



DO  
THE DORSET OPERA  
**FESTIVAL**  
MMXV

**The 2015 Festival:  
possibly the greatest  
line-up of singing  
talent in our history**

The two operas at the heart of this year's Dorset Opera Festival are Donizetti's light-hearted comic love story *L'elisir d'amore* (The Elixir of Love) and Verdi's take on the true story of unrequited love and murder at a masked ball in an opera house, *Un ballo in maschera* (A Masked Ball).

Dorset Opera's music director, Jeremy Carnall, flies in from Leipzig where is Kapellmeister with the legendary Gewandhaus Orchestra, to take charge of *Un ballo in maschera*. The production will be directed by Paul Carr and the team that brought you our hugely successful production of Wagner's *The Flying Dutchman* and Verdi's *Aida*.

*L'elisir d'amore* is in the expert hands of the exciting young conductor Timothy Henty - who is making a name for himself throughout Europe - with Dorset Opera stalwart David Phipps-Davis in charge of directing.

A first during this year's Festival will be a free performance of Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle* in the Church of St Peter and St Paul in Blandford, at 13:00 on Thursday 23 July. This most operatic of oratorios will feature Dorset Opera Festival soloists and our full chorus of over 80 singers - the vast majority of whom are in the 16-25 age group.

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

Dorset Opera News | Spring 2015 | Issue 20

Front Cover Image | Jeremy Carpenter



Supported using public funding by

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Timothy Henty

## A change of conductor

Due to pressing engagements immediately prior to the Dorset Opera Festival, Nicolas Mansfield (General and Artistic Director of the Nederlandse Reisopera) has sadly had to relinquish the baton for the Dorset Opera Festival's *L'elisir d'amore* in July. He remains the Festival's much-adored Chorus Director, and will also conduct a performance of Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle*.

His place on the podium for *L'elisir d'amore* will be taken by the talented young conductor Timothy Henty who is quickly developing a strong international reputation both in the opera house and on the concert platform. He has conducted many of the British orchestras - most recently the Royal Philharmonic - and in June he conducts Mike Leigh's production of *The Pirates of Penzance* at the English National Opera. Timothy will also conduct the Nederlandse Reisopera's 60th anniversary production of Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* this autumn.

## The theatre will be cooler this summer!

Bryanston School has assured us that some form of air cooling will be in place for this year's Dorset Opera Festival. Whilst this cannot take the form of continuous air conditioning, a form of air-cooling will most definitely be employed which will make an appreciable difference to the ambient temperature in the theatre.

We have heard from several supporters who are reticent about buying tickets until they know that the air-cooling issue is being dealt with. To those people we say: please go ahead and purchase your tickets now!

## Arts Council England

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



Dorset Opera supporters in Weimar

## Leipzig & Weimar trip

Following our trip to Amsterdam in 2014, specialist music tour organisers Travel for the Arts were again invited to put together a trip that would inspire and titillate our seasoned supporters. The remit was quite clear: we wanted to see Dorset Opera Festival music director Jeremy Carnall on his home podium.

The check-in at Heathrow's Terminal 5 was gridlocked when our party of 28 assembled. As people's boarding times got nearer, passengers were dragged out of their queues and moved to the front. The last of us eventually got through security just after the flight departure time! We needn't have worried, the incoming plane was late, so our eventual arrival at the gate was perfectly timed.

Leipzig's Radisson Blu Hotel (right opposite the famous Gewandhaus), hosted a 'welcome dinner' for our party on our arrival evening. DOF Artistic Director, Roderick Kennedy, persuaded Jeremy Carnall to join the party and say a few words about the programme of Mozartian works he was conducting for us at Leipzig Opera - the *Requiem* (which on this occasion accompanied a ballet) and *The Magic Flute*.

The third work we took in was Bach's *Mass in B minor* at the Gewandhaus itself - conducted by British baroque specialist, Trevor Pinnock.

What an inspirational city is Leipzig. It was fascinating to hear our expert guides talk of life under the Communists and the eventual dissolution of the GDR which began in 1989.

