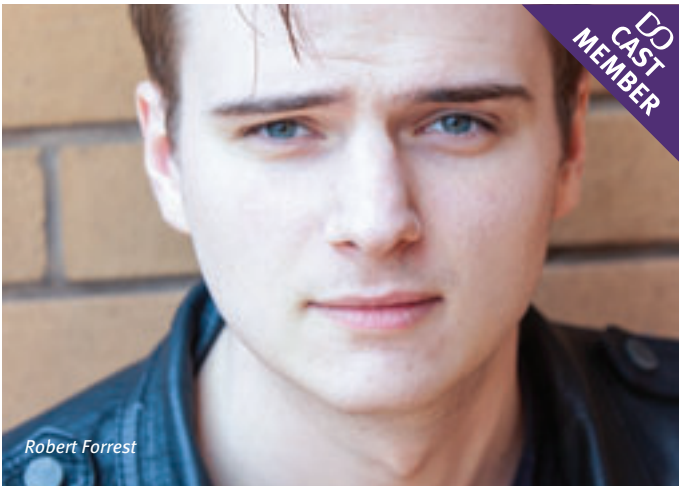


Luke Daniel

### Luke Daniel

**Lensky in *Eugene Onegin***

Luke will be a revelation! He appeared in the chorus of Dorset Opera in *Herodiade* (2006) and *Turandot* (2007) as a baritone where he showed himself to be a fine stage performer. He studied at the Royal College of Music's Opera School. He made his debut with English Touring Opera and became a Samling Scholar. Since settling back in Bath with his wife and small children, he has made the change to tenor under the tutelage of conductor and vocal expert, Gavin Carr.



Robert Forrest

### Robert Forrest

**Malcolm in *Macbeth*; Peasant in *Eugene Onegin***

After joining the chorus of the Dorset Opera Festival last year, Robert - who impressed us with a faultless audition - has been invited back to sing the role of Malcolm in *Macbeth*. He also sings a small role in *Eugene Onegin*. A recent graduate of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland having studied under the tutelage of Iain Paton for the past four years, Robert made his professional debut with the Nedelandse Reisopera last Christmas singing the role of King Kaspar in Paul Carr's production of *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. Robert continues with his studies in September when he begins his post-graduate studies at the RCM.



David Rendall

### David Rendall

**Monsieur Triquet in *Eugene Onegin***

David Rendall worked for the BBC - sorting records for Desert Island Discs. A producer heard him and suggested he get some tuition. He went to the Mozarteum in Salzburg in 1973. From there, he found himself in the famous Musikverein in Vienna singing the tenor part in Bruckner's *Te Deum* with the Vienna Philharmonic under Herbert von Karajan! The rest, as they say, is history. David appeared in all the great opera houses of the world especially the Met, where he sang all the major roles from Don Ottavio, to Lensky, to the title role in *Idomeneo*. He was a regular at Covent Garden singing the likes of Almaviva, Des Grieux in *Manon*, and The Duke in *Rigoletto*. He suffered a career curtailing injury when a set collapsed in 2005.





John Copley

## Copley's Celebrity Lunch

Some seventy Dorset Opera supporters turned out for the first of what we hope will be an annual event. On a late April day that began and ended in glorious sunshine, we gathered at Poole's Harbour Heights Hotel at one point to see snow falling as we and gazed out towards Brownsea Island.

The weather was of little consequence as the great John Copley - who for many years was Principal Resident Director of the Royal Opera at Covent Garden - regaled us with the most wonderful stories from more than 60 years of working in the world's best known opera houses with the greatest names in the industry.

