

WESSEX GLYNDEBOURNE ASSOCIATION

Update – March 2022

The results of the Glyndebourne Ticket Ballot were:-

The Wreckers: Hemsley, York, Hawkes

Marriage of Figaro: Cornes, Meadows

La Bohème: Etherington, Harding

Don Pasquale: Chillingworth, Crofton, Innes, Meredith

Poulenc Double Bill: Whiticar

Alcina: No Entries

There were 16 entries to the draw this year; all entrants were able to get tickets on their preferred dates, as those unlucky in the Main Ballot were able to get tickets later, but before public booking. Public booking has recently opened via phone and website.

Since the last Update, we have had two successful In House events. In February Eric Gautron, Technical Director of Glyndebourne gave a privileged insight into the major changes taking place on the Glyndebourne stage to do with scenery and lighting management. Started already, and lasting for four more seasons, the existing systems are all being replaced by 'state of the art' equipment at a total cost of £7 million. Eric, who previously worked at the Metropolitan Opera in New York, spared no technical details as he explained how methods dating back to the last century are being replaced by safer and more versatile machinery which can all be digitally controlled.

The second event this year was on March 26th at Itchen Abbas Hall, when David Rendall talked on his career in opera. David illustrated his talk with recordings of major roles, and spoke most movingly about the accident in Copenhagen in 2005 which curtailed his career, and the major medical treatments which ensued. During the AGM which preceded David's talk, **we emphasised that we always welcome new committee members!**

We are looking forward to welcoming our 2021 Wessex Award winner, baritone Jack Sandison, for the annual Wessex Award Recital on Sunday 8th May. Jack made his Glyndebourne soloist debut just before the presentation last October, in Stravinsky's Rake's Progress, and we learned that both his parents had been Glyndebourne soloists during their notable careers in the 1980s - truly a Glyndebourne dynasty! Details of his programme will be published on our website in due course.

Our annual Glyndebourne at Beaulieu Concert is scheduled for Saturday 2nd July, and we are hoping for a return to normality this year as regards timing and seating. Tickets will be sent to members once this is confirmed, in good time for the concert. Details for booking are provided below.

Later this year we will be going to Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro* at Glyndebourne on Sunday 16th October - sadly there will again be no performances at Woking this year. We are requesting bookings for *Marriage of Figaro* with this Update. Lunch will be provided at Glyndebourne at about 1pm in the Upper Wallop restaurant – the cost of lunch will be collected later in the year, once Glyndebourne have confirmed it. Meanwhile, please indicate numbers for lunch on the booking form. Members who joined the party last year commented on how much the food and ambience had improved. The coach will leave Winchester at 10.30 prompt as usual.

Please book early for the following events using the enclosed form:-

Sunday 8th May 6.15pm for 7.00pm, Itchen Abbas Village Hall, Wessex Award Celebration Recital preceded by fizz and canapés. Please support strongly last year's Wessex Award winner, the baritone Jack Sandison. A drink (or two) of fizz on arrival from 6.15pm, some delicious canapés; the recital starts at 7.00pm.

Saturday 2nd July 'Glyndebourne at Beaulieu' Concert. Once again all our singers will be from this year's Festival, where they will be members of the chorus, some understudying major parts. We can be sure they will maintain the particularly high standard of recent years; this is an occasion not to be missed. We are expecting an allocation of 70 tickets – early birds get the best seats! We hope for good weather so we can picnic beforehand - take your seats in time for a 7pm start.

Sunday 16th October Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro*. We have 40 tickets at £54 (Upper Circle front centres), and 35 tickets at £78 (Stalls best seats). As well as giving the opportunity to book tickets, the form also gives the opportunity to book seats on the coach from Winchester, which will depart at 10.30am, and lunch. Pickup point directions: we will again be using the Winchester East (St Catherine's) Park & Ride car park, which is free on Sundays (and on other days after 4pm). The Park & Ride is adjacent to the M3 Junction 10 exit, and is entered via Garnier Road.