



WEXFORD
FESTIVAL OPERA

THE 69TH FESTIVAL
11-18 OCTOBER, 2020

WAITING FOR... *Shakespeare*

THE FESTIVAL
IN THE AIR



WELCOME

Click below for a video welcome from Wexford Festival Opera's Artistic Director

ROSETTA CUCCHI



FUNDERS



PETITE MESSE SOLENNELLE

Gioachino Rossini (1792–1868)

NATIONAL OPERA HOUSE | SUNDAY, 11 OCTOBER | 20:00 GMT + 1

Rossini's final composition before his death, and one of the finest examples of a solemn mass. *Petite messe solennelle* is considered one of the most remarkable compositions of his entire career, demonstrated by his use of beautiful, memorable melodies and rhythmic vitality. Capturing the glorious acoustics of the National Opera House, Rossini's magnificent piece will be performed on the stage in its original version with two pianos, harmonium, four soloists and chorus. *Sung in Italian*

CREATIVE TEAM

Conductor **Kenneth Montgomery**
First Pianist **Finghin Collins**
Second Pianist **Carmen Santoro**
Harmonium **Andrew Synnott**

CAST

Soprano **Claudia Boyle**
Mezzo-soprano **Tara Erraught**
Tenor **Pietro Adaini**
Bass **John Molloy**
Chorus **Wexford Factory Ensemble**

This performance is dedicated to the memory of the victims of the COVID-19 pandemic.

LEARN MORE ABOUT PETITE MESSE SOLENNELLE ON THE WFO WEBSITE



FALSTAFF CHRONICLES

SIX EPISODES FROM *FALSTAFF* BY GIUSEPPE VERDI (1813–1901)

NATIONAL OPERA HOUSE | 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 OCTOBER | 18:00 GMT + 1

The plays of William Shakespeare were the 17th century equivalent to the modern-day soap-operas, which are watched daily to hear tell of the latest scandal. Giuseppe Verdi was inspired to write his final opera *Falstaff*, based on one of Shakespeare's most beloved characters, when he was nearly 80 years of age. The members of the Wexford Factory will perform a six-part mini-series rendition of Verdi's masterpiece *Falstaff* over six consecutive days. Follow the chronicles of the fat knight, Sir John Falstaff, as he attempts to seduce two married women in an effort to gain access to their husbands' wealth. *Sung in Italian*

CREATIVE TEAM

Music Director **Carmen Santoro**

Director **Roberto Recchia**

Designer **Serena Treppiedi**

Lighting Designer . . . **Eoin McNinch**

CAST

Sir John Falstaff **Rory Dunne / David Howes**

Ford **Gianni Giuga**

Rossini Opera Festival Young Artist Programme

Alice Ford **Francesca Federico / Jade Phoenix**

Nannetta **Kathleen Norchi / Sarah Shine**

Meg Page **Sarah Richmond**

Mistress Quickly **Anna Brady**

Fenton **Andrew Gavin**

Dr Caius **Conor Prendiville**

Bardolfo **Vladimir-Mihai Sima**

Pistola **Conall William O'Neill**

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WEXFORD FACTORY YOUNG ARTIST PROGRAMME ON THE WFO WEBSITE



IMPOSSIBLE INTERVIEWS

MONDAY, 12 OCTOBER | WEDNESDAY, 14 OCTOBER | FRIDAY, 16 OCTOBER | 15:00 GMT + 1

Michael Dervan, music critic and *Irish Times* contributor, meets up with three ground-breaking international artists to discuss the past, present and future of opera.

Graham Vick, *director*

Graham Vick is the Artistic Director of Birmingham Opera Company and works in the world's major opera houses with many leading conductors. His pioneering work in Birmingham has attracted the attention of people and companies worldwide and is now seen to be at the forefront of the modernisation of opera and a pioneer in its development as a 21st-century art form.

Ermonela Jaho, *soprano*

Albanian soprano Ermonela Jaho made her Wexford debut in 2000 in Tchaikovsky's *Orleanskaya deva* and returned in 2001 and 2002 to perform in Massenet's *Sapho* and Auber's *Manon Lescaut*, respectively. She was described in *The Economist* as "the world's most acclaimed soprano".