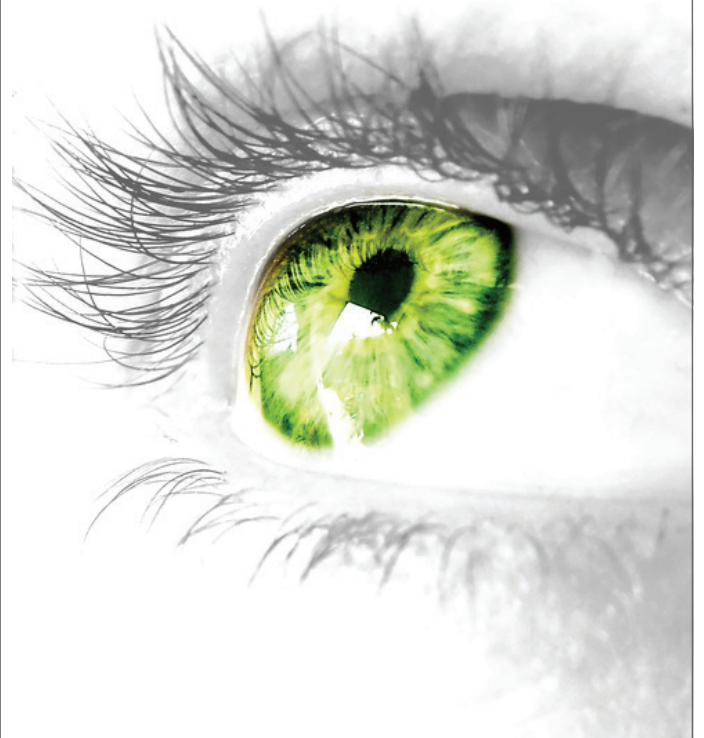
He assisted Franco Zeffirelli with his infamous production of *Tosca* featuring Callas and Gobbi in 1964 (Copley had to sing the role when Callas failed to turn up for the final rehearsals). His most enduring production was the Royal Opera's *La bohème* which was retired last year having starred every great tenor/soprano combination over 41 years including te Kanawa, Gheorghiu, Netrebko, Carreras, Domingo, and of course, Pavarotti (who, according to Sir Thomas Allen, never warmed up and used to snack on a whole chicken in his dressing room before each performance).

Look for John at Bryanston in July. He will be attending our performances and we hope he might be giving a masterclass or two for our summer school participants.

Who will ever forget 'I've got my key and I've got my candle...!'



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## They're going bananas for our cabanas

Many visitors to last year's Dorset Opera Festival will have noticed our cabana (pictured) - which proved a great draw for many wanting their own exclusive picnicking space. The cabana is kindly provided by Patrons, Bruce and Susannah Selby Bennett.

This summer we hope to be able to offer at least one more cabana. If you would like to hire either the small one which is suitable for a maximum of six people - or the new, larger version which can seat up to ten - now is the time to get in touch.

We offer two levels of luxury: one with simply a table and chairs which you can dress as you prefer, or the Super Luxe version - replete with tablecloth, crockery, cutlery, glassware, candles and Pol Roger Champagne!

The Indian-style small 6-seat cabana is £75 per performance, or for the Super Luxe version (to include one bottle of Pol Roger Champagne) it is £150 per performance. The larger 10-seat cabana is priced at £120 per performance or £240 for the Super Luxe version, which would include two bottles of Pol Roger Champagne.

Call the Dorset Opera Festival HQ on 01258 840000 to enquire about availability and to secure a cabana that will make your visit to this summer's festival even more memorable.

## Arts Council England

We are delighted to acknowledge that Arts Council England - via the National Lottery fund - has again awarded the Dorset Opera Festival a substantial grant this year.

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## Tamara Gura

American mezzo Tamara Gura, is to be the featured Artist of the Month in the July edition of *Opera Now*. The velvet-voiced consummate actress will be making her debut in the role of Olga in our production of *Eugene Onegin*.

Tamara has been taking Europe by storm since she became a member of the Opera Studio of the Hamburg State Opera. Prominent productions in Dortmund, Dresden, Munich, Salzburg, Weimar, and a host of other German houses - as well as appearances in the USA and Japan - have led to a burgeoning international career.

British opera-goers may well have seen Tamara as Hermia in the English National Opera's award-winning production of Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.