A visit to Weimar found us in the elegant market square in front of the famous Elephant Hotel (Hitler had the facade remodelled to include a balcony on which he could stand and address the crowds). We were taken to yet more homes of Schiller and Bach and some of us escaped into the Bauhaus museum.

One could do worse than organise a trip to these cities solely to visit the houses, churches and coffee shops of the greatest composers, authors, scientists and academics: not only Bach, but Mendelssohn, Wagner, Goethe, the Schumanns, Liszt, Grieg, Telemann, Nietzsche... the list is endless, and they, like us, all walked the cobbles of Leipzig.

So where next year? The man who came up with the idea of our little trips abroad (Patron, Hugh Watkins) rather favours Budapest. Dorset Opera also has its connections there, so watch this space!



## Events in the planning...

The Fundraising Committee of Dorset Opera under Susanne Parkin, have been busy organising events for the 2015/16 season - and extremely exciting they are too!

It can be revealed that our joyously successful series of Bluffers' Lunches will continue (with grateful thanks to hosts Susannah and Bruce Selby Bennett). Two lunches will take place prior to Christmas with a further four before the 2016 Festival.

We also hope to offer you a celebrity lunch at Poole's Harbour Heights Hotel; an evening of music at the rather unique Grosvenor Arms hotel in Shaftesbury; hopefully a sensational and spectacular function at Wardour Castle and a rather special evening in October at the invitation of Royal Jewellers, Bentley & Skinner, in their Piccadilly headquarters.

Other events already listed in the current Events' Diary are Opera Question Time on 25 September in Durweston, and the Life of Dylan Thomas (in words and song) on 24 October.

The new Friends of Dorset Opera Events' Diary will be published shortly after this year's Festival. It will also appear online and if you have given us your email address, you will receive our regular informative electronic bulletins.

If you are yet to sign-up to e-advertising with Dorset Opera, simply send a blank e-mail with 'Add me to your mailing list' in the subject line, to [info@dorsetopera.com](mailto:info@dorsetopera.com)



Leonardo Capalbo

## Capalbo is back!

### Nemorino in *L'elisir d'amore*

Heartthrob American tenor Leonardo Capalbo makes his long-awaited return to the Dorset Opera Festival, seven years after his huge success as Nadir in Bizet's *The Pearl Fishers*.

Known for his rich, lyric voice, Capalbo has made a name for himself at opera houses across Europe and America and has performed the role of Nemorino more times than he can remember on stages such as Glyndebourne, the Berlin Staatsoper, and with several major American companies. Watch out for Leonardo at the Royal Opera House: he makes his debut next season, and will be seen there in some stellar roles over the next few years.



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## Award-winning beachside dining

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DO  
THE DORSET OPERA  
FESTIVAL  
MMXV



Gaetano Donizetti

*L'elisir  
d'amore*

The Elixir of Love

Conductor: Timothy Henty  
Director: David Phipps-Davis

July 21, 23: 19:00 | Matinée July 25: 14:00

There will be one long interval of  
approximately 45 minutes  
Sung in Italian with English surtitles

Tickets: £25, £36, £52, £63, £69.50



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*The Earl of Shaftesbury with Anteros and St. Giles House in the background*

## Music comes back to St. Giles House

Many of our readers will know that we celebrated our 40th anniversary last year with a recital and dinner at the home of Dorset Opera supporters, the Earl and Countess of Shaftesbury. Now, in conjunction with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, we are invited to join the Earl and Countess at St Giles House for four concerts over the summer, each with a pre-concert champagne reception and followed by a three-course dinner.

Music has been part of the Shaftesbury inheritance since the 4th Earl became a patron of Handel in the early 18th century. He owned one of the largest private collections of Handel scores - which are now stored in the Handel Museum in London. Since then music has continued to be an important theme at the House and many of its inhabitants have supported music in one way or another.

