



NEW ERA – NEW DISCOVERIES

BE PART OF A GLOBAL COMMUNITY
THAT CREATES A LEGACY OF RARE AND
GLORIOUS OPERATIC WORK

WORLD PREMIERE

DONIZETTI

L'ANGE DE NISIDA



Opera Rara

Sir Mark Elder
Joyce El-Khoury, David Jungsoon Kim
Laurent Nauri, Vito Priante, Evgeny Stavinsky
Royal Opera Chorus, Orchestra of the Royal Opera House

PUCCINI

LE WILLIS



Opera Rara

Sir Mark Elder
Ermonela Jahov, Arsen Soghomonyan, Brian Mulligan
London Philharmonic Orchestra, Opera Rara Chorus

BELLINI

ADELSON & SALVINI



Opera Rara

Maurizio Benini
Ermonela Jahov, Riccardo Massi
Stephen Gaefrner, Patricia Bardon
BBC Singers, BBC Symphony Orchestra

DONIZETTI

IL PARIA



Opera Rara

Sir Mark Elder
Albina Shagimuratova, Misha Kiria,
René Barbera, Marko Mimica
Britten Sinfonia, Opera Rara Chorus

OFFENBACH

Fantasio



Opera Rara

Sir Mark Elder
Sarah Connolly, Brenda Rae
Russell Braun, Brindley Sherratt
Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment

ROSSINI

SEMIRAMIDE



Opera Rara

Sir Mark Elder
Albina Shagimuratova, Daniela Barcellona,
Mirco Palazzi, Barry Banks, Gianluca Buratto
Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment

OPERA RARA: NEW ERA - NEW DISCOVERIES

REDISCOVERING, RESTORING, RECORDING AND PERFORMING THE FORGOTTEN OPERATIC HERITAGE OF THE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURIES



Opera Rara is a world-leading, unique and award-winning combination of opera company, recording label and live operatic archaeologist. We search for neglected masterpieces and restore them brilliantly and thrillingly to life for worldwide audiences to enjoy. Working with the best singers, conductors, orchestras and musicologists, we are at the cutting edge of the opera world. We lead the expansion of the repertoire, encouraging our partner companies across the whole opera community to explore rare operatic jewels.

2020 is Opera Rara's 50th anniversary and marks half a century of ground-breaking work, bringing great unknown opera to a worldwide public. In 2019, our revaluation of Rossini's *Semiramide* achieved an unprecedented quadruple accolade, winning Best Recording at the International Opera Awards, Best Opera Recording in the International Classical Music Awards, and the prestigious Opus Klassik and Edison Awards for Best Opera Recording. Our new global distribution partnership with Warner Classics, one of the largest music distributors in the world, means that Opera Rara's work is set to reach an expanded audience of opera lovers.

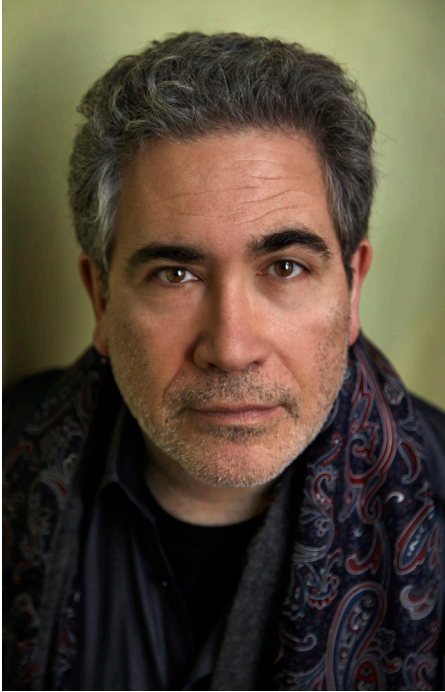
We start this new era in our history from a position of artistic strength. Since 1970, Opera Rara has made over 100 recordings of rare and neglected masterpieces, and nearly half of those have been in brand new performing editions curated and researched by renowned musicologists. As one of the handful of arts organisations still making complete studio recordings, we have sold over half a million copies in physical and digital formats all around the world. Although only a fraction the size of most opera houses and most classical recording labels, we are regularly nominated for Best Recording at the International Opera Awards and have won the prize on three occasions. Sir Mark Elder's tenure as Artistic Director over the past seven years has given us a platform for artistic excellence that is set to continue under Carlo Rizzi's new artistic leadership.

