

West Green House Opera 2013



WEST GREEN HOUSE

OPERA 2013

West Green House Opera finds its home in West Green House's "Green Theatre", the centrepiece of one of England's most spectacular gardens, just fifty minutes from London and a few minutes from both the M3 and M4.

West Green House performs true Country House Opera, a fiendishly difficult art form for not only must it present good opera, but there must also be an equal balance between a garden, its ambience and the music to provide its incomparable attraction.

To meet this exacting challenge West Green House has a specially designed Opera Pavilion sheltered between the green walls of the theatre lawn housing its stage, orchestra and tiered auditorium. It is linked by an apple arched pathway to the Lakeside Pavilions where suppers can be taken on balmy evenings, but if the weather forces us inside, suppers are in the flower filled greenhouse set in its own courtyard.

As each opera evening concludes West Green House becomes a unique experience as the Lake Field, water gardens and follies are lit to create a "fete champetre", a performance in its own right creating an unsurpassed garden spectacle.

Charitable Status

Opera season 2013 will mark the beginning of a new chapter in the story of West Green House Opera, with the granting of Charitable Status in recognition of our contribution to preserving and developing this beautiful art form and the opportunities we provide for talented young professional singers. This represents a milestone for West Green House Opera enabling the continued investment in our facilities and brings one step closer the grand dream of a new purpose built auditorium. Our aim is simply to make West Green one of the world's most enchanting Opera venues.

Registered Charity Number: 1148939

The information about the 2013 Opera Season is accurate at the time of printing but may be subject to variation. Any changes to the published information will be posted on our website.

Front cover picture: Criss Canning "Native seed pods"

Back cover picture: West Green House Opera 2012 - Dining in the Lake Field

THE THREEPENNY OPERA

London Philharmonic Orchestra's Foyle Future Firsts

Music: Kurt Weill

Libretto: Bertolt Brecht

Opera in three Acts

Sung in English

Friday 26th and Saturday 27th July 2013

The Threepenny Opera is a play with music on an operatic scale. It is a product of a 1920s Berlin between the Great Wars that offered a socialist critique of a capitalist world, but it was also to be a musical masterpiece that brought together the sounds of cabaret, American jazz and dance bands around the biting text of Brecht and the acid harmonies of Weill.

Based on The Beggar's Opera, a brilliantly successful parody of Handel's opera written by John Gay in 1728 [and a hugely successful West Green House production in both 2005 and 2010], this work has been the subsequent inspiration for the mega musicals "Cabaret" and "Chicago" with many of its principal songs being some of music's most popular and famous, including "Mack the Knife", a jazz standard immortalized by Louis Armstrong.



Image: Richard Struder

For West Green House the London Philharmonic Orchestra's young professional development programme Foyle Future Firsts will accompany the performers enabling us to once again support the best of our younger professional talent.

This orchestra will be under the baton of Ilyich Rivas, who will also conduct Mozart's The Marriage of Figaro with Glyndebourne on Tour this autumn.

Conductor: Ilyich Rivas

Director: Ted Huffman

Orchestra: The London Philharmonic Orchestra's professional development programme orchestra, Foyle Future Firsts

THE TALES OF HOFFMANN

A West Green House - Opera Project Production

Jacques Offenbach

Libretto by Jules Barbier, based on short stories by E.T.A.Hoffmann

Opera in three acts

Sung in English

Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th August 2013



Image: Richard Studer

The Tales of Hoffmann, Offenbach's greatest and final work, represents the pinnacle of his artistic achievement. Based on the short stories by E.T.A. Hoffmann, a drunken poet recalls, over three acts, the great loves of his life. These span from the beautiful exquisite Olympia, who turns out to be nothing but a mechanical doll; to the consumptive Antonia, forbidden to sing for fear of her fragile health, through to the great Venetian courtesan Guilietta who ultimately abandons the penniless poet.

Through these adventures the poet is guided with unfailing loyalty by his friend Nicklausse who, at the final moment, reveals

herself as his "muse", faithful to the last whilst Hoffmann slumbers alone surrounded by the ghosts of his past.

Not since the composer's earlier operetta Orpheus in the Underworld, with its eponymous "can-can", had Offenbach written a piece containing such a vast array of melodic inspiration, from the spectacular coloratura of Olympia's "Doll" aria, to the great trio of Hoffmann, Antonia and Dr. Miracle, to the justly famous "Barcarolle" which so brilliantly conjures up the mystery and magic of the great Venetian city.

Director/Designer: Richard Studer
Conductor: Jonathan Lyness
Orchestra: West Green House Orchestra

GENERAL INFORMATION

Performances

All performances are held under cover in our auditorium in the Green Theatre. Seats are tiered with excellent site lines and seat numbers are allocated. The auditorium is accessible to wheel chair users and disabled guests.

All performances commence at 7.00 pm with a supper interval of about 1 hour 15 minutes.

Performances end at approximately 10.15 to 10.30. Do allow time at the end of the evening to wander through and enjoy the beautifully illuminated gardens. A magical end to the evening.

Arrival

Guests are invited to arrive from 5 pm when the gardens open.

Parking is in the old orchard beside the garden and is well sign posted. An Opera Angel will direct you to your parking space.

Opera Angels will be on hand to assist you and if you require help to carry picnics to the Lake Field.

There is designated disabled parking. The grounds are level; however some of the paths are gravel.

Toilet facilities for disabled guests are available in the Courtyard Garden.

