

Naomi Rogers

Naomi is a mezzo-soprano from Suffolk with a Master of Music in Performance degree and a Bachelor of Music degree from the Royal Northern College of Music. She currently stands as Associate Artist for SoundUp Arts, and has worked with renowned opera companies, such as: Opera North, Clonter Opera, Northern Opera Group, Buxton International Festival, and British Youth Opera, whilst also singing principal roles in six of the RNCM's operas. As a regular concert performer, Naomi's highlights are performing as guest soloist with the International Opera Awards, the Hallé, and the Worldcon Philharmonic Orchestra.

Julia Smith

Japanese-English soprano Julia Mariko Smith was born in North East England, and is represented by Steve Phillips Management. Julia has just finished her studies at the Royal Northern College of Music on an Associate Studentship, after also completing a Postgraduate Diploma in 2019 under the tutelage of Deborah Rees. Most recently she covered and performed the role of 'Barbarina' *The Marriage of Figaro* with Opera North, performed as 'Soeur Constance' *Dialogues des Carmélites* and 'Mary Crawford' *Mansfield Park* at RNCM. She toured with the National Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company 2019 as principal and chorus and will perform 'Belinda' *Dido and Aeneas* with Waterperry Opera Festival in 2021. Julia's interests include indulging in Japanese cuisine, being a Disney enthusiast and a love for cats!

Ryan Davies

Welsh tenor Ryan Vaughan Davies is currently studying his Masters at the Royal College of Music with Russel Smythe. He is the Ivor Llewelyn Foster Scholar generously supported by the Monika Saunders Award. Ryan made his professional debut as Second Priest in Longborough Festival Opera's production of *Die Zauberflöte*, conducted by Anthony Negus and directed by Thomas Guthrie. He has since worked with the La Serenissima for their production of *Tisbe* in The Buxton International Festival and at The Grange Festival for their productions of *Falstaff* and *Belshazzar*, whilst understudying the role of Don Basilio in *Le Nozze di Figaro*. Ryan also enjoys singing on the concert platform with recent performances in the USA and Norway. He has recently worked at the Grange Festival on their production of *Precipice*, an outdoors promenade production by Sinéad O'Neill. Ryan looks forward to his debut performance at the Minnack theatre.

William Kyle

William is a Baritone currently in his first year of a master's at the Royal Northern College of Music and studies with Quentin Hayes. At the RNCM, he has played *Herald* in *The Pilgrim's Progress*, *Le Geôlier* in the *Dialogues des Carmélites* and will take the role of Harašta in the upcoming production of *Cunning Little Vixen*. William was a finalist in the Frederic Cox award for Singing and has been highly commended in the Elsie Thurston Prize, the James Oncken Prize, and the Alexander Young Prize. He regularly sings as a soloist and his recent concert performances include Faure's *Requiem* with Vocalis and Mozart's *Coronation Mass* with Leeds Methodist Choir.

Peter Lidbetter

Peter Lidbetter holds a music degree from Jesus College Cambridge and a Master's in vocal performance with distinction from the Royal Northern College of Music. He won the Elizabeth Harwood Memorial Award for Singers and the Brigitte Fassbaender Prize for Lieder and is a finalist in the 2020 RNCM Gold Medal competition. His recent operatic roles include Sarastro (*Die*

Zauberflöte), Coline (*La Bohème*), Figaro (*Le Nozze di Figaro*), The Evangelist (*Pilgrim's Progress*), Simone, (*Gianni Schicchi*), Betto, (*Gianni Schicchi*), Balthazar, (*Amahl and the Night Visitors*) and Zuniga (*Carmen*). He has also created roles in operas by Owain Park and Bertie Baigent.

Rachel Fright

Rachel studied with scholarships to Pembroke College, Oxford and the Royal Northern College of Music, where she was a Junior Fellow in Accompaniment. Following her performance as a Leeds Lieder Young Artist 2018, Rachel was awarded the Hester Dickson Prize to study at Oxenfoord International Summer School with Malcolm Martineau. Rachel performs regularly across the UK and has been featured on BBC Radio 3. She works for Live Music Now and Yorkshire Young Musicians, and is accompanist to Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus and the Macclesfield Singers. Recent work has included projects with Jackdaws Music Education Trust, Oxford Lieder Festival, Leeds Lieder Festival and Clonter Opera Theatre.

Rhiannon Doogan

Rhiannon Doogan is a Mezzo soprano living in Manchester. She recently graduated from the Royal Northern College of Music where she was the recipient of the Kathleen Trust scholarship, the Annie Ridyard Scholarship and the D'Oyly Carte Trust scholarship. Rhiannon has performed professionally with the National Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company as part of their 25th Anniversary celebrations and most recently as a chorus member, cover and lead role for Buxton International Festivals Young artist scheme. She has also recently performed the roles of La Badessa in *Suor Angelica*, Shining one in *Pilgrim's Progress*, Mere Jeanne in *Dialogues des Carmelites* and Julia Bertram in *Mansfield Park*.