Opera Rara is a charity and does not receive public funding. We have maintained our position through the passion of our individual donors and funders who recognise the importance of our work in the ecology of the opera field. In our 50th year, at this this pivotal moment for the organisation, we are searching for individuals whose passion and commitment matches our ambition. Your support will help to build the foundation for our future work and allow the company to grow and plan, forging new partnerships, attracting new audiences and donors and ultimately ensuring that the company can thrive into a new era.

'Opera Rara's role rediscovering the lost operatic heritage of the 19th century is both unique and invaluable'

Juan Diego Flórez

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR CARLO RIZZI



To become Artistic Director of Opera Rara is for me an honour and a joy. With this great organisation, I will be able to further my interest in little known operatic jewels and, I hope, to inspire you and the artists with whom I will be working on this journey. There's something special and exciting about opening a score and working through the music, with the singers, without the presence of a performing 'tradition'. It is sometimes daunting but it is also exhilarating, which is why I am hugely looking forward to the interesting and varied repertoire that we are planning.

For me, and I am sure I can speak for many of our Opera Rara artists, a very important part of these projects is you – the donors, the sponsors, the stakeholders, the audience – who, through your support and commitment, show us, the performers, that we are not alone in believing in what we do. You are part of the Opera Rara community and are important to us not only for your financial generosity but also because, with your interest and your enthusiasm, you inspire us to give our very best. I am looking forward to meeting you all and discussing our future plans with you.

'There couldn't be a better team for this work'

The Daily Telegraph

OUR FUTURE VISION: A NEW HORIZON

Carlo Rizzi, Artistic Director
Henry Little, Chief Executive
Roger Parker, Artistic Dramaturge



TRANSFORM THE CLASSICAL MUSIC LANDSCAPE WITH A NEW ERA OF REDISCOVERED MASTERPIECES

Opera Rara has played a central role in the renaissance of the *bel canto* repertoire, which has resulted in a fundamental revaluation of many composers: we have, for example, revived some 26 operas by Donizetti alone. We are one of the most important companies replenishing the operatic repertoire, and are thus fundamental to the growth of the sector.

Under the guidance of Artistic Dramaturge Roger Parker, whose expertise in the field of opera is acknowledged internationally, Opera Rara has taken decisive steps into exciting new territories. In recent years, we have set out on an ambitious course in which we have produced award winning recordings in four very different areas. The first one, which has been at the heart of our endeavours for the last 50 years, is the Italian *bel canto* repertoire. The second is the forgotten operas of the Italian *verismo*, when the dominance of Puccini left many other stunning works unjustly neglected. The third is a sustained commitment to the undiscovered masterpieces of that great comic genius of the Second Empire, Jacques Offenbach. Our fourth area is French 19th-

century *grand opéra*, in which the sheer variety of startlingly good but still unknown works is perhaps even greater than in the Italian repertory. Opera Rara has an important role in encouraging opera organisations to engage with the pieces that we restore. Our pioneering rediscoveries of *Fantasio* (2014) and *L'Ange de Nisida* (2018) have inspired companies to stage full productions which serve to widen the repertoire for 21st-century audiences to enjoy.

Through our Guardians' leadership gifts and our donors' continuing support, we hope to match our past musical achievements with an extraordinary programme of thrilling repertoire. The table overleaf showcases our successes over the past few years alongside the potential new rediscoveries for which we now need urgent support.