## Mark Stone

**Onegin in *Eugene Onegin***

Not many regular opera goers can have failed to have seen Mark. His career has taken him across the globe from ENO (where he has appeared in major roles such as Don Giovanni, the Count in *The Marriage of Figaro*, and Figaro in *The Barber of Seville*), via the Royal Opera and WNO to the United States, New Zealand and even to Beijing. His extensive list of recordings includes excerpts from *Eugene Onegin* with Antonio Pappano conducting.

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# DO THE DORSET OPERA FESTIVAL MMXVI

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

## *Eugene Onegin*

Clive Bayley | Luke Daniel | Tamara Gura

Fiona Kimm | Diana Montague | Anna Patalong

Pauls Putnins | David Rendall | Mark Stone

Conductor: Gavin Carr

Director: Paul Carr

**July 26, 28: 19:00 | July 30: 14:00**

Sung in English with English surtitles

Giuseppe Verdi

## *Macbeth*

Clive Bayley | Lee Bisset | Leonardo Capalbo

Mark S Doss | Robert Forrest

Naomi Harvey | Pauls Putnins

Conductor: Jeremy Carnall

Director: David Phipps-Davis

**July 27, 29, 30: 19:00**

Sung in Italian with English surtitles

The Coade Theatre Bryanston  
Blandford Forum Dorset DT11 0PX  
Box Office: 01202 499199  
Online Booking: [dorsetopera.com](http://dorsetopera.com)



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Lee Bisset

## Lee Bisset

**Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth***

Since her riveting portrayal of the title role in our *Fidelio* in 2014 and as Senta in *Die fliegende Holländer* the year before, Lee has been busy all over the world. Even while she's rehearsing Lady Macbeth with us, she'll be shuttling back and forth to the Longborough Festival where she's singing the title role in *Jenůfa*. On top of that, we're delighted to report that she and conductor-husband David Angus, have become the proud parents of a son. Reviewing her recent Sieglinde for Opera North, The Times' Richard Morrison described hers as a 'standout performance' and went on to write: *...Lee Bisset's stunningly lyrical Sieglinde - a repressed woman set free, psychologically and sexually...is compelling.* We're pretty sure Lee's Lady Macbeth will be equally outstanding.

## Increased FODO support

Most readers will be aware that since the Christmas newsletter was distributed the Trustees of the Friends of Dorset Opera (FODO) have taken the decision to increase Members' annual subscriptions to a minimum of £40.00 for a single- and to £60.00 for joint-membership (the latter could be with a spouse, partner, child or grandchild).

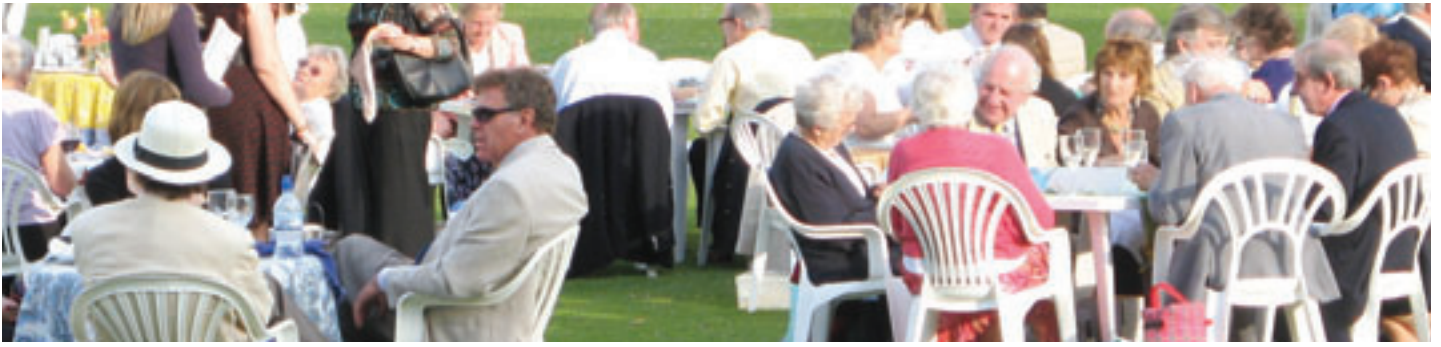
The response to a letter from FODO Chairman, Lady Digby, has been most encouraging and the good news is that the Trustees have now been able to restore their grant to this year's Dorset Opera Festival to £20,000 once again. Much of the grant goes towards supporting bursaries for talented young people who take part in the annual summer school - and whose participation gives such enjoyment to our audiences.