The 9th Earl of Shaftesbury and his siblings were keen singers and made many recordings at the House. Lady Maud Warrender, the 9th Earl's sister, was a close friend of the composer Sir Edward Elgar, who dedicated a piece called *Pleading* to her. The 10th Earl of Shaftesbury (father of the present Earl) was chairman of the London Philharmonic Orchestra during the 60s and 70s and hosted many concerts at the House including several for our President Emeritus Lady Digby's Summer Music Society of Dorset.

After a massive four-year restoration project which has brought the rooms into a habitable condition, it is with huge pleasure that this





series will bring music back to St. Giles House once again. The programme and dates for your diary are:

Thursday 28 May

**Paul Lewis plays Beethoven**

Thursday 25 June

**BSO Soloists play Brahms and Beethoven**

Thursday 16 July

**Ailish Tynan (soprano) sings Fauré, Poulenc, Handel, Parry & Elgar**

Thursday 29 September

**Musicians from IMS Prussia Cove play chamber works by Mozart, Brahms, Schubert and Dvořák**

Tickets cost £80 and include a pre-concert champagne reception from 18.45. Concerts start at 19.30 and are followed by a three-course meal.

To book, please contact the BSO at 01202 644704 or book online through: [www.bsolive.com/music-at-st-giles/](http://www.bsolive.com/music-at-st-giles/)

## The Day of Reckoning

It has become clear that many of you would prefer to pay for their social event tickets by credit or debit card. DONews can reveal that this facility will be available from late August onwards, when we will be inviting you to pay for your event at the time of booking. As with most organisations, tickets will be despatched only when they have been paid for.



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DO  
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**FESTIVAL**  
MMXV

Giuseppe Verdi  
*Un ballo  
in maschera*  
A Masked Ball

Conductor: Jeremy Carnall  
Director: Paul Carr

**July 22, 24, 25: 19:00**

There will be one long interval of  
approximately 45 minutes  
Sung in Italian with English surtitles

Tickets: £25, £36, £52, £63, £69.50


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## ‘No tenor life for me: let me a baritone be!’

**Jeremy Carpenter sings Sergeant Belcore in *L’elisir d’amore* and Silvano in *Un ballo in maschera*, and talks to DO News**

What a pleasure it is to welcome a singer from Dorset back to their home county and, more especially, to the Dorset Opera Festival. Baritone Jeremy Carpenter is just such a person and if the name Carpenter is familiar to Dorset’s music lovers it is not surprising; Jeremy has a fine musical pedigree! His father Raymond was principal clarinet with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra for most of his 38 years with them, and his late mother Cynthia was a violinist with the BSO - later with the Bournemouth Sinfonietta.

The young Jeremy’s talent was recognised early when he and his two brothers were invited to become choristers at London’s St Paul’s Cathedral - where in 1977 he took part in the Queen’s Silver Jubilee service. He recalls that, whilst at St Paul’s, he made several television appearances and even a recording of the Frank Sinatra hit ‘My Way’!

When his voice broke, he gained a music scholarship to Canford School where, from the ages of 13-18, he daily walked past the church in which his parents were married. Of Canford Jeremy says: ‘It offered me the perfect combination of sport, education and music that will stay with me for the rest of my life.’

From the age of 16, Jeremy began to study singing at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama under the tutelage of Roderick Kennedy’s first teacher, Ellis Keeler. After being given a full-time place at the age of 18, he studied with Rudolf Piernay and latterly David Pollard (a former Bournemouth School pupil who was recognised by the GSMD as having an extraordinary teaching gift.)

After leaving the GSMD in 1993 he moved back to Bournemouth for the first time in 18 years and spent several years exploring the dramatic tenor repertoire. This is when he first met Roderick Kennedy. At this point Jeremy breaks off the conversation to admit: ‘I still owe Rod for the window I broke playing cricket with his children at their Bournemouth home!’