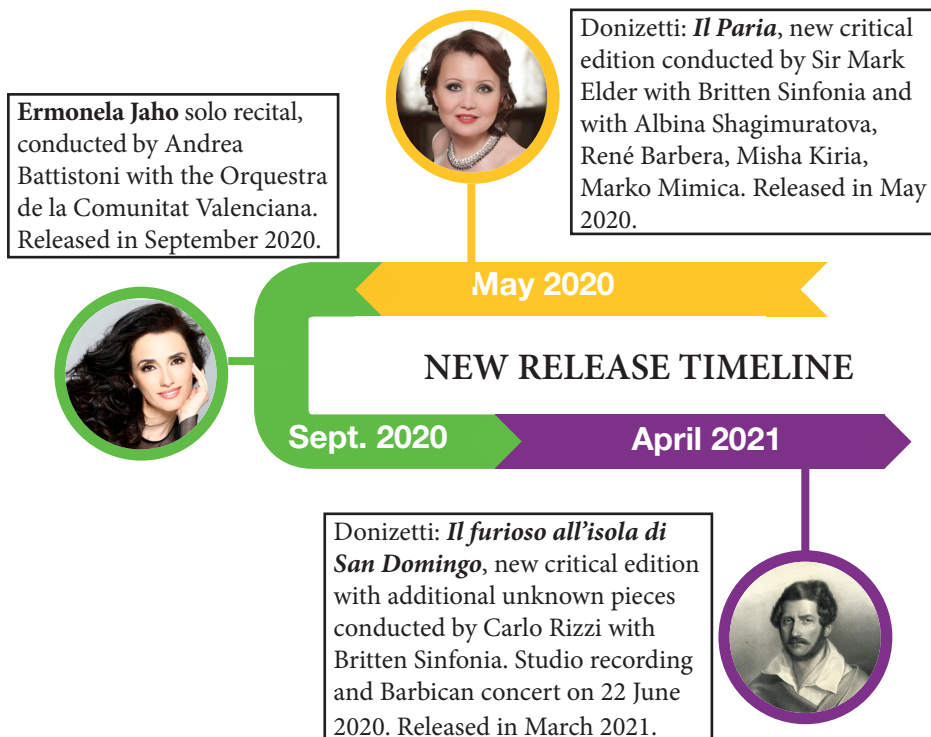
David Junghoon Kim and Joyce El-Khoury performing the world premiere of Donizetti's *L'Ange de Nisida* at the Royal Opera House in July 2018.

‘A superb triumph for Opera Rara, a label whose championship of often neglected operas – by brilliant performers and in studio conditions – can’t be commended highly enough.’

Gramophone Magazine

OPERA RARA AT 50: OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- 61 full-length opera recordings (26 by Donizetti and 10 by Rossini)
- 56 artist collections and compilations
- 43 new performing editions
- Over 520,000 CDs and downloads sold
- Six nominations for Best Recording at the International Opera Awards: won three times for *Fantasio* (2015), *Les Martyrs* (2017) and *Semiramide* (2019)
- *Semiramide* won the ICMA, Opus Klassik and Edison Awards for best recording of 2019
- *L'Ange de Nisida* won the Oper! award for Best Opera Recording of 2019
- *Le Willis* has been nominated for a 2020 BBC Music Magazine Award



NEW REDISCOVERIES TO RESTORE, RECORD AND PERFORM

19th-century *bel canto*

- Donizetti's *Il furioso all'isola di San Domingo* (1833)
- Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra* (original 1857 version)
- Donizetti's *L'esule di Roma* (1828)

Early 20th-century *verismo*

- Leoncavallo's *Zingari* (1912)

French operetta

- Offenbach's *La Princesse de Trébizonde* (1869)

19th-century *grand opéra*

- Halévy's *Guido et Ginevra* (1838)
- Auber's *La Muette de Portici* (1828)
- Massenet's *Don César de Bazan* (1872)

Salon recitals

Building on the success of the recent recital by Ermonela Jaho at the Wigmore Hall in February 2020, we will curate a series of Salon recitals featuring seldom heard repertoire sung by major artists from the Opera Rara family.

Insight programme

Integral to each project is a curated programme of Insight events. These enable the audiences to engage with our operatic rediscoveries in greater depth, through a combination of lectures by musicologists and discussions with singers and conductors.

‘Opera Rara, half a century old in 2020, is a goldmine for anyone on a quest for rarities.’

The Observer

HELP US SUPPORT A NEW GENERATION OF ARTISTS AND MUSICOLOGISTS

'Any lover of opera should be grateful for the existence of Opera Rara. I know the value of this work from my own experience recording Donizetti's Rosmonda d'Inghilterra with them. Without Opera Rara, recordings like that just wouldn't be made and countless musical treasures would remain essentially lost, unheard and unappreciated by contemporary and future audiences.'

