

30 June 2009

SOUTHBANK CENTRE'S *INTERNATIONAL VOICES* SERIES PRESENTS OPERA AND RECITALS BY RENÉE FLEMING, ANGELA GHEORGHU, BRYN TERFEL, ANNA NETREBKO AND DMITRI HVOROSTOVSKY

Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall and Purcell Room
September 2009 – May 2010

Only in its second season, Southbank Centre's *International Voices* series is quickly establishing itself as one of the UK's leading forums showcasing some of the world's greatest voices. For 2009/10, the Series presents 14 concerts mixing celebrity recitals with operas-in-concert, oratorio, and vocal concerts featuring repertoire ranging from Gregorian chant, Broadway, Polish jazz, to world premieres by 7 leading British composers.

Headlining the Series are recitals by operatic superstars **Angela Gheorghiu**, **Renée Fleming**, **Bryn Terfel**, and a joint concert by **Anna Netrebko** and **Dmitri Hvorostovsky**. Described as 'the world's most glamorous opera star' (New York Sun), Gheorghiu visits the Royal Festival Hall on 2 October for her only UK appearance in 2009. Renée Fleming, 'the most beloved of America's lyric sopranos' (Daily Telegraph) and 9-time Grammy nominee, returns to Southbank Centre for the first time in five years on 3 November in a programme including arias by Cilea, Puccini, Mascagni and the Letter Scene from Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*. Welsh baritone Bryn Terfel makes his Royal Festival Hall recital debut on 11 November with his new *Bad Boys* programme, a selection of arias by operatic villains including Scarpia from *Tosca*, Méphistofélès from *Faust*, Iago from *Otello* and Sporting Life from *Porgy and Bess*. Following the postponement of Anna Netrebko and Dmitri Hvorostovsky's joint recital in May 2009, Southbank Centre is pleased to announce that the concert has been re-scheduled for 18 January 2010. Their varied programme includes arias and duets by Donizetti, Dvořák, Gounod, Leoncavallo, Strauss, Tchaikovsky, Verdi and Wagner.

Complementing these glittery evenings are rare concert performances of **Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess***, **Donizetti's *Maria di Rohan***, and **Shostakovich's *The Gamblers***. *International Voices'* first opera-in-concert of the season comes from South Africa's only repertory opera Company, **Cape Town Opera** (CTO), making its London debut on 26 and 27 October with two semi-staged performances of *Porgy and Bess* at the Royal Festival Hall. The singers of CTO bring a unique resonance to a score that has its roots in Africa. Whilst many of the Company's singers are not formally trained, choral music and singing traditional folk songs are an integral part of their lives in South Africa's townships. "We have a very personal relationship with this opera," comments Michael Williams, CTO's general manager. "Our singers know the hardships of living in a community that is fraught with poverty, unemployment and violence. But the ultimate message in *Porgy and Bess* is one of survival over adversity and this makes the work particularly pertinent, given the recent history of South Africa."

On 7 November, the **Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment** in association with **Opera Rara** brings Donizetti's *Maria di Rohan* to the Royal Festival Hall. This rarely performed *bel canto* showstopper will feature Bulgarian soprano Krassimira Stoyanova in the title role, conducted by Sir Mark Elder who has gained a formidable reputation in this repertoire. On 24 February 2010, Southbank Centre Resident Orchestra, the London Philharmonic Orchestra, and Principal Conductor Vladimir Jurowski will present Shostakovich's one-act opera, *The Gamblers*, as part of an all-Shostakovich programme. The all-star Russian cast includes **Sergei Leiferkus** and **Mikhail Petrenko**.

Described in the *Observer* as 'an eloquent act of homage which cannot fail to move,' Swedish mezzo-soprano **Anne Sofie von Otter's** Terezín/Theresienstadt programme opens *International Voices* on 30 September 2009. Joined by violinist **Daniel Hope**, pianist **Bengt Forsberg**, and accordionist **Bebe Risenfors**, their programme comprises works written by a group of Jewish composers imprisoned in the Theresienstadt concentration camp near Prague where a rich cultural life flourished under the most extreme conditions. All these composers, including Pavel Haas, Viktor Ullmann, Erwin Schulhoff and Ilse Weber, were eventual victims of the Holocaust.