Sir Antonio Pappano, *conductor*

One of today's most sought-after conductors, acclaimed for his charismatic leadership and inspirational performances in both symphonic and operatic repertoire, Sir Antonio Pappano has been Music Director of the Royal Opera House Covent Garden since 2002, and Music Director of the Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia in Rome since 2005.

LEARN MORE ABOUT IMPOSSIBLE INTERVIEWS ON THE WFO WEBSITE



DINNER TIME RECITAL – CELINE BYRNE

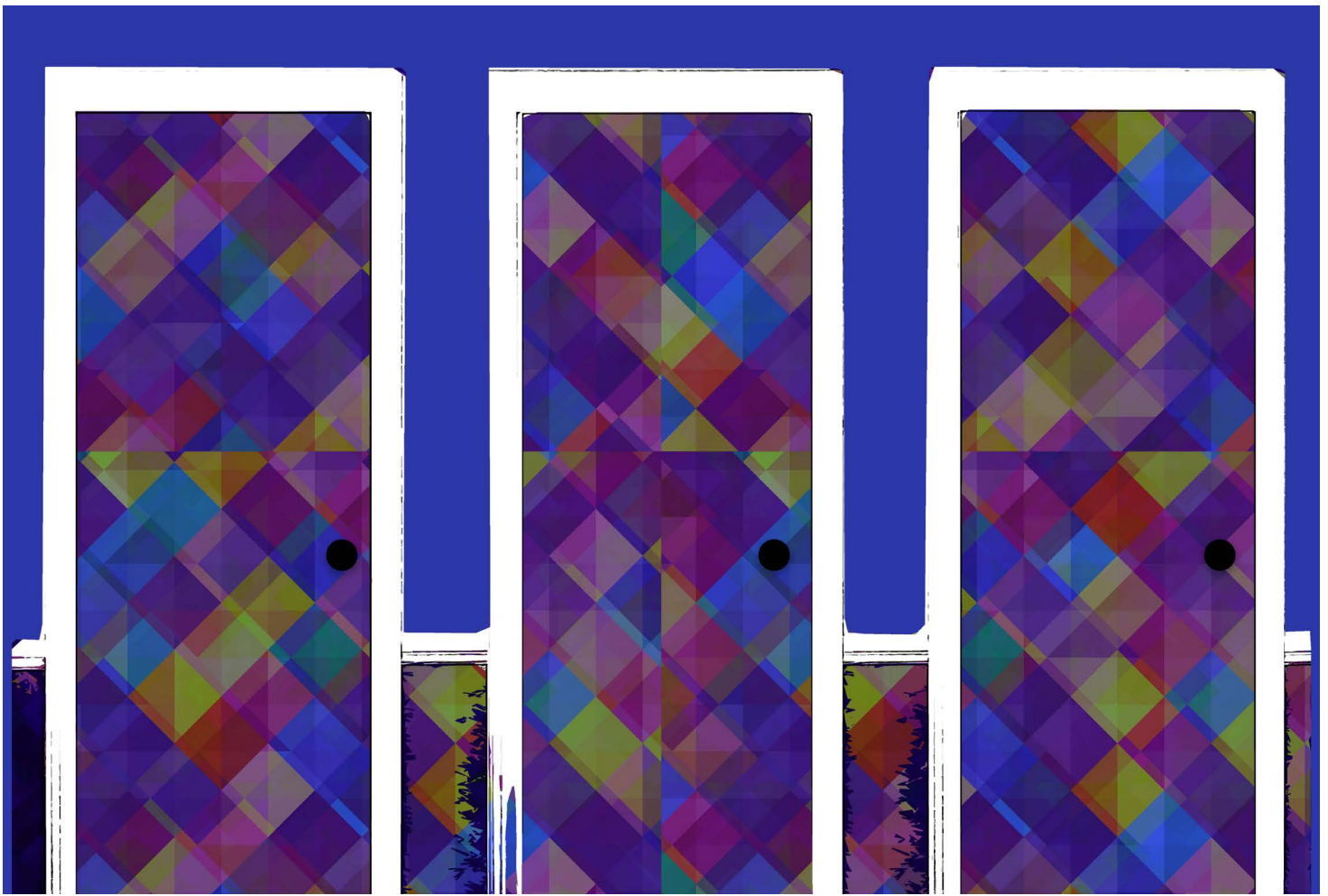
NATIONAL OPERA HOUSE | MONDAY, 12 OCTOBER | 20:00 GMT + 1

