**FEATURING:**

Argentinian director **Valentina Carrasco** was born in Buenos Aires and studied music, dance and literature there. She moved to Paris to work in film and joined La Fura dels Baus company in 2000. Her opera work includes, amongst others, *Die Zauberflöte* (Teatro Real, Madrid, Paris Opéra), Stockhausen’s *Michaels Reise um die Erde* (Vienna Festwochen, Festival d’Automne, Paris, Cologne Philharmonie and Venice Biennale). She has co-directed with Spanish directorÀlex Ollé *Le Grand Macabre* (English National Opera, Liceu, Barcelona, La Monnaie, Rome Opera, Adelaide Festival). Her solo directing credits include *Der Ring des Nibelungen* (Teatro Colón, Buenos Aires), *The Turn of the Screw* (Opéra de Lyon), Respighi’s *La bella dormente nel bosco* (Opéra National du Rhin) and Mozart’s *Don Giovanni* (Perm). Enescu’s *Oedipe*, also co-directed with Àlex Ollé, makes her Royal Opera debut.

English mezzo-soprano **Sarah Connolly** made her Royal Opera debut in 2009 as Dido (*Didoand Aeneas*) and has since sung Fricka (*Der Ring des Nibelungen*) and Brangäne (*Tristan undIsolde*) on the same stage. Connolly was born in Yorkshire and studied piano and singing at the Royal College of Music. She began her operatic career with Glyndebourne Chorus in 1992/3. Engagements with English National Opera include Octavian (*Der Rosenkavalier*), Lucretia (*The Rape of Lucretia*) and Handel roles including Agrippina, Serse and Ariodante. Engagements elsewhere include Purcell’s Dido at La Scala, Milan, Brangäne, Phèdre (*Hippolyte et Aricie*) and Giulio Cesare for Glyndebourne Festival, Composer (*Ariadne aufNaxos*) and Clairon (*Capriccio*) for the Metropolitan Opera, New York. Connolly has sung in recitals in London, New York, Paris, Amsterdam, Stuttgart and at the Aldeburgh, Edinburgh and Schwarzenberg festivals, among others. She is a prolific recording artist and has twice been nominated for a Grammy Award.

Romanian composer, professor and music critic **Dan Dediu** is the author of stage, orchestral, chamber, choral, vocal, and piano works that have been performed all over the world. Dediu studied composition at the National University of Music in Bucharest with Ștefan Niculescu, Dan Constantinescu, Dan Buciu and Octavian Nemescu. He later attended post-graduate courses with Francis Burt, Günter Kahowez and Wilhelm Zobl at the Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst in Vienna. Dan Dediu is the recipient of many national and international composition awards, including the First Prize in the George Enescu Competition in Bucharest (1991). He was the Artistic Director of the International Week of New Music Festival in Bucharest and a guest lecturer at Queen's University of Belfast in 1994. Since 1999, he has been an Associate Professor of Composition at the National University of Music in Bucharest and since 2000 has been leading its Composition department. Until the beginning of 2016, Dan Dediu has been Rector of the National University of Music in Bucharest. His over 150 works are recorded with Albany Records, Cavalli and NEOS.

Australian soprano **Lauren Fagan** joined the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme at the start of the 2014/15 Season. Her roles included Oscar (*Un ballo in maschera*), Gianetta (*L’elisir d’amore*), Girl (*Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny*) and Papagena (*DieZauberflöte*), First Muse (*Orfeo*, Shakespeare’s Globe), Lila (*The Firework-Maker’sDaughter*, Linbury Studio Theatre) and Ines (*Il trovatore*). Fagan completed a business degree before studying at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, where she won numerous awards. Towards the end of her studies she was a member of the Glyndebourne Festival Chorus, with which she sang in *La traviata*, *Eugene Onegin* and *Don Giovanni*.

