



A FULL SEASON
FOR THE GSA

NEWSLETTER 14 | SUMMER 2016

GSA NURTURES CHINESE TALENT



We've had an exciting six months since our last newsletter, with our first-ever Bel Canto masterclasses in Beijing and Shanghai, and another successful Repetiteurs' Course in

Venice. The course in Venice was generously hosted by the Fondazione Cini in the magnificent setting of the Isola San Giorgio, with a world-class faculty.

After our final concert in the Fondazione Cini, the Belmond Hotel Cipriani offered a wonderful cocktail in the splendid setting of the Cenacolo, followed by a dinner for friends and supporters of the GSA and the Fondazione Cini. We were honoured that conductor Jeffrey Tate joined us for this event. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Elsa Peretti and the Fondazione Peretti who have taken such a visionary lead in supporting the Repetiteurs' Course since 2010.

In May we held our first masterclasses at Beijing's National Centre for Performing Arts. (NCPA), with

a final recital in Shanghai, as you'll read in Jonathan Papp's report. We very much look forward to welcoming baritone Yang Zhang from the NCPA to Castiglione this summer, and expect to do the same for a young Chinese tenor in 2017. Huge thanks to the Rolex Institute in Geneva for making this exciting project possible, and to Rolex China & Hong Kong for taking such good care of us during our stay.

Following the Bel Canto masterclasses in July, alumni from the GSA will join the Chamber Orchestra of Geneva for our second concert in the park, a wonderful programme of Mozart arias. We'll be back in Geneva in November 2017 for our first GSA showcase in the Victoria Hall.

Once again, our thanks go to all those who have supported the GSA over the last 14 years: you have played such a vital role in nurturing young singers and protecting the precious legacy of the Bel Canto tradition.

Candice Wood
Executive Director,
Fondation Georg Solti Accademia



BEL CANTO IN BEIJING

Artistic Director Jonathan Papp reports on two exceptional GSA courses in Venice and Beijing in spring 2016



After our successful 'satellite' GSA course in Juilliard in 2013, May saw the first GSA project in Beijing with soprano Barbara Frittoli, an initiative supported by Rolex and the National Centre for

Performing Arts. From some 200 applications we selected eight to go on to the full programme at the NCPA.

Our masterclasses were held in the extraordinary 'egg' building of the NCPA, housing a huge concert hall, theatre and opera house. Italian language coach Corradina Caporello and myself prepared students for two days, who then continued their work with Barbara Frittoli, our star guest. It was a brilliantly matched team.

The language work – all through interpreters – was of huge significance, the students having such a lot to

learn about the meaning of words, or even the story of their opera. They worked hard to assimilate ideas and instructions, and the speed of progress was astonishing. The final day included an open masterclass, for which the singers received a warm reception.

At the programme's conclusion, I was able to announce that the young baritone Zhang Yang, from the NCPA itself, would be coming to the GSA 2016 edition, followed by a young tenor in 2017. In future, each visit will yield a scholarship for a place at GSA. Their experience on the full programme will consolidate the work begun in Beijing, including that all-important immersion in Castiglione life.

Finally, I chose three singers to take on to Shanghai for a recital for Rolex. Before a packed and attentive



Photo © Clive Barda



Photo © Joseph Penn

Prior to this we held another successful Easter Repetiteurs' Course in Venice, welcoming guest faculty Sir Richard Bonyng, Pam Bullock and James Vaughan, Director of Music at La Scala. Richard inspired with his minimalist yet expressive conducting, Pam passed on her comprehensive experience as one of the most successful coaches and reps of our generation, while James was rigorous, yet inspiring and kind. There was time for sight-reading, monitored voice coaching with singers (possibly the most valuable part of the programme). A final concert concluded with the reps' spectacular arrangement of the overture to *La Forza del Destino*, our five talented young pianists playing on five pianos, the sixth conducting.

audience, I answered questions about the GSA. Each singer prefaced their performance with an introduction to their pieces, and shared their experiences with us in Beijing. When it was interpreted, I was moved to hear how much they had gained from it, calling it, amongst many other glowing testimonies, 'a life-changing experience'. They excelled in their performances, demonstrating just how far they had

I was moved to hear how much the Chinese students gained from the GSA project, calling it "a life-changing experience"

come in a few days. There was an extraordinary hunger among them to learn, and to learn well, and our input was truly appreciated.

The visit has demonstrated just how inspiring, efficient and effective the GSA model is, and I hope we can continue to employ it both in China and around the world.

