

**BRIXTON
CHAMBER
ORCHESTRA**

&

**PEGASUS
OPERA
COMPANY**
Harmony in Diversity

Proudly present

THE BRIXTON OPERA GALA

FEATURING

BRIXTON CHAMBER ORCHESTRA, PEGASUS SINGERS & COMMUNITY CHORUS

23RD AUGUST 2025

ST PAUL'S CHURCHYARD,
CLAPHAM

24TH AUGUST 2025

BROCKWELL PARK

Kindly supported by
Hagemann Rosenthal Associates
and The Marchus Trust



THE PROGRAMME

♪ *Tanhauser*, WAGNER

Overture

Dir Töne Lob! - **Ronald Samm**

Dich Teure Halle - **Isabella Moore**

O Du, Mein Holder Abendstern - **Benson Wilson**

♪ *The Magic Flute*, MOZART

Der Hölle Rache - **Rachel Duckett**

March of the Priests

O Isis und Osiris - **Jacob Bettinelli**

Papagena! Papagena! Weibchen! Täubchen! - **Benson Wilson**

Heil Sei Euch Geweihten - **Chorus**

INTERVAL

♪ *Un Ballo in Maschera*, VERDI

Overture

Finisci il vaticinio - **Ensemble & Chorus**

♪ *Tosca*, PUCCINI

Ah, quegli occhi - **Ronald Samm & Isabella Moore**

Vissi d'arte - **Isabella Moore**

Lucevan le stelle - **Ronald Samm**

Va, Tosca (& Te Deum) - **Benson Wilson & Chorus**

♪ *Troubled Island*, GRANT STILL

I Dream a World - **Jacob Bettinelli**

♪ *Poison, Passion & Petrification*, HAGEMANN

Love Has Two Faces - **Rachel Duckett**

♪ *Porgy & Bess*, GERSHWIN

Act 3 Instrumental Interlude

Bess, You is My Woman Now - **Jacob Bettinelli & Isabella Moore**

It Ain't Necessarily So - **Ronald Samm & Chorus**

O Lord I'm on my Way - **Ensemble & Chorus**

ARTISTS



Matthew O'Keefe,
Conductor & Director of BCO



Rachel Duckett, Soprano



Isabella Moore, Soprano



Ronald Samm, Tenor



Benson Wilson, Baritone



Jacob Bettinelli, Bass

Players

Flute

Rianna Henriques

Grace Twomey

Flute/Piccolo

Breandán Knowlton-Hung

Oboe

Richard Lines-Davies

Nicky Mitchell

Clarinet

Mebrakh Haughton-Johnson

Sasha Patel

Bass Clarinet

Magnus Karlsson

Bassoon

Rachel Gooding-Hurst
Lucy Powell Davies

Contrabassoon

Nick Rampley

Horn

Benjamin Garalnick
Georgia Dawson
Mary Cowlett
Henry Osmond

Trumpet

Mia Plummer
Hannah Robathan

Trombone

Michaias Berlouis
Richard Lovett

Bass Trombone

Dominic Clarke

Tuba

Nathan Mansell

Harp

Heather Brooks

Keyboard

Andrew Tait

Percussion

Ben Quilter
Liam Roberts
Steph Page

Violin 1

Levon Chilingirian
Sue In Kang

Violin 2

Eve Abiodun
Maddy Dawson
Mila Ferramosca
Charis Sykesud
Diane Dumas

Double Bass

Will Priest
Woon Ngee

Viola

Nazli Erdogan
Jesse Francis

Cello

Elliott Bailey
Emily Henderson
Kwesi Edman

Community Chorus

This is the first year of our massed community opera chorus, and what a chorus it is! Made up of singers from across London, it brings together voices from established choirs alongside complete newcomers to opera singing. The result is a wonderfully diverse group united by a shared love of music and the joy of singing together.

Our hope is that this is just the beginning! We aim to build on this project year after year so that more of our community and beyond can experience the thrill and power of collective opera singing.

