



Grange
Park
Opera
SURREY

2024

Where would we be without art in our lives?

Opera is the only art form that ravishes our ears, our eyes, our minds and our hearts, transporting us to other worlds (when the one we live in is so precarious).

Join us when we thrill you with rollicking comedies and heart-rending stories of passion, betrayal and mystery.

(Meanwhile the Bamber Dressing Rooms and Treetop Studio are taking shape.)





Come to the Surrey Hills for a heavenly sojourn of music, conviviality, and all that is good in life.





A luxurious evening ... with luxury casts in epic operas

It seems 14th century West Horsley Place was made for this. Henry VIII dined here, Elizabeth I stayed for a week, BBC *Ghosts* was filmed here.

-  Guests arrive early and, champagne glass in hand, wander the five acres of walled gardens. The city seems far away.
-  A short walk through the ancient orchard – passing a 300-year-old mulberry tree – takes you to the five-tier opera house with a superb acoustic.
-  Take your seat for Act I with internationally recognised artists, rousing opera choruses and 60+ players in the orchestra pit.
-  The leisurely long interval is all-important. Many say the restaurant – within that house of deep history – tops all country house offerings. Where else can you walk on the very flagstones trod by a tudor King and Queen?

Alternatively claim your own secret picnic spot within a parterre.

What better way to spend a summer evening?

Many say it is like opera in the old days.

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Summer 2024



June

Thu 6	<i>Bryn Double: Aleko / Gianni Schicchi</i>	5:45pm
Sat 8	Daughter of the Regiment	5:15pm
Thu 13	Daughter of the Regiment	5:45pm
Sat 15	<i>Bryn Double: Aleko / Gianni Schicchi</i>	5:15pm
Sun 16	Katya Kabanova	5:15pm
Wed 19	Daughter of the Regiment	5:45pm
Thu 20	<i>Bryn Double: Aleko / Gianni Schicchi</i>	5:45pm
Sat 22	Katya Kabanova	5:15pm
Sun 23	<i>Bryn Double: Aleko / Gianni Schicchi</i>	5:15pm
Wed 26	<i>Bryn Double: Aleko / Gianni Schicchi</i>	5:45pm
Thu 27	Katya Kabanova	5:45pm
Sat 29	<i>Bryn Double: Aleko / Gianni Schicchi</i>	5:15pm
Sun 30	Daughter of the Regiment	5:15pm

July

Wed 3	Katya Kabanova	5:45pm
Thu 4	Daughter of the Regiment	5:45pm
Sat 6	Daughter of the Regiment	5:15pm
Sun 7	<i>Bryn Double: Aleko / Gianni Schicchi</i>	5:15pm
Thu 11	Island of Dreams	5:45pm
Fri 12	Katya Kabanova	5:45pm
Sat 13	Island of Dreams	5:15pm
Sun 14	Wynne whizzes it up	5:15pm



Twin Bryn: blood & bounty

Thu 6, Sat 15, Thu 20, Sun 23, Wed 26, Sat 29 JUNE
Sun 7 JULY



Aleko RACHMANINOFF

VIEW THE CAST

Aleko is Rachmaninoff at his most effusive, in an exquisite score brimming with his trademark soaring melodies.

Sir Bryn Terfel is Pushkin's Romantic hero, a tormented victim of passion with a knife at the ready for any wrong-doing.

He has turned his back on the ordinary world to be with Zemfira who breaks him. The blood-drenched show-down presents a side of Bryn that is rarely – if ever – seen.

Bizet's *Carmen*, written two decades before, was drawn from this same Pushkin verse story.

Gianni Schicchi PUCCINI

VIEW THE CAST

In marked contrast, Bryn is Puccini's comic trickster *Gianni Schicchi* (pronounced Junny Skikki), called in by the wealthy Donatis to solve a family problem.

He refuses – until his daughter sings Puccini's most famous aria *O mio babbino caro*.

This comic masterpiece (Puccini's only comedy and written towards the end of his life) is built on every family's nightmare: the reading of a will that goes disastrously wrong.

If you've never laughed out loud at an opera, try this!

Did you know the word "zany" comes from Gianni (the diminutive of Giovanni)?