It is hoped that those of you who have yet to respond to the call for an increase in the FODO subscription will now feel able so to do; Dorset Opera needs your support! By doing this you will also ensure that you continue to get priority booking for your favourite seats at the Festival each year.

If you would like further information about becoming a member of FODO or have mislaid Lady Digby's January letter, please get in touch with the Hon. Secretary, Bill Bennette at 01935 873622 or [bb@bbdesign.co.uk](mailto:bb@bbdesign.co.uk) or Hon. Treasurer, Nicholas Block, on 01963 632068 or [nicholas@nblock.me.uk](mailto:nicholas@nblock.me.uk)







## Ensure your visit to the Dorset Opera Festival goes smoothly

**Bryanston grounds:** The Bryanston campus is private, but it will be open to the public from 17.00 on performance days (12.30 for the Saturday matinee.) You and your guests are most welcome to wander round the glorious grounds.

**Start & Running Times:** Evening performances will start at 19.00. The Saturday matinee starts at 14.00. Performances will be approximately 185 minutes long. This includes the dinner interval of 45-50 minutes. Saturday performances: We would respectfully ask Saturday matinee audience-goers to leave the campus shortly after the performance in order to make way for evening patrons.

**The Marquee Bar:** will be sited inside the marquee on the lawns not far from the car park and will be selling alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks including champagne by Pol Roger, wines, teas and coffee. The bar will be open from 17.30 for evening performances and from 12.30 for the matinee.

If you have ordered a Dorset Opera picnic or afternoon tea please collect these from the Marquee Bar. To avoid misunderstandings you will need to present the appropriate catering ticket.

**Picnicking:** Many Dorset Opera-goers now bring picnics to eat before the performance or during the interval. In the twilight, Bryanston's lawns look resplendent dotted with tables sporting glittering lights and in some cases, candelabra! Tables and chairs are available for picnickers on the lawns and inside the marquee. For those who don't want to go to the trouble of preparing food, mini picnic boxes are available to order for collection at the performance of your choice. For those who prefer to take pot luck, a certain amount of food can be purchased 'on the night'. Champagne, wines, soft drinks and hot beverages are also available from the marquee bar.

**Afternoon Tea:** At the matinee, our hospitality partner The Salt Pig of Wareham, offer a full afternoon tea with sandwiches, scones with clotted cream and preserves, cakes and a choice of tea or coffee. This has proved extremely popular, but you will need to pre-order through the box office or via [dorsetopera.com](http://dorsetopera.com)

**Formal Dining:** For those who prefer a more complete dining experience, the Dorset Opera Festival offers a full 4/5 course promotional opera dinner starting at 17.45 at Friday and Saturday evening performances only. Take two courses before the opera, and return to your tables for the rest of the meal during the Long Interval. Wines included. To order, please call the box office on 01202 499199 (you will require your seat numbers). Alternatively, for further information, please call Dorset Opera on 01258 840000.

**Car Parking:** Please drive with care on the Bryanston campus and park as indicated by the marshals. If you or one of your guests is disabled, there are parking spaces nearer the entrance to the Coade Theatre. Please display your disabled permit and ask the marshals to guide you to designated parking. We would ask you to take extra care when driving on grass in the car park areas - especially if it has been raining.

**Wheelchair access:** Limited facilities do exist for wheelchair users. Hopefully, patrons will have informed the box office of their need for a wheelchair space when booking tickets. For any other requirements please telephone 01258 840000 well in advance of your visit. In the unlikely event of rain, picnickers are welcome to take their food into the marquee or the Sanger Building which can be found immediately in front of the theatre.