If you're inspired to give singing a try, we'd love to welcome you to the Pegasus Community Choir. For more information, please get in touch: harriet@pegasusoperacompany.org



Brixton Chamber Orchestra is a registered charity (1181169) - a versatile group of instrumentalists which provides thrilling live orchestral experiences for wide-ranging audiences in Brixton and beyond.

We champion orchestral music, presenting it to new audiences in unexpected venues. We revel in innovative collaborations with all sorts of artists and genres - Grime to Gospel, Disco to Drum and Bass, Classical to Jazz, and everything in-between.



We appear all over Brixton - in the market, pubs, clubs, parks, churches & community centres. Sometimes we perform symphonies as a full 30-piece orchestra. Twice a year, we tour Lambeth's housing estates, performing eclectic programmes to hundreds from the local community.

We are Brixton's own orchestra - a product of local talent and the unique blend of creative energy and cultural diversity which characterises the area. For larger performances, we field a two-tier orchestra, with professionals and talented volunteers playing side-by-side.

If you're good on an instrument and would like to join us, get in touch!

contact@brixchamber.com



CLICK TO SUPPORT BCO





Mission

Pegasus Opera Company provides support, opportunity and employment for artists from global majority heritage and to promote opera among people of all ages in underserved and culturally diverse communities.



CLICK TO SUPPORT PEGASUS

THREE CORE PILLARS



ARTISTIC PROGRAMME

Pegasus produces innovative, inclusive and contemporary opera and concerts for diverse audiences.

TALENT DEVELOPMENT

Pegasus supports aspiring and emerging classical artists and supports them through individual mentoring with established professionals alongside masterclasses.



LEARNING AND PARTICIPATION

Pegasus' trailblazing school education and community programmes work with children and young people. We work with adults and elders delivering workshops and community choirs.

TRANSLATIONS

♪ **Tanhauser, WAGNER**

Dir Töne Lob!

*Let your praises ring out! Let the marvel your might
created for me, fortunate as I am, be extolled!*

*May the sweet delight, sprung from your favour,
raise my song up in a loud cry of jubilation!*

*My heart yearned, oh my senses thirsted
after pleasure, after delicious gratification:
that which once you rendered to gods alone
you graciously bestowed upon me, a mortal.*

*But mortal, oh, I have remained
and your loving is too huge for me.*

*Though a god may incessantly savour enjoyment,
I am subject to change:
not pleasure alone lies close to my heart -
in the midst of joy I crave after pain.*

*From your kingdom I must fly -
O queen,
goddess, let me go!*

Dich Teure Halle

*Dear hall, I greet thee once again,
joyfully I greet thee, beloved place!*

*In thee his lays awake
and waken me from gloomy dreams.*

*When he departed from thee,
how desolate thou didst appear to me!*

*Peace forsook me,
joy took leave of thee.*

*How strongly now my heart is leaping;
to me now thou dost appear exalted and sublime.*

*He who thus revives both me and thee,
tarries afar no more.*

I greet thee!

I greet thee!

*Thou precious hall,
receive my greeting!*

O Du, Mein Holder Abendstern

Like a presentiment of death, twilight covers the land
and shrouds the valley in sombre raiment;
the soul that yearns for heaven's heights
is fearful before its flight through night and horror.
There thou shinest, oh loveliest of stars!
Thy sweet light thou dost send into the far-off distance,
thy dear beam pierces the evening twilight,
and, in friendly fashion, thou dost point the way out of the valley.
Oh thou, my gracious evening star,
how gladly have I always greeted thee;
from a heart that she never betrayed
salute her as she passes by thee,
as she soars from this earthly vale,
to become a blessed angel yonder.

♪ The Magic Flute, MOZART

Der Hölle Rache

QUEEN OF THE NIGHT

My heart is seething with hellish vengeance, death and despair are blazing around me!
Unless Sarastro feels the pangs of death at your hands
you are no longer my daughter.
Forever disowned, forever abandoned,
forever destroyed may all ties of nature be,
unless Sarastro dies at your hands!
Hear! Gods of vengeance! Hear a mother's vow!