Flora Birkbeck

Flora currently studies for her Masters Degree at The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, under Elizabeth McCormack. She obtained her First Class Bachelors of Music with Honours from the Royal Northern College of Music in 2019, under the tutelage of Mary Plazas. Engagements with RNCM Opera include Woodcutter's boy in *The Pilgrim's Progress*, Tisbe in *La Cenerentola* scenes, Annio in *La Clemenza di Tito* scenes, Chorus in *Suor Angelica*, *La Vie Parisienne* and *Theodora*. Flora's contemporary opera roles include creating the title role for Eldad Diamant's chamber opera *M.D.R.S.*, and principal roles in the premieres of 5 operas with MCYO.

Kamil Bien

Kamil received his bachelor's degree from the Royal Northern College of Music and his master's degree from the Guildhall School of Music and drama where he studied with Professor Janice Chapman.

Kamil has performed extensively and has won numerous prizes. In 2021 Kamil will return to The Grange Festival to perform the roles of Edmondo, Lampionaio and Maestro di Ballo in *Manon Lescaut*. Previously, he performed the role of Don Curzio in The Grange Festival's production of *Le Nozze di Figaro* (2019), Alemric in *Iolanta* during the Les Azuriales Festival (2019). At the RNCM Kamil performed the roles of Messenger and Interpreter in *Pilgrim's Progress* and *Le Prince Charmant* in *Cendrillon*.

Georgia Mae Ellis

Georgia Mae is a 24 years old Mezzo Soprano, studying a Masters in music at the Royal Northern College of Music under the tutelage of Mary Plazas. Amongst other operatic roles at the RNCM she has performed Merè Marie in Poulenc's Dialogue des Carmélites directed by Orpha Phelan and conducted by Andrew Greenwood, La Ciesca in Puccini's Gianni Schicci directed by Robert Chevara and conducted by Martin André. She has also performed the role of Mrs Jedermann in British Youth Operas Production of 'Scoring a Century' directed by Keith Warner. Her recital work includes performing pieces by Clara Schumann for the 'This Women's Work' recital at The Stoller Hall in Manchester.

This years recipient of the Frederic Cox Award for Singing, she is pleased to say she will be taking a position in The Glyndebourne Festival Chorus in the summer of 2021 (delayed from 2020.)

Ingvild Schultze-Florey

Mezzo-Soprano Ingvild Schultze-Florey graduated with Distinction from the Royal Northern College of Music. At the RNCM Ingvild was the recipient of numerous awards and prizes, including: The Alexander Young Prize for Mozart, Handel, and Schubert, Highly Commended in the Elsie Thurston Prize and was also a finalist in the Joyce and Michael Kennedy Award for the singing of Strauss. In 2019 Ingvild won the Bergen Filharmoniske Orkester's De Unges Konsert award for outstanding young soloists, where she performed Mozart arias and Strauss lieder.

Immediately following her successful solo debut with BFO Ingvild was engaged as soloist for Beethoven 9 conducted by Edward Gardner.

Future engagements include Serenade to Music with Bergen Filharmoniske Orkester conducted by Edward Gardner.

Leonie Maxwell

Leonie Maxwell is a lyric coloratura soprano who graduated from the Master programme at the Royal Northern College of Music in 2019. Leonie has been involved in many opera productions, at the RNCM, across the North of the UK and recently in Berlin as Erste Knabe, *Die Zauberflöte* (Mozart). After graduation, Leonie joined the chorus of Opera de Limoges, with whom she was engaged to perform the role of First Sprite, *Cendrillon* (Massenet). This season, Leonie returns to Limoges and will sing the role of Lucy in *The Telephone* (Menotti).

Caroline Taylor

Caroline Taylor studied with Louise Winter as an Oglesby Scholar at the Royal Northern College of Music. Winner of the 2018 Joyce and Michael Kennedy Strauss Award and the 2019 Dean and Chadlington Singing Competition, she is a Concordia Foundation Artist, a Longborough Festival Opera Emerging Artist and a member of the 2019/2020 Wigmore Hall French Song Exchange.

Recent roles include **Vixen Sharp-Ears**/*The Cunning Little Vixen* (Barnes Music Festival) and **Gina (Giannetta)** and cover **Adina**/*The Elixir of Love* (King's Head Theatre, Opera'r Ddraig). This season, she performs **Asteria**/*Tamerlano* (Cambridge Handel Opera Company) and Fauré's *Requiem* (Manchester Camerata).