On 25 February 2010, iconic soprano **Jane Manning** celebrates her 45th year of professional performing with a recital in the Purcell Room including world premieres of seven short pieces written for her by **Dai Fujikura**, **Deirdre Gribbin**, **Cheryl Frances Hoad**, **James MacMillan**, **Phillip Neil Martin**, **Colin Matthews** and **David Sawer**. Throughout her career, Manning has premiered approximately 350 new works – gaining her a special award for services to music from the Composers Guild of Great Britain back in 1973, an Honorary Doctorate at York University in

1988 and, in 1990, the OBE. For her Southbank Centre celebration, she will be joined by **Jane's Minstrels**, an ensemble she and her composer husband, Anthony Payne founded in 1988.

In the 2009/10 season, *International Voices* will also include five concerts that showcase the choir. Beginning on 9 December 2009, the **Choir and Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment** conclude their year-long Haydn celebration with a performance of *The Creation* conducted by Sir Mark Elder. **The Sixteen** brings its highly acclaimed **Sacred Music** series, as seen on BBC 4, to the Queen Elizabeth Hall. Mixing live performance with original television footage, these concerts on 3, 4 and 5 April 2010 survey Europe's sacred music from 12th-century Gothic France to the Italian High Renaissance.

Departing from the Western Classical tradition, the two final concerts of *International Voices* focus on Broadway and Polish jazz. Also part of Southbank Centre's major *Bernstein Project*, American Broadway divas **Claron McFadden** and **Roberta Alexander** sing Bernstein's song cycles *I Hate Music*, *La Bonne Cuisine* and Broadway musicals including *West Side Story*. Polish jazz singer, songwriter, and pianist, **Anna Maria Jopek**, makes her Southbank Centre debut on 31 May 2010 as part of Nigel Kennedy's *Polish Music Weekend*. Her career was launched in 1997 when she represented her country in the Eurovision Song Contest, and she has since swept the board with awards for music in Poland, together with gold and platinum records.

For further PRESS information please contact Dennis Chang or Kenny Morrison in the Southbank Centre Press Office on 020 7921 0824/0962 or email dennis.chang@southbankcentre.co.uk / kenny.morrison@southbankcentre.co.uk

Wednesday 30 September 2009, 7:30pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall

Terezín/Theresienstadt

Anne Sofie von Otter *mezzo-soprano*

Daniel Hope *violin*

Bengt Forsberg *piano*

Bebe Risenfors *accordion*

Music from the recording *Terezin. Theresienstadt*, featuring works by **Pavel Haas, Victor Ullmann, Erwin Schulhoff** and **Ilse Weber**.

Tickets: £9–£30

Friday 2 October 2009, 7:30pm, Royal Festival Hall

Angela Gheorghiu

Angela Gheorghiu *soprano*

James Valenti *tenor*

Ion Marin *conductor*

Philharmonia Orchestra

Programme to include opera arias and duets.

Tickets: £11–£85

Monday 26 & Tuesday 27 October 2009, 7:00pm, Royal Festival Hall

Porgy and Bess

David Charles Abell *conductor*

Cape Town Opera

Gershwin Porgy and Bess (semi-staged concert performance)

Tickets: £9–55

Tuesday 3 November 2009, 7:30pm, Royal Festival Hall

Renée Fleming

Renée Fleming *soprano*

Charles Dutoit *conductor*

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

Tchaikovsky Fantasy Overture, *Romeo and Juliet*

Tchaikovsky Letter Scene (*Eugene Onegin*)

Arias by **Cilea, Puccini** and **Mascagni**

Prokofiev/Dutoit *Romeo and Juliet*, Suite

Tickets: £9–£55

Saturday 7 November 2009, 7:00pm, Royal Festival Hall

Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment

Sir Mark Elder *conductor*

Krassimira Stoyanova *Maria, Countess of Rohan*

José Bros Riccardo *Count of Chalais*

Christopher Purves *Enrico, Duke of Chevreuse*

Loïc Félix *Arnando di Gondi*

Brindley Sherratt *De Fiesque*

Geoffrey Mitchell Choir

Donizetti *Maria di Rohan* (concert performance)

Tickets: £6–£50

Wednesday 11 November 2009, 7:30pm, Royal Festival Hall

Bryn Terfel

Bryn Terfel *baritone*

Programme includes arias by **Puccini, Gounod, Verdi** and **Gershwin**.