**Bryn Terfel takes centre-stage in a
tragedy / comedy pairing
of bloodshed and bounty.**





Daughter of the Regiment DONIZETTI

OPERA IN TWO ACTS

Sat 8, Thu 13, Wed 19, Sun 30 JUNE

Thu 4, Sat 6 JULY

VIEW THE CAST

Donizetti's *Daughter of the Regiment* is delicious French whimsy, written by an Italian, and sung in English.

A canteen girl brought up by a rollicking regiment of soldiers is expected to marry a soldier but her heart strays elsewhere. Cue: much hilarity and many high notes from both the canteen girl and her lover Tonio – whose aria *Ah mes amis!* features a terrifying sequence of top C's.

Soprano Julia Sitkovetsky is famed throughout Europe for her high notes. Her signature role, Queen of the Night, has taken her to Hamburgische Staatsoper, Semperoper Dresden, Deutsche Oper am Rhein and Welsh National Opera.

Harriet Thorpe (*Ab Fab*, *EastEnders* and much more) makes a celebrity guest appearance in the speaking role of the formidable Duchess of Crakentorp.



Katya Kabanova JANÁČEK

OPERA IN THREE ACTS

Sun 16 Sat 22, Thu 27 JUNE

Wed 3, Fri 12 JULY

VIEW THE CAST

Katya Kabanova is one of the 20th century's greatest operas. Janáček wrote music of blazing intensity inspired by his own love for a young woman. A second inspiration was Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* which, he says, was the impetus musically and dramatically.

Director David Alden (ROH, the Met, Munich, Vienna) creates the claustrophobic village for acclaimed soprano, Natalya Romaniw, in the title role. Trapped in a loveless marriage, she is driven to despair by the Kabanov clan led by her vile mother-in-law, Kabanicha. This epic character is none other than Susan Bullock.

Janáček's score brims with vocal and orchestral writing of extreme beauty. "Katya", he wrote, "is one of my most tender works".





Island of Dreams BOLTON

Thu 11, Sat 13 JULY

VIEW THE CAST

Shakespeare's *Tempest* has attracted composers across the centuries. Its most recent reinvention comes from Anthony Bolton, whose *Life & Death of Alexander Litvinenko* thrilled Grange Park Opera audiences in 2021.

We welcome back director Sir David Pountney who adopts an ingenious filmic approach to conjure the magic of Prospero's island and the magic carpet.



Wynne Whizzes it up AND 13 FRIENDS

The Master of Masterchefs is our Final Fling



Sun 14 JULY

Winner of Celebrity Masterchef, Opera Singer, BBC Radio Presenter & Broadcaster, but to most ... the GoCompare man.

Wynne Evens is a trustee at Grange Park Opera and, before the GoCompare days, he appeared in several of our operas.

For this last night of the season – the Final Fling – Wynne is on the whisk rustling up six dishes with interludes.

Aud Jepsen young dancers from the Royal Ballet
curated by Zenaida Yanowsky.

Apollo-5 five voices bringing five centuries of music.

O Duo bring sensational escapades on marimbas, vibraphone and a vast array of percussion.

Simon Keenlyside baritone.





Grange Park Opera | SURREY

Timber-framed West Horsley Place dates back to the 14th century. The estate was inherited in 2014 by Bamber Gascoigne from his aunt Mary, Duchess of Roxburghe

Illustration by Theo Creswell

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| 1 Box Office & Welcome | 5 Birdbath Garden | 10 Duchess lavatories |
| 2 White Wisteria bar | 6 Croquet Lawn (marquee & pavilions 1–5) | 11 Lavatorium Rotundum (never queues) |
| 3 Rose Garden
(pre-performance bookings & pavilions) | 7 Crinkle-krackle Garden (pavilions 8-13) | 12 A little shop (which we call the Kiosk –
a Turkish word, used by Queen Elizabeth I) |
| 4 Mole Lawn (pavilions 6–7) | 8 Orchard (marquee & pavilions 16-17) | 13 THE OPERA HOUSE |
| | 9 Walnut Tree marquee | 14 Opera house drop-off |
| | | 15 Duchess drop-off |
| | | 16 DUCHESS RESTAURANT |

For ambition, none can top
Grange Park Opera, boasting a jewel box
of an opera house modelled on La Scala

FINANCIAL TIMES

Grange Park Opera