Top left: the National Center for Performing Arts in Beijing, May 2015

Top centre: Barbara Frittoli

Right: Repetiteurs' Masterclasses and James Vaughan teaching at Fondazione Giorgio Cini, April 2015



Photo © Joseph Penn

GSA ALUMNI RISE TO THE TOP

Lancelot Nomura (bass-baritone) 2014

joined Grange Park Opera this summer to sing Larkens in Puccini's *La Fanciulla del West* and the Flemish Deputy in Verdi's *Don Carlo*. He has been singing with Le Studio de l'Opera de Lyon in Michael Nyman's *The Man Who Mistook His Wife For a Hat*.

William Goforth (tenor) 2014

appeared at the Heidelberg Spring Festival this year.

Hyesang Park (soprano) 2014

after her success in Operalia competition in 2015, Park returns to sing Amina in *La Sonnambula* for the Met+Juilliard this season. David J. Baker of *Opera News* wrote that Park's "solid, refined fioritura delivery was matched by glamour, temperament and, above all, an ability to put *bel canto* splendor to expressive use."

Raquel Gonzalez (soprano) 2014

is currently on the Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program at Washington National Opera. She sings First Lady in *The Magic Flute* at Glimmerglass Festival this summer and will sing Desdemona in *Otello* with the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra.

Marlena Devoe (soprano) 2013

sings Gilda in *Rigoletto* with Opera Project and Violetta in *La Traviata* with Clonter Opera.

Luis Gomes (tenor) 2012

sang Tebaldo this summer in Bellini's *I Capuleti e i Montecchi* at Buxton Opera Festival and will be appearing with the Teatro Verdi Trieste as Don Ottavio (*Don Giovanni*), Fenton (*Falstaff*) and Nemorino (*L'Elisir d'amore*), and he returns to the Royal Opera House for *La traviata* and *Il tabarro*.



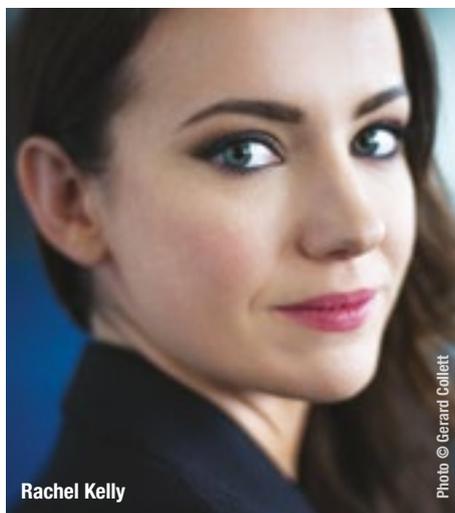
Lancelot Nomura

Photo © Clive Barda



Jurgita Adamonytė

Photo © Clive Barda



Rachel Kelly

Photo © Gerard Collett

Nico Darmanin (tenor) 2011

made debuts at Wexford Opera this year as Mérgy in *Le pré aux clercs*, and at Welsh National Opera singing Count Almaviva in the *Barber of Seville*. He has also sung Belfiore in *Il Viaggio a Reims* at the Rossini Opera Festival, and made a world premiere recording of Massenet songs with Sir Richard Bonyngue.

Rachel Kelly (mezzo) 2011 makes her company debut as Nancy in *Albert Herring* at Maggio Musicale Fiorentino (2016), and a role debut as Teresa in *La sonnambula* with Orchestre de Chambre de Paris under Christopher Franklin at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées. She'll make a guest appearance this year at Plácido Domingo's concert at Dublin's 3Arena.

Wallis Giunta (soprano) 2009

plays Mercedes in *Carmen* at Oper Frankfurt this summer, Dido in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* with Tafelmusik for Opera Atelier, Toronto, and Cherubino in Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro* at Oper Leipzig in December.

Jurgita Adamonytė (soprano) 2007

has been acclaimed for her performances in *Pelleas et Mélisande* under Jan Latham-Koenigs at Welsh National Opera, as for her exquisite Olga in *Eugene Onegin* at Garsington Opera this summer (2016).

DATES

July 15th

Bel Canto Masterclasses

Castiglione della Pescaia
Concert in Piazza Solti

July 16th

Bel Canto Masterclasses

Castiglione della Pescaia
Concert at L'Andana

August 9th

Musiques en Été with
Chamber Orchestra of Geneva
Geneva, Parc des Grange

January 18/19 2017

GSA auditions

for Repetiteurs and Singers
London, Royal Academy of Music

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