Dress and heels

Dress is customary black tie and evening dress and shawls and layers are advisable. As the lawns may be soft stiletto and "kitten" heels are not recommended.

Bookings

Book by phone or e-mail or complete and return the enclosed booking form.

Our booking office is open weekdays from 10am to 4pm. Tel: 01252 844611

General bookings will open on 1 November 2013. All seating will be allocated on a first come basis.

Tickets will be sent to you by post from mid-February.

A Booking Form is enclosed

If you or your guests have special requirements please note this on the booking form.

If your party or friends are booking separately please advise us of their names so we can as far as possible seat you together.

Conditions of sale

The performance will not be cancelled and refunds are not given. We may accept tickets for resale after all tickets have been sold. However resale cannot be guaranteed. Tickets that are resold are subject to a £10 administration fee.

Enquiries

For further information visit our website www.westgreenhouse.co.uk or phone on 01252 844611 during office hours - 10 am to 4 pm Monday to Friday.



Image: West Green House Opera 2012 - Mozart's Magic Flute, Garsington Opera production

OPERA DINING



Dining in the Greenhouses

Pre Performance

Afternoon Tea

Enjoy one of our delicious afternoon teas that include a selection of cocktail sandwiches, home-made scones with jam and cream and a selection of delicate cakes served on a triple decker stand. These will be served in the large Lakeside Pavilion. £17 per person. Advanced booking essential.

Champagne and Canapes

For those guests dining in the Courtyard Restaurant pre-performance champagne and selection of canapés can be pre-booked from Mosimann's in the Courtyard. A menu and wine list is enclosed. Canapes £15 per person. Advanced booking essential.

Interval Dining

Dine with Mosimann's in the Courtyard Restaurant

We are delighted to welcome Mosimann's to West Green House. Pre book a three course dinner expertly prepared and served by Mosimann's in our rustic Courtyard Restaurant.

£68 per person. Advanced booking is essential. Seating is limited to 50 per evening.

A menu and wine list are enclosed for reservations. Please e-mail or fax your dinner order by the 9th July, directly to Mosimann's.

An Al fresco Opera Picnic

Prepared by our own caterer Pepi Hudson, complement the evening with a sumptuous picnic presented in a traditional hamper served to you in one of the Lakeside Pavilions. A choice of menus is available.

£29 per person. Advanced booking is essential. Our picnic menu and booking form is enclosed. Please return these direct to Pepi Hudson.

Bespoke Picnics

Pepi Hudson also offers a bespoke buffet service in a Lakeside Pavilion. Menus are designed with you to suit your requirements. Waitress service is available on request. From £45 per person. Please contact Pepi Hudson on 01189 328 769 by no later than 1 July.

Bring Your Own Picnic

Guests are welcome to bring their own picnics. You may choose to prebook the comfort of a Lakeside Pavilion or bring your own rugs, tables and chairs. There is ample picnic space around the Lake Field to enjoy a private supper.

Dining Pavilions

Parties may reserve either an entire Pavilion that will accommodate up to 10 guests, a Grand Pavilion for parties of up to 12 or a table for up to 5 guests in the large Lakeside Pavilion.

All Pavilions are set up on the Lake Field enjoying views of the garden or lake. They are furnished with tables, chairs, table clothes, candles and flowers.

Parties may also reserve space in our Greenhouse complex which will be dressed with flowers and candles for the occasion.

On arrival Opera Angels will escort you to your chosen picnic area.

Please see the enclosed booking form for prices.

TRAVELLING TO WEST GREEN HOUSE

Situated in this unspoilt corner of Hampshire and close to Hartley Wintney West Green House is accessible from both the M3 and M4. Please visit our website for detailed directions.



Taxis

There are details of various local taxi firms that operate locally on our website. The Taxi Drop off and Pick-up area is clearly sign posted at the entrance to the Garden.

Hotels

We can supply a listing of local hotels and bed and breakfast accommodation on request.

For further information

A: West Green House, Thackhams Lane, Hartley Wintney, RG27 8JB

T: (+44) 01252 844611 **E:** enquiries@westgreenhouse.co.uk

W: www.westgreenhouse.co.uk

Enjoy the beauty of West Green House Gardens

West Green House Garden could be the inspiration for a Jane Austen novel. It intriguingly combines gardens that are traditional, a neo-classical landscape with flamboyant contemporary design. Its hallmark is its lavish planting and use of vibrant colour combinations.

A grand water staircase provides the focal point to the Nymphaeum fountain. The magnificent Walled Garden is entered through an arbour of wisteria where an allee of apple trees divides its elaborate potager planted with berry filled fruit cages, annual flowers and colourful vegetables, from its signature perennial borders known for their exuberant planting.

Beyond the walls there is a dramatic Persian style Water Garden, a Dragon Garden planted with spring flowering black red peonies, a Lake Field carpeted in the spring with fritillaries, daffodils and bluebells and which embraces one of England's most eclectic collections of garden follies many by Quinlan Terry.

A path leads from the serenity of the lake to the contemporary Garden of the Five Bridge with its serpentine ribbon of Iris sibirica "Papillion" crossed by chinoiserie inspired bridges. It meanders on through a woodland glade to the terraced Theatre Lawn surrounded by tall tapestry hedges .

"The sumptuous dark colours evoke a rich past, the ruby brocades on a wing chair, the deep greens and blues of old tapestry".

