



Christmas Newsletter

2022

Dear friends and supporters

The purpose of this Newsletter is to thank you for your ongoing support for what Devon Opera seeks to achieve for our mutual benefit.

Equally important and appreciated is providing a platform for opera singers to perform at this challenging time in the world of performing arts.

The effects of COVID have been severe for all but I am optimistic that we will return to some kind of normal in the fullness of time.

Devon Opera's trustees met on 23rd November 2022 and agreed to endorse a main production,

scheduled for September 2023, of Puccini's *Tosca*. Venues being considered are the *Exeter Northcott/Barnfield; The Drum, Theatre Royal, Plymouth; The Flavel, Dartmouth*.

We have also been invited back to the *Canonteign Estate* on 15th July when a revival of our very successful 2015 *Passion of Puccini* will be performed. Other venues for this production are currently under consideration.

Also at this meeting, Trustees were delighted to confirm the appointment of **Pavel Timofeyevsky** as our permanent Music director.

With **Natasha Day** as Artistic director, this duo will be a major ongoing asset to the company. Trustees also confirm the appointment of **Alison Kettlewell** as a new trustee. Alison, who lives in Devon, is a mezzo soprano and sings in major opera houses in the UK and abroad.

Her opera knowledge and contacts will be of great value.

Thanks also to **Anne Foreman**, my Vice Chair, for her contribution, support and guidance this year.

Over the years the company has been very successful in attracting fine singers. A contributing factor to this success being our policy of singing in the original language which is not offered by every opera company particularly of our size.

Subject to their contractual commitments, we may be successful in hosting a return of the world class violinist, **Irmina Trynkos** with our Music director and International concert pianist, **Pavel Timofeyevsky**, next Spring. This was a sell-out Friends' event at *Aeolian Court*, Chudleigh in May 2022.

A pictorial review of 2022 can be seen on page 2.

With a very positive year ahead, all of us involved with Devon Opera, wish you a Happy Christmas and healthy and successful New Year.

Robert

Robert Hough
Executive Chairman, Devon Opera

Memories of warmer evenings

Left to right:
Pavel Timofeyevsky
Victoria Armillotta
Wyn Pencarreg
Alison Kettlewell
Adam Gilbert
Anna Gregory
Roderick Hunt

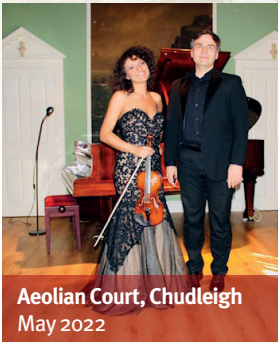


RHS Rosemoor
July 2022



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2022



Aeolian Court, Chudleigh
May 2022



Canonteign Estate
July 2022



RHS Rosemoor
July 2022

◀ Irmina Trynkos
Pavel Timofeyevsky

◀ Pavel Timofeyevsky
Anna Gregory
Roderick Hunt
Wyn Pencarreg

Victoria Armillotta
Adam Gilbert
Alison Kettlewell

◀ Victoria Armillotta
Alison Kettlewell
Anna Gregory

Victoria Armillotta ▶



RHS Rosemoor
July 2022

‘What did Devon Opera do during the Pandemic?’ and ‘what will be the new normal?’ are questions I’ve been asked countless times.

Well, like the Windmill Theatre(!) we never closed and used the time to ponder and plan, refresh and regroup, having at the forefront of our thinking our charitable purposes:

‘to promote public appreciation and knowledge in the art of opera and music in general...’

which we do by bringing to the people of Devon performances

of Opera sung in the original language, by professional artistes and renowned musicians.

Good attendances at our two **Opera for a Summer’s Evening** performances at *Canonteign Falls* and *RHS Rosemoor* demonstrated that our audiences were delighted to see us back, and concern about ticket sales confounded our expectations as the most expensive seats sold out first!

So the new normal is evolving and signs are that 2023 promises to be a good year for Devon Opera.

It has been a particularly busy time for **Robert**, our hard working Chair. Quite apart from his guiding hand on the tiller, he has researched new venues, reshaped our future strategy, enriched our complement of Trustees and Executive Board members, hosted meetings and Members’

events at *Aeolian Court* and built some stunning new stage sets! We are indebted to **Jackie Hough** for the warm and generous hospitality she extends to all things Devon Opera related - thank you Jackie!

With **Natasha Day** continuing as Artistic director, **Pavel Timofeyevsky** as Music director and **Olya Edwards** managing our social media, our aim is to continue to offer opportunities for people in Devon to experience first class Opera, to hear new and experienced singers and encourage audiences who might be new to opera.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful 2023

Anne
Anne Foreman
Vice Chair, Devon Opera