Tickets: £15–65

Wednesday 9 December 2009, 7:30pm, Royal Festival Hall

Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment

Sir Mark Elder *conductor*

Sally Matthews *soprano*

Andrew Kennedy *tenor*

Neal Davies *baritone*

Choir of the Enlightenment

Haydn The Creation

Tickets: £6–£50

Wednesday 24 February 2010, 7:30pm, Royal Festival Hall

London Philharmonic Orchestra

Vladimir Jurowski *conductor*

Mikhail Urusov *Ikharev, a gambler*

Vladimir Ognev *Gavryushka, his servant*

Sergei Leiferkus *Uteshitelny, a gambler*

Sergei Aleksashkin *Shvokhnev, a gambler*

Viacheslav Voynarovskiy *Krugel, a gambler*

Mikhail Petrenko *Aleksei, his servant*

Shostakovich *The Gambler* – opera (concert performance)

Shostakovich Suite from *The Nose*, Op. 15a

Shostakovich Symphony No. 1 in F minor

Tickets: £9–£55

Thursday 25 February 2010, 7:45pm, Purcell Room

Jane Manning with Jane's Minstrels

Jane Manning *soprano*

Jane's Minstrels

World premieres by **Dai Fujikura, Deirdre Gribbin, Cheryl Frances Hoad, James MacMillan, Phillip Neil Martin, Colin Matthews** and **David Sawer**

Elisabeth Lutyens *The Valley of Hatsu-Se*

Ethel Smyth Four Songs for voice and ensemble

Anthony Payne Horn Trio (London public premiere)

Franck Bridge Rhapsody for String Trio

Tickets: £9–£15

Saturday 3 April 2010, 8:00pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall

Sacred Music: The Sixteen

The Gothic Revolution to include live excerpts from the *Magnus Liber*.

Léonin Haec dies quam fecit Dominus

Pérotin Viderunt omnes

Anon Vetus abit littera

Philip the Chancellor Clavus pungens acumine

Abelard O quanta qualia

Tickets: £8–£33

Sunday 4 April 2010, 8:00pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall

Sacred Music: The Sixteen

Tallis, Byrd and the Tudors to include live excerpts from:

Tallis Mass Puer natus

Tallis Miserere nostri

De Monte Super flumina Babylonis

Byrd Quomodo cantabimus

Byrd Masses

Byrd Libera me domine

Tickets: £8–£33

Monday 5 April 2010, 5:00pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall

Sacred Music: The Sixteen

Palestrina and the Popes to include live excerpts from:

Palestrina Exultate Deo

Palestrina Missa Papae Marcelli

Palestrina Assumpta est Maria

Josquin Ave Maria

Josquin Gaude virgo

Tickets: £8–£33

Wednesday 7 April 2010, 7:30pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall

Bernstein on Broadway

Claron McFadden *soprano*

Roberta Alexander *soprano*

Reinild Mees *piano*

Programme includes selections from Bernstein's song cycles *I Hate Music*, *La Bonne Cuisine* and musicals including *West Side Story*.

Tickets: £8–£30

Monday 31 May 2010, 3:00PM, Queen Elizabeth Hall

Anna Maria Jopek

Programme includes a blend of jazz, Polish folk and pop music.

Tickets: £10, £12

Ticket Office: 0871 663 2500

Online booking: www.southbankcentre.co.uk

Notes to editors

Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre, occupying a 21-acre site that sits in the midst of London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 *Festival of Britain*. Southbank Centre is home to the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and The Hayward as well as The Saison Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection. The Royal Festival Hall reopened in June 2007 following the major refurbishment of the Hall and redevelopment of the surrounding area and facilities.