

Opportunity to join the 2019 Youth Company

Garsington Opera Youth Company

Artistic Director: Karen Gillingham | Vocal Director: Suzi Zumpe

Garsington Opera is an internationally-renowned summer opera festival, based at the Wormsley Estate near Stokenchurch (Junction 5 of the M40), which produces 4 major operas every year.

Garsington Opera Youth Company is a group of performers aged 9–21 from all over Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire. Members have the opportunity to develop their singing, creative skills, confidence and stage experience through the exciting world of opera. During Easter and summer daytime residencies and additional rehearsals, young people from diverse backgrounds will learn from world-class stage and music directors, leading up to a performance on the main stage for an invited audience at the stunning Wormsley Estate.

The Youth Company is divided into two age groups: YC1 (9–13 years) & YC2 (13–21 years).

In August 2018 the Youth Company had centre stage at Wormsley giving a superb performance of *Eliza and The Swans* (composed by John Barber with libretto by Hazel Gould) which received a standing ovation. In 2017 the youth Company was involved in the hugely successful world premiere of *Silver Birch*, performing three sold-out nights at Wormsley alongside international opera stars, full orchestra and the Foley Sound Design team from Pinewood Studios. *Silver Birch* was subsequently nominated for the International Opera Awards.

2019 Opera: *The Happy Princess*

We are delighted to have been able to commission a brand new opera, *The Happy Princess*, written especially for our Youth Company. Based on *The Happy Prince* by Hans Christian Anderson, the music will be composed by Paul Fincham with the libretto by Jessica Duchon (*Silver Birch*, 2017).

We are looking for local young people - particularly those from Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire - to take part in the opera. If you are aged 9-21 and enjoy singing, acting and performing, we want to hear from you! There is no fee and no previous experience is required - we are looking for enthusiasm and potential, not the finished article! Rehearsals will be held in the High Wycombe area and *The Happy Princess* will be performed on the main stage at Wormsley on **Friday 2 August 2019**.

All members, both current and new, are required to audition. This will be in the form of a fun, informal group workshop led by our director and vocal director. You will hear about *The Happy Princess*, learn and perform some of the repertoire, and meet other young people. Shortly after the workshop you will be informed if you have been successful in joining the 2019 Youth Company.

How do I sign up?

If your school is not able to hold a workshop, there is an open audition on Saturday 15 September 14:00-16:00 in High Wycombe. For further details, queries and to sign up please email judy@garsingtonopera.org.

When will I hear whether I've been offered a place?

We'll be in touch as soon as possible to let you know.

If I'm offered a place.....**Is there a cost involved?**

No – all projects are free of charge.

How will I get to rehearsals?

You will need to make your own transport arrangements as the Youth Company is independent of school.

What is the commitment required?

Because of the limited number of sessions, participants must attend all rehearsals.

How will I learn the piece?

Suzi Zumpe (Vocal Director) will be teaching you the piece in rehearsals. We will also provide music scores and learning tracks so you can revise things in your spare time.

Will I be chaperoned?

Yes, by our experienced Youth Company Manager. All the Garsington Learning & Participation staff have Enhanced DBS certificates.

Further questions?

Please contact Judy Knowles, our Youth Company Manager, who'll be happy to speak with you: judy@garsingtonopera.org 07979 365884 <http://garsingtonopera.org/youth-company>

Rehearsal Schedule for YC1 (9-13 years)

Confirmed Dates	Timings	Venue
2018		
Saturday 10 November	Morning	High Wycombe (venue tbc)
2019		
Saturday 9 February	Morning	High Wycombe (venue tbc)
Monday 8 April	Morning & afternoon	High Wycombe (venue tbc)
Tuesday 9 April	Morning & afternoon	High Wycombe (venue tbc)
Tuesday 30 April	16:00-18:15 tbc	High Wycombe (venue tbc)
Saturday 18 May	Morning & afternoon	High Wycombe (venue tbc)
Tuesday 4 June	16:00-18:15 tbc	High Wycombe (venue tbc)
Saturday 22 June	Morning	High Wycombe (venue tbc)
Tuesday 2 July	16:00-18:15 tbc	High Wycombe (venue tbc)
Saturday 13 July	Morning	High Wycombe (venue tbc)
Tuesday 23 July	16:00-18:15 tbc	High Wycombe (venue tbc)
Monday 29 July	Morning & afternoon	High Wycombe (venue tbc)
Tuesday 30 July	Morning & afternoon	High Wycombe (venue tbc)
Wednesday 31 July	Morning & afternoon	High Wycombe (venue tbc)
Thursday 1 August	Morning & afternoon	High Wycombe (venue tbc)
Friday 2 August	Daytime rehearsal & evening performance	Wormsley Estate, near Stokenchurch