Edward Robinson

Midlands born baritone, Edward Robinson studied at the Royal Northern College of Music as the Oglesby Trust and Drapers de Turckheim Scholar, under the tutorship of the internationally acclaimed baritone, Quentin Hayes. Edward's operatic achievements include the role of Pilgrim *The Pilgrim's Progress*, Marco Gianni Schicchi, Don Pedro *Much Ado About Nothing*, Silas *The Orphans of Koombu*, Valens *Theodora*, Bobinet *La Vie Parisienne*, Le Surintendant des plaisirs *Cendrillon*, Sicario *Macbeth*, Antonio *Le Nozze di Figaro* and Boy 2 *Trouble in Tahiti*; performing with Dorset Opera Festival, Clonter Opera, Northern Opera Group and as a young artist at The Buxton International Festival, 2018 and 2019.

Ann Wilkes

Ann Wilkes is a Manchester based Soprano who graduated from the RNCM in 2019 where she studied for both her undergraduate and master's degrees. During her time at the RNCM she particularly enjoyed exploring contemporary repertoire such as Webern (which she performed with the RNCM sinfonietta) and working with emerging composers such as Grace-Evangaline Mason (RNCM symphony orchestra) and Anna Appleby (Tête à Tête Opera Festival). Ann performs oratorio extensively with highlights including Handel's *Messiah*, Haydn's *Nelson Mass* and Brahms's *German Requiem*.

Rhiannon Merrifield

Rhiannon is currently a London based soprano who has graduated from the Royal Northern College of Music this summer. In addition to her singing career, Rhiannon works as Head of Communications at Waterperry Opera Festival. Alongside this, Rhiannon is also Creative Director of Pemberley Productions, a theatre company, specialising in bringing classic literature to historic houses. Rhiannon's aspirations for the company is to facilitate programmes of music and theatre to those who cannot readily access the arts, such as members of the deaf community and those with specific needs, as well as reaching out to a broad and new audience in schools.

Erin Rossington

Hailing from the Welsh hills, Erin Rossington is currently studying on the Opera Course at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama with Susan Waters having previously studied at the RNCM. In 2019 she won International Voice of the Future at Llangollen International Eisteddfod, Lieder Prize at the David Clover Singers Platform 2019 and 2020, and the prestigious Elizabeth Harwood Memorial Prize at the RNCM. Erin is gratefully supported by The Countess of Munster award, Ryan Davies Memorial Trust, the Sybil Tutton Opera award and the Kathleen Trust.

Liam McNally

Liam McNally is a classically trained Tenor and Singing Teacher from Manchester, England. He holds Music degrees from two of the UK's most reputable institutions, a Masters Degree from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and a Bachelors from the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester.

His early musical life featured recordings on two No.1 Classical Albums with Decca Records, notably 'The Classical Album 2011'. He was also a Britain's Got Talent Finalist, touring venues such as the O2 and Wembley Arena in London and the Manchester Evening News Arena in Manchester.

After a vocal transition to his adult voice, Liam attended the Royal Northern College of Music. In 2019, he won the Frederic Cox Award, one of the Conservatoires most prestigious prizes. Other awards during this time included both the Brigitte Fassbänder and John Cameron Awards for Lieder, the Alexander Young Prize for Singing and the Chris Petty award for English Song.

Professionally, Liam played the 'Second Burgess' in the Bergen Philharmonic's 2017 production of Peter Grimes, with a repeat performance at the Edinburgh International Festival. His Professional Recital Debut occurred shortly afterwards at the Uppermill Music Festival. Last summer, he joined La Serenissima at Buxton Festival for performances of Brescianello's Baroque Opera 'Tisbe'. In 2019, Liam joined the Opera Holland Park chorus for their productions of Manon Lescaut and Un Ballo in Maschera. During the Covid postponed 2020 Season, Liam was set to make his role debut at Opera Holland Park in Delius' *Margot la Rouge*.

Philip O'Connor

Philip's main musical education began at Wells Cathedral School. Subsequently, Philip then was awarded the Tenor Choral Scholarship at Hereford Cathedral, culminating in the Three Choirs Festival at Gloucester in 2013. In 2016, Philip graduated from Manchester University gaining a 1st in Solo Performance under Andrew Heggie. Currently, Philip is studying for a PGDip at the RNCM after having completed his Masters with Nicholas Powell. Along side this, he is a lay clerk at Manchester Cathedral and sings regularly with the BBC Daily Service Singers. His studies are generously supported by The Mario Lanza Foundation.

Stephanie Maitland

Scottish mezzo-soprano Stephanie Maitland studied at the Royal Northern College of Music with Jane Irwin. During her time at the RNCM, Stephanie sang the roles of Sandman - Hänsel und Gretel, La Principessa - Suor Angelica and Zita Gianni Schicchi in the RNCM's Puccini double-bill, Madam By-ends in Vaughan Williams' The Pilgrim's Progress and La Prieure - Dialogues des Carmélites. In 2019, she was an Alvarez Young Artist with Garsington Opera, covering the role of Mrs Grose in Britten's The Turn of the Screw. She was due to sing with Glyndebourne 2020 – cancelled due to Covid 19. She joins the prestigious Young Artist programme at the Wiener Staatsoper for the 20/21 season.