Irish soprano Celine Byrne will perform in a very special dinner time recital from the stage of the National Opera House. Celine is very familiar to both Irish and international audiences having performed with Irish National Opera, Royal Opera House,

Covent Garden, Israeli Opera in Tel Aviv, Mikhailovsky Opera, St. Petersburg, Deutsche Oper am Rhein, Düsseldorf and Minnesota Opera amongst others. She has also performed in concert with world-renowned tenors José Carreras, Roberto Alagna and

and Joseph Calleja. Celine Byrne will be one of the internationally renowned masterclass tutors who will mentor the thirteen young talented Irish singers selected for the inaugural Wexford Factory, which will take place from 5–15 September.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT CELINE BYRNE ON THE WFO WEBSITE](#)



WHAT HAPPENED TO LUCRECE

A new opera commissioned by WFO based on *The Rape of Lucrece* by William Shakespeare
composed by Andrew Synnott – Artist-in-Residence WFO 2020

Libretto by **Alessandra Binucci** and **Rosetta Cucchi**

TUESDAY, 13 OCTOBER | WEDNESDAY, 14 OCTOBER | THURSDAY, 15 OCTOBER | 20:00 GMT + 1

Composer and Artist-in-Residence, Andrew Synnott's new opera, commissioned by WFO, is based on the Shakespeare narrative poem, *The Rape of Lucrece*, about the legendary Roman noblewoman Lucretia. Under the direction of Rosetta Cucchi, *What happened to Lucrece* is written for four singers and piano, and will be performed on three separate evenings. Each performance will have a different ending: one tragic, one farcical and one romantic. Viewers are invited to vote on their preferred ending.

CREATIVE TEAM

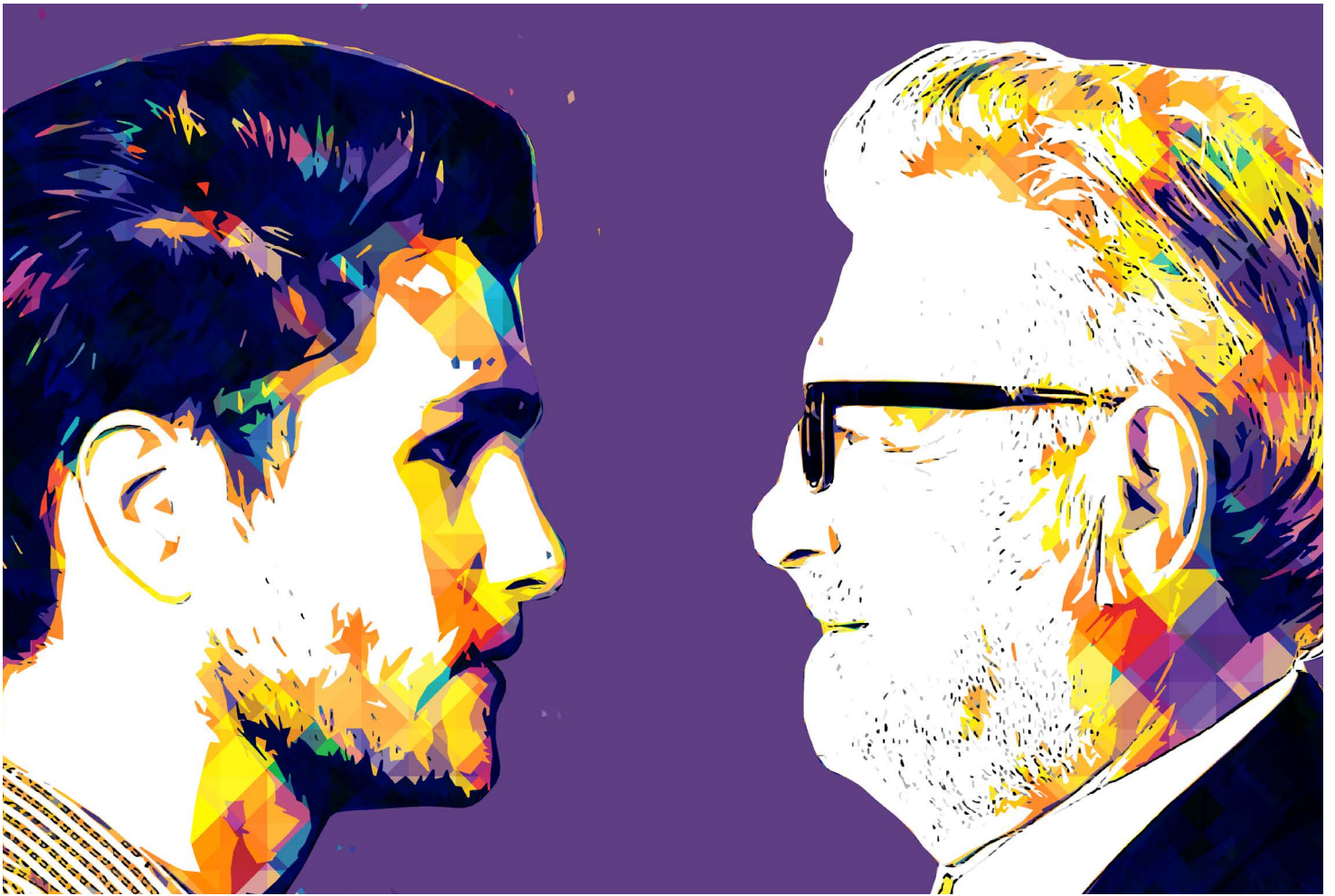
Conductor **Andrew Synnott**
First Pianist **Giorgio D'Alonzo**
Director/Designer. . . **Rosetta Cucchi**
Assistant Director . . . **Stefania Panighini**
Lighting Designer. . . **Eoin McNinch**

