



Vocal Online Event

Saturday 26th September 2020 - 7:30pm

Christoph Willibald Gluck (1714-1787)

O del mio dolce ardor (*Oh my sweet desire*)

Paolo Tosti (1846-1916)

Aprile (*April*)

George Frederich Handel (1685-1759)

Sorge Infausta (*Clouds may rise*)

Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

Mai (*May*)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Non più andrai (*You shall go no more*)

Roger Quilter (1877-1953)

June

Traditional arr. Bernard Dewagtere

Amazing Grace

Cole Porter (1891-1964)

Blow, Gabriel, Blow

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About the artists

Neil Balfour Indian-Scottish Neil Balfour, is the first opera singer to be booked by the Glastonbury Festival as an artist. "I cannot believe how powerful his voice is. I have never seen opera like he does it" - Haggis McLeod, head-programmer. He is the first performer to beatbox in an opera at Longborough Festival Opera and has premiered the roles of Nikolaus' Father in *Mysterious 44* (the first electronic opera) and La-La (role sponsored by the opera awards) in *A Shoe Full of Stars* (YAM Awards Best Opera 2018). "Neil is without a doubt one of the top singers I've ever worked with." - Ruth Mariner, Director.

Currently an emerging artist at the *National Opera Studio*, a *Britten-Pears Young Artist* and *Concordia Artist*, the first classical sE Artist, director of www.artsongstory.com (compelling videos of classical art-song and their stories) and founder of the *Koko Konzerts* (emerging classical stars in a coffee shop). Neil is also in partnership with Penhaligon's British perfume house, GIK Acoustics, Soundbrenner watches, Percival Menswearr and Kapow meggings. His voice-overs for YouTube channels have over 100 million views.

Recent performances include *Colline La bohème* for Mananan Opera (Isle of Man) & OFMAN Opera Studio (Madrid), *Mercurio La Calisto* for Longborough Festival Opera, the nationwide tour of *Aida* with the Chorus of Opera North, *Porgy & Bess* at Leeds Town Hall and song recitals for the Leeds Opera Festival and the Dore Male Voice Choir in Sicily

Contemporary works have included recording *Early Stroll* (written for performance during Covid-19 lockdown) by Richard Barnard as well as premiering roles in *The Light Opera* by Iain Farrington for English Touring Opera, *A Shoe Full of Stars* by Omar Sharyar, *Mysterious 44* by Kevin Malone, *Cheese* by Lucy Armstrong (premiere at The Bridgewater Hall) and *Magnificat* by Oliver Tarney for Convivium Records. Recent theatre works have included roles in contemporary re-tellings of *Dorian Gray* for Proper Job Theatre and *Comedy of Errors* for the Royal Shakespeare Company. Neil has been a Young Artist for Buxton International Festival, sung Claggart *Billy Budd* for The Royal Opera House (L&P Department), covered Don Alfonso *Così fan tutte* for Opera Holland Park and the title role in *Le nozze di Figaro* for Longborough Festival Opera.

Christopher Pulleyn, studied English Literature at the University of York, before spending two years in Japan teaching English and studying piano with Hiroko Ono. He currently studies with Michael Dussek, Head of Accompaniment at the Royal Academy of Music in London, and enjoys a busy life as a Répétiteur and collaborative pianist around the North of England.

Chris is currently the Junior Fellow Répétiteur at the Royal Northern College of Music working on the college's productions of Poulenc's *Dialogues des Carmélites*, Jonathan Dove's *Mansfield Park*, and this season, Janáček's *The Cunning Little Vixen*. Christopher recently worked for Opera North as an Education Répétiteur on their many outreach programmes, including the Opera North Youth Choirs. He is pianist-in-residence for Greenhead Sixth Form College, Huddersfield, and Assistant Musical Director for Bradford Festival Choral Society, and helped establish Colne Valley Boys Choir in 2010 with the goal of encouraging more boys around the area to sing. He works regularly with the Huddersfield Choral Society, Leeds Conservatoire, University of Huddersfield and the University of Hull. He recently worked with Simon Halsey and the BBC Proms Youth Choir on their Proms performance of Beethoven's 9th Symphony and a new commission by Eriks Esenvalds.

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