



## Wagner *Siegfried*

30 May, 1, 3, 5, 7 June 2022

Longborough Festival Opera's ambitious new *Ring* cycle began with critically acclaimed performances of *Das Rheingold* in 2019 ("both epic and intimate" – Opera Magazine) and a concert staging of *Die Walküre* in 2021 ("as fine Wagner as could be wished" – \*\*\*\* The Guardian).

Fully staged performances return for *Siegfried* in 2022. The cycle continues with *Götterdämmerung* in 2023, building to the full cycle of *Der Ring des Nibelungen* in 2024.

All productions in the cycle are created especially for Longborough by **Amy Lane**, Artistic Director of Copenhagen Opera Festival, and Longborough Music Director and eminent Wagnerian **Anthony Negus**.

"With *Siegfried* we return to fully-staged Wagner and take another step on our journey towards the *Ring* cycle with this remarkably funny and exuberant third instalment of Wagner's cycle" – Polly Graham, Artistic Director

## Korngold *Die tote Stadt*

21, 23, 25, 27 June 2022

The 2022 season continues with a dramatised concert production of Korngold's youthful drama of desire, *Die tote Stadt*, in what will be the composer's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. Director **Carmen Jakobi** and acclaimed conductor **Justin Brown** offer a new take on this rarely performed work. *Die tote Stadt* will feature the Longborough Youth Chorus, following their performance in *The Cunning Little Vixen* in the 2021 season.

"It's incredible how the 23-yr-old Korngold was able to assimilate the latest trends, particularly Puccini and Strauss, almost outdoing them with his sense of colour and gift for beautiful melody, while already demonstrating an unmistakeable personal voice and idiom. The music is at once seductive, charming and subtly complex, providing exciting challenges for orchestra and singers alike. The only challenge for the audience is to resist falling under its spell!" – Justin Brown, Conductor

### Media Enquiries

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## Bizet *Carmen*

9, 10, 12, 14, 16, 17, 19 July 2022

Director **Mathilde Lopez** returns to Longborough following her production of Cavalli's *La Calisto* in 2019 ("*a punky take on a Baroque masterpiece*" – \*\*\*\* The Times).

Lopez directs what promises to be a radical take on Bizet's tale of freedom, passion and high drama, with the Longborough Festival Orchestra under the baton of **Jeremy Silver**. **Margaret Plummer** makes her Longborough debut in the title role, with **Peter Gijsbertsen** (*La traviata* 2018) as Don José, and featuring the Longborough Youth Chorus.

"*The children are superb; but they would be, wouldn't they?*" – \*\*\*\* The Arts Desk, review of Longborough Youth Chorus in *The Cunning Little Vixen*, 2021.

## Waley-Cohen *Spell Book*

**Caccini *La liberazione di Ruggiero dall'isola d'Alcina***

28, 30, 31 July, 2 August 2022

Longborough's Emerging Artist programme gives a vital opportunity to singers at the beginning of their careers. In 2022 audiences are treated to a double bill of love, freedom and magic.

Members of the Emerging Artists ensemble offer the first complete staging of **Freya Waley-Cohen's *Spell Book***, a dramatic song cycle inspired by the composer's encounter with Rebecca Tamás' collection of poems, *WITCH*.

"*The women of Freya's songs create spells that celebrate hard won freedoms, as well as spells that lay out the divisions and injustices yet to be overcome. A perfect project for a new generation of performers.*"  
– Polly Graham, Artistic Director

Following this is a performance of Francesca Caccini's *La liberazione di Ruggiero dall'isola d'Alcina*, the earliest surviving opera written by a female composer. With a story from Ariosto's *Orlando Furioso*, *La liberazione di Ruggiero* will be performed in a new arrangement by conductor **Yshani Perinpanayagam**, featuring **CHROMA Ensemble** and directed by **Jenny Ogilvie**.

## About Longborough Festival Opera

Martin and Lizzie Graham started promoting opera in the grounds of their home in 1991 as Banks Fee Opera. Longborough Festival Opera has since grown into an established opera company, situated in the heart of the Cotswolds, with an annual season taking place in a purpose-built opera house seating 500. Martin and Lizzie's daughter, the acclaimed opera director Polly Graham, was appointed as Artistic Director in 2018, working alongside Jennifer Smith, Executive Director.

Longborough's intimate auditorium enables the audience to experience the drama and emotion on the stage on an almost personal level, firmly securing the summer season into the diaries of a loyal and ever-increasing audience.

Longborough Festival Opera is a charity, relying on ticket sales and the generosity of its members and audience.

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