CAST

Lucrece **Sarah Richmond**, *mezzo-soprano*
Sextus **Rory Musgrave**, *baritone*
Fran **Sarah Shine**, *soprano*
Collatine **Kathleen Norchi**, *soprano*

Sung in English

LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO LUCRECE ON THE WFO WEBSITE



DR TOM WALSH LECTURES

TUESDAY, 13 OCTOBER | THURSDAY, 15 OCTOBER | 15:00 GMT + 1

This year there will be two Dr Tom Walsh Lectures. The first will be a conversation around the close relationship between Shakespeare, Verdi and Boito: Verdi+Boito=Shakespeare!

The first lecture will be presented by Luigi Ferrari, who served as artistic director of Wexford Festival Opera from 1995–2004.

The second lecture will be a conversation with Clara Hamer, Feargal Hynes and Jack Furness, all of whom are closely connected with the Festival.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE DR TOM WALSH LECTURES ON THE WFO WEBSITE



GALA CONCERT – REMOTE VOICES

FRIDAY, 16 OCTOBER | 20:00 GMT + 1

This year's Gala Concert will be presented by Marty Whelan, one of Ireland's most popular radio and television personalities, and by our Artistic Director Rosetta Cucchi. It will feature performances from some of the most famous and outstanding stars from the opera world, all of whom have appeared at Wexford Festival. WFO has historically served as a springboard for many young singers onto the international stage and while they have gone on to lofty careers, it has always remained in their hearts. It is with great pleasure that we welcome them back to perform for you once again – from their homes to yours.

FEATURED SINGERS*

Aigul Akhmetshina, *mezzo-soprano*

Nicola Alaimo, *baritone*

Simone Alberghini, *bass-baritone*

Daniela Barcellona, *mezzo-soprano*

Paolo Bordogna, *baritone*

Joseph Calleja, *tenor*

Roberto de Candia, *baritone*

Helena Dix, *soprano*

Anne Sophie Duprels, *soprano*

Juan Diego Flórez, *tenor*

Igor Golovatenko, *baritone*

Dmitry Golovnin, *tenor*

Sophie Gordeladze, *soprano*

Ermonela Jaho, *soprano*

Leon Kim, *baritone*

Alessandro Luongo, *baritone*

Raffaella Lupinacci, *mezzo-soprano*

Angela Meade, *soprano*

Sergey Romanovsky, *tenor*

Luca Salsi, *baritone*

Levy Sekgapane, *tenor*

Mariangela Sicilia, *soprano*

Nora Sourouzian, *mezzo-soprano*

Noah Stewart, *tenor*

**Singers subject to change.*

[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE GALA CONCERT ON THE WFO WEBSITE](#)



LISETTE OROPESA

with the **Wexford Festival Orchestra**

NATIONAL OPERA HOUSE | SUNDAY, 18 OCTOBER | 20:00 GMT + 1

A special concert live from the stage of the National Opera House with the internationally-renowned American lyric coloratura soprano Lisette Oropesa, accompanied by the Wexford Festival Orchestra, conducted by Francesco Cilluffo.

