

22 February 2008



**SHELL CLASSIC INTERNATIONAL**  
2007/08

**DER ROSENKAVALIER WITH ZURICH OPERA**  
**Saturday 12 April, Royal Festival Hall, Southbank Centre 6.30pm**

Zurich Opera under the baton of Music Director **Franz Welser-Möst** returns to the Royal Festival Hall on 12 April with a concert performance of Richard Strauss' first comic opera, *Der Rosenkavalier*. The cast includes international soloists **Nina Stemme, Michelle Breedt, Malin Hartelius** and **Alfred Muff**. The opera has been hugely successful on a recent international tour, so it is with great anticipation that the Company brings this performance to the Royal Festival Hall this spring.

*Der Rosenkavalier* was a great success when it opened in 1911 in the opera house in Dresden, and has always been an audience favourite. A comedy of manners, class and protocol, it was the last work that the composer conducted before his death in 1949.

Zurich Opera, under the baton of Franz Welser-Möst, has become recognised as one of Europe's finest Companies and has produced some of the most memorable evenings of recent *Classic International* seasons. Welser-Möst took on the newly created position of General Music Director at Zurich Opera House in September 2005 and brings with him on this occasion many of the same cast from a recent critically acclaimed tour and DVD production. The Swedish soprano, **Nina Stemme**, garnered particular praise as an outstanding Marschallin. Stemme was most recently heard in the UK last year in the role of Isolde at Glyndebourne.

Saturday 12 April, Royal Festival Hall, 6.30pm

Zurich Opera

Franz Welser-Möst *conductor*

Cast includes:

Nina Stemme *The Marschallin*

Michelle Breedt *Octavian*

Malin Hartelius *Sophie*

Alfred Muff *Baron Ochs*

R. Strauss: *Der Rosenkavalier* (concert performance, sung in German, with English surtitles)

Tickets: £9 - £55

**Ticket Office: 0871 663 2500**

**Book Online: [www.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk)**

**For further information please contact Jenny Wegg on 020 7921 0824,  
[jenny.wegg@southbankcentre.co.uk](mailto:jenny.wegg@southbankcentre.co.uk) or Kenny Morrison on 020 7921 0962 at  
[kenny.morrison@southbankcentre.co.uk](mailto:kenny.morrison@southbankcentre.co.uk)**

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

### **Southbank Centre**

Southbank Centre manages the Royal Festival Hall, The Hayward, Queen Elizabeth Hall and Purcell Room, as well as the Saison Poetry Library, the Arts Council Collection and Hayward Touring Exhibitions on behalf of Arts Council England. It attracts more than 3 million visits annually. The Royal Festival Hall reopened in June 2007 following the major refurbishment of the Hall and redevelopment of the surrounding area and facilities.

### **Shell**

Shell is delighted to support the *Shell Classic International* season as part of its major sponsorship of Southbank Centre's Transformation project, which included the reopening of the refurbished Royal Festival Hall in June 2007. As neighbours on the South Bank for over 40 years, Shell shares with Southbank Centre a strong commitment to the regeneration of the area.

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