O Isis und Osiris

SARASTRO

O Isis and Osiris, bestow
the spirit of wisdom on this young couple!
You who guide the wanderers' steps,
strengthen them with patience in danger.

CHORUS

Strengthen them with patience in danger.

SARASTRO

Let them see the fruits of trial;
yet if they should go to their deaths,
then reward the bold course of virtue:
receive them into your abode.

CHORUS

Receive them into your abode.

Papagena! Papagena! Weibchen! Täubchen!

Papagena, Papagena, Papagena!

Little woman, little dove, my sweet!

In vain! Alas, I have lost her!

I was born to be wretched.

I chattered, and that was bad,

And so it serves me right.

Ever since I tasted that wine ...

Ever since I saw that lovely woman,

My little heart has been on fire,

Aching here and aching there.

Papagena, love of my life!

Papagena, my sweet little dove!

It's all in vain, to no avail!

I am tired of living!

Death will put an end to love,

Though my heart still burns with longing

I shall now adorn this tree,

By hanging from it by my neck,

Because I dislike life so much,

Good night, treacherous world.

Since you have treated me so badly,

Since you grant me no sweetheart -

All is finished, I shall die.

Beautiful girls, think of me.

If but one girl will pity poor me

Before I string myself up -

I'll refrain from killing myself!

Just cry out: yes or no! -

No one hears me, not a sound!

Is that your will, then?

Quick, Papageno, string yourself up!

Put an end to this life of yours.

I'll wait a little longer, just to see,

Until I've counted one, two, three.

One! Two! Three!

All right, then, let it be,

Since there's nothing to hold me back!

Good night, treacherous world.

Heil Sei Euch Geweihten

Hail to the initiates!

You have penetrated the darkness!

Thanks be to thee-, Osiris!

Thanks to thee, Isis!

Fortitude is victorious,

and, in reward,

crowns Beauty and Wisdom

with its eternal diadem!

♪ **Un Ballo in Maschera, VERDI**

Finisci il vaticinio

RICCARDO

Complete the prophecy.

Tell me, who will the killer be?

ULRICA: *The first to touch your hand today.*

RICCARDO

Splendid.

(He holds out his hand to each of his companions in turn; none dares touch it.)

Which one of you will prove the oracle false? No one!

(Renato appears at the door. Riccardo goes forward and shakes his hand)

Here he is.

ALL: *It is he!*

SAMUEL and TOM (aside): *I breathe again; fortune has saved us.*

ALL: *The oracle has lied.*

RICCARDO

Yes, because the hand in mine

is that of my most trusted friend.

RENATO: Riccardo!

ULRICA (recognising him): *The Count!*

RICCARDO (to her)

*Your genie did not tell you who I am –
nor that today you were to be banished.*

ULRICA: I?

RICCARDO (throwing her a purse): *Silence; take this.*

ULRICA

*You are magnanimous, but among them
there is a traitor. Perhaps more than one.*

SAMUEL and TOM (aside): *Great God!*

RICCARDO: *Say no more.*

CHORUS (from far off): *Long live Riccardo!*

All: *What voices are these?*

SILVANO

(from the rear, to his men. Sailors and townsfolk crowd
about the door)

*Move quickly, if it is he,
our friend and father.*

*All of you, bow down with me,
and sing the hymn of our faith.*

CHORUS

*O son of England,
beloved of this land,
rule in happiness, for health
and glory smile upon you.*

OSCAR

*The proudest laurel,
more precious than treasure,
shall be entwined upon your brow
by gratitude and faith.*

RICCARDO

*Can I nurse suspicion
within my breast,
when a thousand hearts exult
in dying for me?*

RENATO

*Evil fortune forever hovers
even over the greatest triumph,
in which a hypercritical Fate
conceals an evil end.*

SAMUEL, TOM and THEIR HENCHMEN (to themselves)

*The course of our vengeance is blocked
by the servile multitude
who flatter the public idol
without ever knowing why, etc.*

ULRICA

*He does not believe his fate,
yet he shall die of his wounds;
he laughed at my prophecy.
But he has a foot in the grave, etc.*

OSCAR: *The proudest laurel, etc.*

RICCARDO: *Can I nurse suspicion, etc.*

♪ **Tosca, PUCCINI**

Ah, quegli occhi

TOSCA

Ah, those eyes ...