By 1999 Jeremy realised that being a tenor is not necessarily all it's cracked up to be. He tired of subsidising his singing by having to earn a living as the manager of an off-licence, and he soon realised that he was not destined to be the dramatic tenor that he had hoped to be. So 'doing a Domingo', Jeremy took himself off to join the chorus of Glyndebourne Festival Opera as a baritone. This in turn led to him being given first small roles in Janáček's *Makropulos Case* and in *La bohème*, progressing to understudying larger roles such as Don Giovanni and Demetrius in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Very soon, he found himself cast in major roles for Glyndebourne: Morales in *Carmen* in the Festival and the Count in *The Marriage of Figaro* for Glyndebourne Touring Opera.

In the summer of 2001, shortly after joining Glyndebourne, he met the young woman who would become his wife: the Swedish soprano Linda Tuvås. They married in Lewes in 2002 and felt that a move to Sweden shortly after was a suitably exciting chance to put down some roots in an up-to-then nomadic existence. Their two children were born in 2002 and 2004.

Jeremy's repertoire now includes Il Conte in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte*, Marcello in *La bohème*, Lescaut in *Manon Lescaut*, Demetrius in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Falke in *Die Fledermaus*, the title roles in *Don Giovanni* and *Gianni Schicchi* at houses such as Glyndebourne, Opéra de Paris, Opéra de Lille, Grange Park Opera and Opera St Gallen. In his new homeland he has sung at The Royal Opera, Stockholm, Malmö Opera, Ulriksdals Slottsteater and Folkoperan.

Recently he sang the role of Gérard in *Andrea Chénier* at the Royal Swedish Opera to tremendous critical acclaim, followed by Belcore in *L'elisir d'amore* with the Opéra d'Angers/ Nantes. In 2012, his season included Escamillo in *Carmen* at the RSO, followed by the same role at the Malmö Opera. 2013 saw his return to the RSO for *Carmen* and he sang Talpa in concert performances of Puccini's *Il tabarro* with the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Daniel Harding.

He has appeared as Sharpless in *Madama Butterfly* at Grand Théâtre de Genève and Sir Robert Cecil in Britten's *Gloriana* and Guglielmo Cecil in Donizetti's *Maria Stuarda* at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. The current season sees him as The Protector in the Scandinavian premiere of George Benjamin's *Written on Skin* at The Royal Opera, and as Germont in *La traviata* at Folkoperan, both in Stockholm.

Jeremy's concert repertoire includes Brahms's *Requiem* and *Liebesliedervaltzer*, the Fauré and Mozart *Requiems*, *Carmina Burana*, Vaughn-William's *Sea Symphony* which he performed in 2014 with the Huddersfield Choral Society and with which he will make his debut in Belgium with the same piece in 2015 under the lead of Edo de Waart and the Royal Flemish Philharmonic.

Not bad for a lad from Dorset.

“The thrill of being part of something so serious and real, the build-up towards the performances themselves, I shall never forget - and those fortnights sowed the seeds of a love for music, opera and the performing arts which has stayed with me ever since.”

Tara Palmer Tomkinson

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Rosalind Plowright

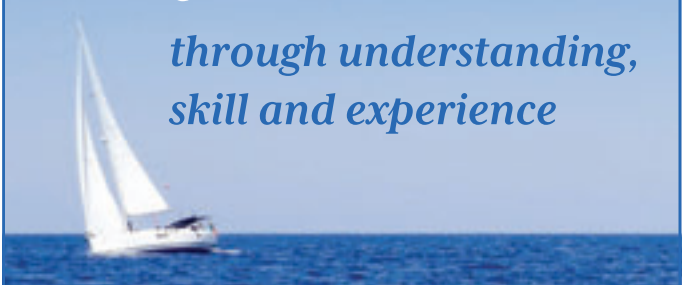
## Rosalind Plowright OBE

Ulrica in *Un ballo in maschera*

The great British mezzo-soprano, who lives in Salisbury, is one of the most celebrated artists of our time. She memorably appeared with Dorset Opera in the title role of Massenet's *Hérodiade* in 2006. This year she portrays the fortune-teller Ulrica Arvidson in *Un ballo in maschera*. As a soprano, Rosalind appeared in every major opera house in the world, singing the foremost dramatic roles in the repertoire. She has sung with each of the Three Tenors and with some of the greatest conductors of the era, and has performed the title role in *Aida* with Pavarotti at the Royal Opera House and in front of an audience of 25,000 at the great Arena di Verona in Italy.