Danish director **Kasper Holten** was appointed Director of Opera for The Royal Opera in 2011. An acclaimed director of opera and theatre, he has directed more than 65 productions, including an award-winning *Ring* cycle for Royal Danish Opera. He made his directorial debut at the Royal Opera House with *Eugene Onegin*in 2013 and has since directed *Don Giovanni*, *L’Ormindo* and *Król Roger* for the Company. He trained by assisting directors such as Harry Kupfer, John Cox and David Pountney. He was appointed Artistic Director of Royal Danish Opera in 2000 at the age of 27, a post he held for 11 years. In 2010 he adapted *Don Giovanni* for cinema in his film *Juan*, released worldwide. He is Vice-President of Opera Europa, an association of European opera houses and festivals. He has received a knighthood and a medal Ingenio et Arti from Queen Margrethe II of Denmark. At the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, Holten is devoted to promoting new operatic commissions and to introducing new productions and increasing the variety of production styles seen at the Royal Opera House.

British conductor **Leo Hussain** studied at St John’s College, Cambridge University, and the Royal Academy of Music. He began his career in 2004 as Head of Music for English Touring Opera’s spring tours, subsequently appearing for Glyndebourne on Tour and Opera North. He also assisted Simon Rattle and the Berlin Philharmonic and Valery Gergiev and the Vienna Philharmonic at the Salzburg Festival. He spent five years as Music Director of Salzburg State Theatre and is currently Principal Conductor of Opéra de Rouen Haute-Normandie. Engagements as guest conductor include *Faust*, *Tosca* and *Aida* (Berlin State Opera), *L’Heure espagnole*, *La vida breve*, *Tosca* and *Die Passagierin* (Frankfurt Opera), *L’elisird’amore* and *Eugene Onegin* (Bavarian State Opera), *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* (English National Opera) and *The Rape of Lucretia* (Glyndebourne Festival). Hussain works regularly with orchestras including NHK Symphony Orchestra, Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, Prague Philharmonia and Vancouver Symphony. In 2013 he conducted Schoenberg’s *Gurre-Lieder* for the Enescu International Festival in Bucharest. *Oedipe* is his first project at the Royal Opera.

**Àlex Ollé**, one of the six artistic directors of La Fura dels Baus, began his career working with fellow director Carlus Padrissa on projects including *Die Zauberflöte* (Paris Opéra and Teatro Real Madrid), *Don Quijote en Barcelona* (Liceu, Barcelona) and *La Damnation deFaust* (Salzburg Festival). Other productions with Padrissa include *Duke Bluebeard’s Castle/The Diary of One Who Disappeared* (Paris, Barcelona, Kobe, Tokyo), *Aufstieg und Fall derStadt Mahagonny* (Teatro Real, Madrid) and *Aida* (Arena di Verona). Other opera credits include Francesconi’s *Quartet* (La Scala, Milan, and Vienna Festwochen), *Un ballo in maschera* (Opera Australia, La Monnaie) and *Faust* (Dutch National Opera). Also a very successful theatre director, Ollé has co-designed with Padrissa the Opening Ceremony of the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games and has worked on many large-scale shows. He also co-directed the award-winning film *Fausto 5.0* (2001). *Oedipe* is his Covent Garden debut. His work has been rewarded with Abbiati and Helpmann Awards.

Danish bass-baritone **Johan Reuter** made his Royal Opera debut in 2006 as Wozzeck. He has since sung Theseus (*The Minotaur*), Jokanaan (*Salomé*), Grigory Gryaznoy (*The Tsar’sBride*) and Barak (*Die Frau ohne Schatten*) for The Royal Opera. Reuter was born in Copenhagen and began his musical education playing the bongos, recorder and piano, and singing in his school choir. He went on to study at the Royal Danish Academy of Music and the Royal Danish Opera Academy. He began his career in the vocal ensemble Ars Nova Copenhagen, and joined the Royal Danish Opera in 1996. He regularly sings with companies including Paris Opéra, Theater an der Wien, Teatro Real Madrid, Opéra-Bastille and Deutsche Oper Berlin. Reuter has an international career as a concert performer and has appeared at major festivals including the Bregenz Festival, Maggio Musicale, Florence, and the BBC Proms.