Lisette Oropesa is one of the most in-demand lyric coloraturas today, who has triumphed in various roles throughout the most important houses in Europe and the US. Known for her liquid legato and seamless technique, stylistic integrity, precise coloratura, and superlative acting, Lisette excels in the repertoire of the *bel canto*, Mozart, and French composers.

Conductor Francesco Cilluffo is best remembered by Wexford audiences for leading the critically-acclaimed operas: *Guglielmo Ratcliff* (Mascagni, 2015), *Risurrezione* (Alfano, 2017), and most recently the double-bill of *L'oracolo/Mala vita* (Leoni/Giordano, 2018). *La Stampa* named Francesco as one of the top young Italian conductors on the international circuit today.

LEARN MORE ABOUT LISETTE OROPESA ON THE WFO WEBSITE



WFO 2.0 – POP-UP EVENTS

VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN WEXFORD TOWN

SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER – SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER | 12:00 GMT + 1

For those feeling (National Opera) House-bound, a series of pop-up events comprising multidisciplinary performances featuring music, drama, singing and dance, will be performed in non-traditional settings around Wexford town. This exciting new

initiative is designed to bring the Festival back into the community of Wexford, making it more accessible and inviting for new and diverse audiences. Each day will feature a different 'pop-up' event in a different location in Wexford town. All pop-up events

will be streamed on Facebook live each day on the Wexford Festival Opera page. Programme and venues to be announced in the autumn. A limited number of the public may attend in keeping with social-distancing guidelines.

**Facebook Live:
Wexford Festival Opera**

LEARN MORE ABOUT WFO 2.0 POP-UP EVENTS ON THE WFO WEBSITE



WEXFORD
FESTIVAL OPERA

FESTIVAL CALENDAR

SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER

-
- 12 p.m. WFO 2.0 Pop-up Event
-
- 8 p.m. Petite messe solennelle
-

MONDAY 12 OCTOBER

-
- 12 p.m. WFO 2.0 Pop-up Event
-
- 2 p.m. WFO 2.0 Pop-up Event
-
- 3 p.m. Impossible Interviews – Graham Vick
-
- 6 p.m. Falstaff Chronicles, Episode #1
-
- 8 p.m. Dinner Time Recital, Celine Byrne
-

TUESDAY 13 OCTOBER

-
- 12 p.m. WFO 2.0 Pop-up Event
-
- 3 p.m. Dr Tom Walsh Lecture #1:
Luigi Ferrari
-
- 6 p.m. Falstaff Chronicles, Episode #2
-
- 8 p.m. What Happened to Lucrece
Finale #1
-

WEDNESDAY 14 OCTOBER

-
- 12 p.m. WFO 2.0 Pop-up Event
-
- 3 p.m. Impossible Interviews – Ermonela Jaho
-
- 6 p.m. Falstaff Chronicles, Episode #3
-
- 8 p.m. What Happened to Lucrece
Finale #2
-

THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER

-
- 12 p.m. WFO 2.0 Pop-up Event
-
- 3 p.m. Dr Tom Walsh Lecture #2:
Clara Hamer, Feargal Hynes,
Jack Furness
-
- 6 p.m. Falstaff Chronicles, Episode #4
-
- 8 p.m. What Happened to Lucrece
Finale #3
-

FRIDAY 16 OCTOBER

-
- 12 p.m. WFO 2.0 Pop-up Event
-
- 3 p.m. Impossible Interviews –
Antonio Pappano
-
- 6 p.m. Falstaff Chronicles, Episode #5
-
- 8 p.m. WFO Gala Concert
-

SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER

-
- 12 p.m. WFO 2.0 Pop-up Event
-
- 3 p.m. WFO 2.0 Pop-up Event
-
- 6 p.m. Falstaff Chronicles, Episode #6
-

SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER

-
- 12 p.m. WFO 2.0 Pop-up Event
-
- 8 p.m. Lisette Oropesa in Concert
-
- 10 p.m. Auld Lang Syne
-



WEXFORD
FESTIVAL OPERA



PHOTO: SHELDON BAXTER

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ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Rosetta Cucchi
CHIEF EXECUTIVE David McLoughlin



Join the Conversation #WFO2020