



**“Among the UK’s country house opera destinations, Longborough stands out as possibly the most audacious, unlikely and lovable”**

*The Independent*

Following the incredible success of their 2013 Ring Cycle, Longborough Festival Opera has clearly positioned itself on the international operatic stage as a Wagner production house of great merit. Additionally, the 2014 summer season, which included also Rossini and Handel, was virtually a sell-out.

Wagner is, as ever, at the heart of our programming, and 2015 opens with a new production of his monumental *Tristan und Isolde*, in the expert hands of Music Director **Anthony Negus**, directed by **Carmen Jakobi**. Our impressive double cast features **Rachel Nicholls** and **Lee Bisset** sharing the role of Isolde, while **Peter Wedd** and **Neal Cooper** take on Tristan.

In Verdi’s tragic masterpiece *Rigoletto* we introduce a new conducting talent, **Gad Kadosh**. Spotted by Bernard Haitink in one of his 2012 masterclasses, Gad teams up with another first for Longborough, the director **Caroline Clegg**, who will be joined by **Martin Kronthaler** and **Andrea Tweedale** in the principal roles. Often described as Verdi’s first work of complete genius, *Rigoletto* is noted for its exquisite characterisation, especially in the case of the tragic hunchback Rigoletto. This vital opera explores the boundaries of love and innocence, power and corruption - a world where the ruthless win and the outsider pays the cost.

Longborough’s growing reputation will be enhanced by our new staging of *Don Pasquale*, Donizetti’s comic masterpiece, conducted by **Thomas Blunt**, with an all-star cast led by **David Stout** as Don Pasquale and **Susanna Hurrell** as Norina, the young widow who teaches him his place. **Gary Griffiths** plays the devious Malatesta, and **Jesus Alvarez** the lovesick nephew Ernesto. *Don Pasquale* will be directed by **Alan Privett**, with the innovative designer **Lara Booth**.

Our Young Artist Production will be Handel’s witty opera buffa *Xerxes*, directed by **Jenny Miller** and conducted by **Jeremy Silver**, featuring the wonderful young countertenor **Jake Arditti** who appeared in our 2014 Young Artist Production of Handel’s *Rinaldo* to resounding critical acclaim. Director Jenny Miller is committed to nurturing young talent and will be mentoring a young production team including **Faye Bradley**, recently awarded the opportunity of shadowing Robert Jones at the Royal Opera House, and **Anna Sbokou** as lighting designer. We will again be taking this on tour to London and Hastings, providing an important platform for emerging artists and ensuring the future of high calibre opera performances for generations to come.

At Longborough Festival Opera we present high calibre performances in a setting of extraordinary beauty. Our intimate 500-seat auditorium nestles into the hillside, offering a sumptuous Cotswold vista, a perfect backdrop to your evening.

## ***Tristan und Isolde*** Richard Wagner

Sung in German with English surtitles.

### **Press Night - Friday 12 June at 3pm**

#### PERFORMANCES

Friday 12 June 3pm  
Tuesday 16 June 3pm  
Thursday 18 June 3pm  
Saturday 20 June 3pm

CONDUCTOR Anthony Negus  
DIRECTOR Carmen Jakobi  
LIGHTING DESIGNER Ben Ormerod  
DESIGNER Kimie Nakano  
CHOREOGRAPHER Didy Veldman

#### CAST

**Tristan** Peter Wedd (*12, 16, 20 June*), Neal Cooper (*18 June*)  
**Isolde** Rachel Nicholls (*12, 16, 20 June*), Lee Bisset (*18 June*)  
**Kurwenal** Andrew Slater (*12, 16, 20 June*), Stuart Pendred (*18 June*)  
**King Marke** Frode Olsen (*12, 16, 18, 20 June*)  
**Brangäne** Catherine Carby (*12, 16, 20 June*), Harriet Williams (*18 June*)  
**Melot** Ben Thapa (*12, 16, 20 June*), Stephen Rooke (*18 June*)  
**Shepherd** Stephen Rooke (*12, 16, 20 June*), Edward Hughes (*18 June*)  
**Sailor** Edward Hughes  
**Helmsman** Thomas Colwell  
Longborough Festival Orchestra

#### CHORUS

**DANCERS** Katie Lusby, Mbulelo Ndabeni

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## ***Rigoletto*** Giuseppe Verdi

Sung in Italian with English surtitles

### **Press Night - Saturday 4 July at 6.30pm**

#### PERFORMANCES

Saturday 4 July 6.30pm  
Wednesday 8 July 6.30pm  
Friday 10 July 6.30pm  
Monday 13 July 6.30pm  
Thursday 16 July 6.30pm  
Saturday 18 July 6.30pm

CONDUCTOR Gad Kadosh  
DIRECTOR Caroline Clegg  
DESIGNER Lara Booth

#### CAST

**Rigoletto** - Martin Kronthaler  
**Gilda** - Andrea Tweedale  
**Duke of Mantua** - Robyn Lyn Evans  
**Sparafucile** - Timothy Dawkins  
**Borsa** - Christopher Diffey  
**Marullo** - Brendan Collins  
**Countess Ceprano** - Susannah Haberfeld  
**Ceprano** - Nicolas Legoux  
**Giovanna** - Adriana Festeu  
**Maddalena** - Fiona MacDonald  
Longborough Festival Orchestra

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## ***Don Pasquale*** Gaetano Donizetti

Sung in Italian with English surtitles.

### **Press Night - Friday 3 July at 6.30pm**

#### PERFORMANCES

Friday 3 July	6.30pm	CONDUCTOR Thomas Blunt
Tuesday 7 July	6.30pm	DIRECTOR Alan Privett
Saturday 11 July	6.30pm	DESIGNER Lara Booth
Wednesday 15 July	6.30pm	
Sunday 19 July	3pm	

#### CAST

**Norina** - Susanna Hurrell

**Malatesta** - Gary Griffiths

**Ernesto** - Jesus Alvarez

**Don Pasquale** – David Stout

Longborough Festival Orchestra

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## ***Xerxes*** George Frideric Handel

Sung in Italian with English surtitles

### **Press Night – Saturday 25 July at 6.30pm**

#### PERFORMANCES

Saturday 25 July	6.30 pm	CONDUCTOR Jeremy Silver
Sunday 26 July	3.00 pm	DIRECTOR Jenny Miller
		DESIGNER Faye Bradley

Thursday 30 July Britten Theatre, London

Sunday 2 August St Mary in the Castle, Hastings

#### CAST

**Xerxes** - Jake Arditti

**Arsamenes** - Tai Oney

**Amastris** - Lucinda Stuart Grant

**Ariodate** - Jon Stainsby

**Romilda** - Alice Privett

**Elviro** - Matthew Durkan

Longborough Festival Orchestra

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For further details or to request press tickets, please contact Helen Granger [helen@lfo.org.uk](mailto:helen@lfo.org.uk) or 01451 830292. Press consultant - Judy Grahame [judy@judygrahame.com](mailto:judy@judygrahame.com)

Photographs – these will be made available at [www.lfo.org.uk/press](http://www.lfo.org.uk/press) or contact Helen Granger on the above address.