**Dress Code:** Some of our audience do wear evening dress, but we most certainly do not insist upon it. You should be aware that the theatre does get very warm; please wear clothing in which you will be comfortable.

# Performance

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Anna Patalong

## Anna Patalong

Tatyana in *Eugene Onegin*

Anna will be the perfect Tatyana in *Eugene Onegin* - marking her debuts in both the role and with the Dorset Opera Festival. She is undoubtedly one of Britain's most exciting and sought-after young sopranos. Anna is having a busy summer and comes to us direct from Opera Holland Park - where she will have been portraying Mimi in *La bohème*.

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## Dining at Dorset Opera

Our catering partner at this year's Dorset Opera Festival is the famous Salt Pig delicatessen and café in Wareham. Famed for their succulent and sought-after fayre, they are offering two picnic hamper options at each performance as well as an afternoon tea hamper at the Saturday matinee.

- **The Salt Pig Picnic Hamper** offers a Watercress & Coastal Cheddar Quiche; Sandwiches of Victor's Smoked Salmon & cream Cheese and White Park Beef with Horseradish; Cheese Board of Smoked Dorset Red, Somerset Brie, Crackers & Grapes; Strawberries & Cream, all for £17 per person
- **The Salt Pig Luxury Picnic Hamper** contains all the above plus half a Kimmeridge Bay Lobster, Salad with Lemon & Dill dressing and Chocolate Torte & Cream (instead of Strawberries) at £28 per person
- **The Salt Pig Afternoon Tea Hamper** offers a Sandwich Selection; Scone with Clotted Cream & Preserve; Cakes, and a choice of Tea or Coffee for just £11 per person

Whilst some options - including sandwiches - will be available at each performance, operagoers are strongly advised to pre-book their picnic hampers via the box office (01202 499199) or through [dorsetopera.com](http://dorsetopera.com)

**The Opera Dinner** is on the evenings of Friday and Saturday 29 & 30 July. This is served in one of the staterooms of Bryanston House, and offers 4-5 courses (including wine and mineral water) at £53 per person. Menus are available on our website: pre-booking through the box office is essential.

## It's June, so it must be Tea Party time

This year's Ritzy Tea Party is held at the kind invitation of Dorset Opera Patrons, Deirdre and Egerton Skipwith, who look forward to welcoming us to their splendid gardens at the Old Rectory in Langton Long (on the outskirts of Blandford Forum). For SatNav purposes, the postcode is DT11 9HS.

Take time to explore the extensive gardens and water features at their elegant home near the River Stour. Our annual Ritzy Tea Parties are famous for their tables groaning with mountains of mouth-watering food including sandwiches, scones, clotted cream and preserves, cakes and gateaux, with strawberries & cream and Champagne!

There will be musical entertainment, raffles and an auction (amongst other items, you could bid for a week's fishing on a famous sporting estate in Ireland). All in all, the aim is to have fun with good friends and to raise further funds to assist with the provision of bursaries to assist some of the young singers attending this year's Dorset Opera Festival.

Suggested ticket price: £17.50 per person (of which £7.50 is the cost of the ticket and £10 is a donation on which Gift Aid will be claimed). Time: 15:30-18:30. Please let us know if you have special dietary requirements - and please purchase your ticket beforehand.

For tickets, call Dorset Opera HQ on 01258 840000 or email: [info@dorsetopera.com](mailto:info@dorsetopera.com)







# MILTON ABBEY

## INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

Monday 25 July - Sunday 31 July 2016



### CONCERTS PROGRAMME:

Monday: **VOCES8**

Tuesday: **Opera Scenes by members of the National Opera Studio**

Wednesday: **Dido & Aeneas (Purcell) with Mary Bevan, Les Inventions & VOCES8**

Thursday: **Andy Dickens & his Jazz Band**

Friday: **Summer School Chamber Groups & VOCES8 Scholars' Ensemble**

Saturday #1: **Young Musicians' Concert**

Saturday #2: **Gala Concert including Mozart Symphony No. 40 & Mozart Requiem**

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