CAVARADOSI

*What eyes in the world can compare
with your black and glowing eyes?
It is in them that my whole being fastens,
Eyes soft with love and rich with anger
Where in the whole world are eyes
To compare with your black eyes?*

TOSCA

won over, resting her head on his shoulder
Oh, how well you know the art
Of capturing women's hearts!
still persisting in her idea
But let her eyes be black ones!

CAVARADONI

My jealous Tosca!

TOSCA

Yes, I feel it, I torment you
Unceasingly.

CAVARADONI

My jealous Tosca!

TOSCA

I know you would forgive me
If you knew my grief.

CAVARADONI

You are my idol Tosca,
All things in you delight me;
Your storming anger
And your pulsing love!

TOSCA

Say again
Those consoling words ...
Say them again!

CAVARADONI

My life, my troubled one, beloved.
I shall always say, "I love you Floria"
Set your uneasy heart at rest,
I shall always say "I love you."

TOSCA

disengaging, lest she be won completely
Good heavens! What a sin!
You have undone my hair.

CAVARADONI

Now you must leave me!

TOSCA

You stay at your work until this evening.

And will you promise that, blond locks

Or black, by chance or otherwise,

No woman shall come here to pray?

CAVARADONI

I swear it beloved. Go now!

TOSCA

How you do hurry me along!

CAVARADONI

mildly reproving, as he sees her jealousy return

Come, again?

TOSCA

falling into his arms, with upturned cheek

No, forgive me!

CAVARADONI

smiling

Before the Madonna?

TOSCA

She is so good!

But let her eyes be black ones!

Vissi d'arte

I lived for my art, I lived for love,

I never did harm to a living soul!

With a secret hand

I relieved as many misfortunes as I knew of.

Always with true faith

my prayer

rose to the holy shrines.

Always with true faith

I gave flowers to the altar.

*In the hour of grief
why, why, o Lord,
why do you reward me thus?
I gave jewels for the Madonna's mantle,
and I gave my song to the stars, to heaven,
which smiled with more beauty.*

*In the hour of grief
why, why, o Lord,
ah, why do you reward me thus?*

Lucevan le stelle

*And the stars shone and the earth was perfumed.
The gate to the garden creaked and a footstep
rustled the sand to the path...
Fragrant, she entered
and fell into my arms...
Oh, soft kisses, oh, sweet abandon,
as I trembling
unloosed her veils and disclosed her beauty.
Oh, vanished forever is that dream of love,
fled is that hour...
and desperately I die.
And never before have I loved life so much!*

Va, Tosca (& Te Deum)

SCARPIA

*Three agents ... a carriage ...
Quickly! ... follow her
wherever she goes! ... don't be seen! ... see to it!*

SPOLETTA: Of course! Where shall I find you?

SCARPIA: The Farnese Palace!

Go, Tosca! Scarpia is taking root in your heart! ...

*Go, Tosca! Scarpia is
letting take flight the hawk
of your jealousy. How much promise
in your ready suspicion!
Scarpia is taking root in your heart!
Go, Tosca!*

PRIESTS: Sit nomen Domini benedictum

CROWD: Et hoc nunc et usquem in saeculum.

SCARPIA

*Two birds with one stone
are in my sights, and it's not the head of the
revolutionary
that is the most precious. Ah, in those commanding
eyes
to see the fire
die away with the spasm of love,
in my arms ...
die away with love.
One on the gallows,
the other in my arms ...*

CROWD

*Te Deum laudamus:
Te Dominum confitemur!*

SCARPIA

Tosca, you make me forget God!

ALL

*Te aeternum Patrem
omnis terra veneratur!*