**Sir John Tomlinson** started his professional singer career at the age of 21 at the Royal Manchester College of Music. British bass, Tomlinson made his Royal Opera debut in 1977 as Fourth Jew from *Salome*. Still learning new roles, he reaches to a very wide repertoire including Wotan, Hunding and Hagen (*Der Ring des Nibelungen*), Veit Pogner and Hans Sachs (*Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*), King Marke (*Tristan und Isolde*) and Gurnemanz (*Parsifal*), the role creations Green Knight (*Gawain*) and the title role of *The Minotaur*, both for Harrison Birtwistle. Along with his great career at Covent Garden, Sir John Tomlinson sang at Bayreuth Festival, Salzburg Festival and for the world’s leading opera houses. In the 2015/16 Season, he will sing Varlaam (*Boris Godunov*) and Tirésias (*Oedipe*) for The Royal Opera.

Considered to be one of the most interesting Romanian singers of her generation, **RodicaVică**'s dramatic coloratura voice is being highly appreciated both nationally and internationally. Her last projects include recitals at the Venetian La Fenice Theatre and the George Enescu International Festival in Bucharest. She has appeared as Donna Anna in Mozart’s *Don Giovanni* at the Klassik Festival Schloss Kirchstetten in Vienna and the Romanian National Opera in Bucharest, as well as the opening concert of the Baroque Festival in Croatia alongside Ottavio Dantone and Accademia Bizantina. She debuted at only 24 as Rosa from Fioravanti’s *Le cantatrici villane* at the Romanian National Opera in Bucharest. Other roles at the Romanian National Opera include the principal in Donizett’s *Rita*, Belinda in Purcell’s *Dido and Aeneas*, Clorinda in Rossini’s *La Cenerentola* and Norina in Donizetti’s *Don Pasquale*.

Ukrainian baritone **Yuriy Yurchuk** joined the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme at the start of the 2014/15 Season. His roles included Steersman (*Tristan und Isolde*), Dumas (*Andrea Chénier*), Prince Yamadori (*Madama Butterfly*), Baron Douphol (*La traviata*). On the main Royal Opera stage he was Angelotti (*Tosca*), Baron Douphol (*La traviata*) and Johann (*Werther*). Yurchuk was born in Kiev and studied finance and accounting at Kiev National Economic University and worked as a consultant with PricewaterhouseCoopers for seven years before training as a singer at De Paul University School of Music. Yurchuk was a grand prize winner in the Monastero Foundation Bel Canto Competition and won second prize at the Ottavio Ziino International Competition.

**WITH THE SUPPORT OF:**

**Cristina Andrei** is a graduate of the Department of Musicology at the National University of Music in Bucharest. She has been a curator since 1995 and, in 2012, was appointed Director of the George Enescu National Museum in Bucharest. Cristina Andrei has studied both archives and private collections and uncovered new documents which have formed the basis of a series of exhibitions dedicated to the great Romanian musician.

Romanian pianist **Diana Ionescu** began her piano studies when she was seven with professor Sanda Bobescu. After graduating from the National University of Music in Bucharest, she continued her musical education at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, with Joan Havill and Ronan O'Hora. Winner of the George Enescu Competition in 2001, she has been awarded numerous prizes and distinctions, being invited to perform in the most important venues and festivals around the world. In 2015, together with the composer and violinist Vlad Maistorovici, she became co-founder and Executive Director of the International Festival for Chamber Music and Arts – Vibrate! in Brașov, Romania.

British conductor and accompanist **Christopher Willis** is a member of the music staff at The Royal Opera House since 1985. He conducted *Le nozze di Figaro***,** *Elektra***,** *Simon**Boccanegra***,** *Don**Giovanni***,** *Rigoletto***,** *The**Tsarina’s**Slippers***,** *Eugene**Onegin*and*Paul**Bunyan*forTheRoyalOpera. In the 2015/16 Season he will conduct *La Traviata*. Willis studied piano and violin at the Royal Music Academy with David Martin, Sidney Harrison and Rex Stephens. Willis commitments, away from his répétiteur and conductor work at The Royal Opera, include Musical Director for City of Birmingham Touring Opera’s production of Smetana’s *The Two Widows*.