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The Gardens at Eastington Farm

## It's Tea Time!

It's not too late to join us for this year's Summer Garden Party on Saturday 6 June. Don't miss this unique opportunity to visit these sublime coastal gardens that have been lovingly created over the past 20 years by our gracious hosts, Rachel and Allan James.

Overlooking the sea on the Isle of Purbeck, the gardens are surrounded by dry stone walls and divided into 'rooms' to minimise the effects of salt-laden winds. The gardens have varied planting including more formal and structured areas, with others drifting into the land and seascape. The orchard is sown with annuals in a completely random fashion. Come and see for yourself...

Our Summer Garden Parties are renowned for their tables groaning with mountains of food: everything from delicious sandwiches, scrumptious scones with clotted cream and preserves, cakes and gateaux, followed by strawberries and cream, with a fizz finale!

Eastington Farm occupies an enviable position on the cliffs near Worth Matravers - between Corfe Castle and Swanage. The postcode for satellite navigation purposes is BH19 3LF. Once you are on the B3069, please look for the DO direction signs.

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

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## 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. You may pre-order drinks from the bar before the performance for collection during the interval. 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, sandwich platter 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, sandwiches can be purchased 'on the night'. 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 direct 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 into Bryanston House itself. Rain or shine, one of the staterooms is always available for those preferring to picnic indoors.

**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.



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# THE DORSET OPERA FESTIVAL M M X V

For the people of Blandford and in aid of The Cupola Project

Gioacchino Rossini

## *Petite Messe Solennelle*

Conductor: Nicolas Mansfield  
Dorset Opera soloists and chorus of 80

at The Church of St. Peter and St. Paul  
The Market Place, Blandford Forum

**July 23 | 13:00**

Refreshments from 12:30



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

## Important News for the Friends of Dorset Opera

The Trustees of the Friends of Dorset Opera have, for some time, in consultation with the board of Dorset Opera, been carefully considering the level of Friends' subscriptions, particularly in the light of Dorset Opera's recent rapid progress to its present status as a Festival. They have concluded that the Friends' subscription has somewhat fallen behind.

Having taken into account the levels of subscriptions of support organisations of opera companies around the country they have concluded that the proper level for us is £40 per year for a single subscription and £60 for joint-membership. This new level of subscription will apply to those joining FODO from now on.

We all know that opera is expensive to produce, and the Trustees are naturally anxious that FODO should make the maximum contribution as it reasonably can. Whilst the Trustees are not, for the time being, making it compulsory for existing Friends to increase their level of subscription to the new rate - particularly those who have recently joined - FODO would obviously be most grateful for any who felt they were able to do so.

If you are willing to increase your subscription to the new rate, do please contact our Hon Treasurer, Nicholas Block, at Willow Barn, Stalbridge Weston, Sturminster Newton DT10 2LA, t: 01963 362068 e: nicholas@nblock.me.uk

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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 £15 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 £25 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 £10 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 24 & 25 July. This is served in one of the staterooms of Bryanston House, and offers 4-5 courses (including wine and mineral water) at £49 per person. Menus are available on our website: pre-booking through the box office is essential.



Svetlana Kasyan

## Svetlana Kasyan

Amelia in *Un ballo in maschera*

The young Russian soprano is rapidly making a name for herself in the major dramatic roles of the repertoire in opera houses around Europe. She began her career by singing at the Bolshoi in Moscow (after training on their young artists' programme). She has sung such roles as Elisabetta in Verdi's *Don Carlos* in Turin and *Madama Butterfly* at La Fenice in Venice - where she will soon sing the title role in *Tosca*. Dorset audiences had the opportunity of hearing Svetlana in Britten's *War Requiem* with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra under Gavin Carr, earlier this year.

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