Renée Fleming, Opera Rara Artistic Patron who made her first ever recording with us in 1994.



Famed for the quality of our casting, we draw on the world's leading opera singers for our studio recordings and concerts. We are also known for introducing some exciting young operatic talents. For both established and emerging artists, we offer a unique recording platform where their stunning talents can be captured in a recording of the highest technical quality and presented on London's finest concert stages. Among recent Opera Rara major artists are Ermonela Jaho, Michael Spyres, Joyce El-Khoury and Daniela Barcellona; but we are also proud to have introduced exceptional young artists such as Arsen Soghomonyan and David Junghoon Kim, whose international recording careers have been launched with us.

'Where would we be without Opera Rara?'

BBC Music Magazine

Underpinning the ‘live operatic archaeology’ for which we are celebrated, artistic excellence goes hand in hand with scholarly expertise. We work with a team of expert musicologists who guide our journey of operatic rediscovery. Often these experts are at the beginning of their careers, for example Candida Mantica, who painstakingly reconstructed Donizetti’s lost opera, *L’Ange de Nisida* to create our world premiere concerts and live recording in 2018; or Ditlev Rindom, whose work on one of the world’s first ‘international’ sopranos, Rosina Storchio, was the inspiration for Ermonela Jaho’s recital recording and acclaimed Wigmore Hall debut in February 2020. These collaborations, mentored by Roger Parker and the Opera Rara team, enable valuable knowledge transfer between academic research by a new generation of scholars and the world leading professional practice for which Opera Rara is known.

Support from our Donors is essential to continue this ground-breaking work with both emerging artists and musicologists.

‘Opera Rara is an invaluable institution that has broadened the horizons of the opera world, by rediscovering the great lost works of the past. No other institution has done as much for the world of opera in terms of research, recording, and education than Opera Rara and we all owe them a debt of gratitude. Countless individuals such as myself have made their careers with the help of Opera Rara.’

Michael Spyres, world-famous tenor, whose recordings with Opera Rara include *Les Martyrs* (2015), *Le Duc d’Albe* (2016) and a solo recital disc *Espoir* (2017).



ALLOW US TO FORGE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS TO REACH NEW AUDIENCES

We want to create recording and concert performances of rare, usually unperformed titles from the operatic repertoire. These will be a mix of live and studio recordings, the hallmarks of which will be our commitment to the highest musical standards, working with the world's leading orchestras, singers and conductors.

We want to collaborate with opera houses, conservatoires, musicologists and other specialists to create a public platform to enable audiences, scholars and enthusiasts to have access to our archive and the research which informs our new performing editions. Our partnership with the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, which is now the home of the Foyle Opera Rara Collection, is a foundation for this. There is the potential to work with other partners, both in the UK and abroad on this work.

Albina Shagimuratova and
Mirco Palazzi, recording
Rossini's *Semiramide* in
August 2016



'I love to work with Opera Rara because they make fabulous operatic rediscoveries come to life for us all to enjoy. In this noisy world, they make music from the past, beautiful music that sings to our inner spirit now and in the future.'

Ermonela Jaho, star of Opera Rara's recordings of *Zazà* (2016) and *Le Willis* (2019)



SUPPORT A NEW ERA OF EVEN GREATER GLOBAL, ACADEMIC AND ARTISTIC AMBITION

CHAIRMAN CHARLES ALEXANDER



For Opera Rara's 50th Anniversary, we launch the **Opera Rara Annual Fund**, which aims to raise £750,000 per year, or £3 million over four years. Led by the Trustees and under the direction of Chief Executive Henry Little and his team, we rely on the generosity of our committed and loyal supporters. At the same time, we search for new donors who can join the wider Opera Rara 'family'.

Opera Rara receives no public funding and every pound we spend on our artistic programme has to be raised privately. Your support will help us keep the operatic legacy alive through our acclaimed recordings and concerts. Join us and build an enduring legacy of rare and glorious work for future generations to enjoy.

'Opera needs Opera Rara'

Luciano Pavarotti

'Opera Rara relies upon the generosity of passionate opera-lovers to enable its work. I'm delighted to support the company and I would encourage you to do the same.'

Sir Simon Robertson, Opera Rara supporter and member of the Opera Rara Circle.



ENABLE A NEW, RESILIENT FUTURE WITH A GIFT

As Opera Rara is a small, specialist boutique opera company, we can offer our supporters a unique insight into the art-form at the highest level that larger opera companies struggle to achieve.

WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT OPERA RARA

Become a **Friend**

Our **Friends** form our largest community of supporters and provide essential funds to enable the delivery of Opera Rara's ambitious plans. As valued members of the Opera Rara family, they have priority access to our various concerts and events.

I would like to become a:

Meyerbeer Friend	£100 - £249	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rossini Friend	£250 - £499	<input type="checkbox"/>
Donizetti Friend	£500 - £1,000	<input type="checkbox"/>

And I enclose a cheque of / will transfer £ _____.

Become a **Patron**

The **Patrons** are a group of supporters contributing major funding to our annual artistic programme. They enjoy a closer relationship with the organisation, with bespoke opportunities to meet performers, collaborative partners and Trustees through a range of special events.

I / we would like to become a:

Rediscovery Patron	£1,001 - £2,499	<input type="checkbox"/>
Restoration Patron	£2,500 - £4,999	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recording Patron	£5,000 - £9,999	<input type="checkbox"/>

And I enclose a cheque of / will transfer £ _____.

Become a **Circle Member**

To find out more about this tier and its privileged benefits, please contact Henry Little at henry@opera-rara.com or call 020 7613 2858.

I / we would like to become a Member of the:

Artistic Director's Circle	£10,000 - £49,999	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chairman's Circle	£50,000+	<input type="checkbox"/>

And I enclose a cheque of / will transfer £ _____.

Become a Guardian

Donors of £100,000 and above form part of Opera Rara's newest tier, our Artistic Guardians.

To find out more about this exclusive tier of investment in our work, please contact Henry Little at henry@opera-rara.com or call 020 7613 2858.

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate.

Gift Aid is reclaimed by Opera Rara from the tax you pay in the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick here ☐

I want to Gift Aid my donation and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past four years to Opera Rara

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code. Please notify us if you want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address, or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

Title	Forename	Surname
Email	Telephone	
Address		
Postcode	City	Country

Method of payment

1. I enclose a cheque / CAF voucher for £ _____ (payable to Opera Rara).

2. Bank transfer

Bank: NatWest Bank, 218 Upper Street, London N1 1RR

Bank Sort Code: 50 30 09 **Opera Rara account number:** 21411824

Account name: Opera Rara Business Reserve Account

Swift code: NWBKGB2L **IBAN number:** GB96NWBK50300921411824

3. Debit my Mastercard/Visa/Debit/Amex the sum of £ _____ (delete as applicable).

Card No. _____

Issue No. _____ Expiry date: _____ Security No. _____

From left to right: Kathryn Rudge, Marko Mimica, Misha Kiria, René Barbera and Albina Shagimuratova with Britten Sinfonia during the curtain call of *Il Paria* at the Barbican in June 2019.



***‘A winning evening!... Another Donizetti restored
to the repertoire. Job done’***

Classical Source on Donizetti’s *Il Paria*, 8 June 2019

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no. 982535

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ARTISTIC PATRON

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Photos

p.3: Carlo Rizzi by Tessa Traeger

p.4: Carlo Rizzi by Tessa Traeger; Henry Little, Roger Parker by Russell Duncan

p.5: *L'Ange de Nisida* curtain call by Russell Duncan

p.6: Albina Shagimuratova (photographer unknown); Ermonela Jaho by Fadil Berisha; Gaetano Donizetti (Opera Rara photo library)

p.8: Renée Fleming (photographer unknown)

p.9: Michael Spyres by Russell Duncan

p.10: Recording session by Russell Duncan; Ermonela Jaho by Fadil Berisha

p.11: Charles Alexander (photographer unknown); Sir Simon Robertson (photographer unknown)

p.12: *Il Paria* curtain call by Russell Duncan

Back cover (L-R): Michael Spyres & Joyce El-Khoury, Ermonela Jaho, Carlo Rizzi, Albina Shagimuratova, David Junghoon Kim, Daniela Barcellona; all by Russell Duncan.

