

WESSEX GLYNDEBOURNE ASSOCIATION

Update – May 2018

Since the last Update was issued, we have had an In House event in which Julia Aries, Archivist at Glyndebourne, gave us a wonderful insight into the history of Glyndebourne and the Touring Company. Julia has held this position for some 20 years, and so was able to chart the progress from what seemed to be a cubby hole in the garage to the well-appointed rooms in which precious material is now stored. We particularly appreciated the fact that Julia had had an accident shortly before the date of her talk, and yet felt she should honour the commitment to come and talk to us. Besides the documentary archive at Glyndebourne, there is also an oral history archive managed by the British Library, with interviews covering a wide range of people associated with Glyndebourne, including singers, conductors, administrators and gardeners - the website with this material can be found at <https://sounds.bl.uk/Classical-music/Oral-history-of-Glyndebourne-opera>.

Before Julia spoke to us, we held our AGM, during which an account of the Association's financial performance was given, prepared by our Treasurer, Dr Max Wilson. A surplus for the year of £1,009 was recorded, a significant improvement over the previous year, even after we increased the value of the Wessex Award to £2,500. In view of this we have decided to sponsor the performance of Massenet's *Cendrillon* on October 28th, the day of our visit, with a special donation of £5,000. The full minutes can be found on our website via a link in the News section, where you can also retrieve a copy of the most recent Update and booking forms.

We have just had another successful Wessex Award recital by Claire Barnett-Jones, a mezzo-soprano with a remarkable ability to project the character portrayed in some of her songs. Accompanied by Tim Anderson, the first half of Claire's programme was taken up with Wagner's *Wesendonck Lieder*. After a short interval, Claire gave a selection of songs by women composers, ending with Madeleine Dring's five Betjeman Songs which gave her full opportunity to adopt fitting character roles.

On Saturday 29th September we are delighted to welcome Keiron Cooke, senior artist manager with leading agency Askonas Holt. Keiron previously worked at Glyndebourne in casting, and now manages a number of prominent opera singers including Sarah Connolly, Brindley Sherratt (starring this season at Glyndebourne in *Rosenkavalier* and *Pelléas & Mélisande*) and Duncan Rock. His talk will complement Scott Cooper's of last December, giving us both sides of the art of casting.

Our second opera trip, for which a booking form is attached, will be in November when we visit Woking for a performance of Verdi's *La Traviata*, with video production by Nina Dunn who spoke to us a few years ago. 60 best stalls tickets are available at the specially reduced price of £46.50, and we hope for another strong booking for this ever-popular opera. A coach will depart from Winchester at 5.30pm – see below for details. There will be a party with the cast afterwards, always great fun. **Please send your Glyndebourne on Tour bookings to Brigid no later than Saturday 21st July to meet the Box Office cut-off date.**

Please book the following events using the enclosed form:-

- 1. Saturday 29th September:** Keiron Cooke, senior artist manager with Askonas Holt. This event will take place at Itchen Abbas Village Hall, the base for most of our meetings.
- 2. Tuesday 20th November: Verdi's *La Traviata* by GoT at Woking.** As well as giving the opportunity to book tickets and the party with the cast, the form also provides the opportunity to book seats on the coach, which will depart from Winchester at 5.30pm. Pickup point directions: turn into Moorside Road from Easton Lane, Winchester, and turn immediately left into an enclosed car-park where you see a sign facing you advertising Howden's Bathroom Warehouse.

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Booking Form – May 2018

Date	Event	Place	Price/ Ticket	No. of Tickets	Sub- Total
Saturday 29 th September	In-House talk by Keiron Cooke, senior artist manager Askonas Holt	Itchen Abbas Village Hall Noon	£17 for members £20 for guests		
Tuesday 20 th November	Verdi's <i>La Traviata</i> by GoT	Woking 7.15pm start	£46.50		
Tuesday 20 th November	Coach to and from Verdi's <i>La Traviata</i> at Woking	Depart Winchester 5.30pm <u>prompt</u>	£16		
Tuesday 20 th November	Reception including finger buffet and wine following Verdi's <i>La Traviata</i> at Woking	Theatre Lounge area	£18		
	<u>Cheques payable to Wessex Glyndebourne Association</u>			<u>Total</u>	

Member's Name

Address

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Telephone

Email address (if not already provided)

Amount of enclosed cheque

(Cheques to be made payable to: Wessex Glyndebourne Association)

Please return this complete form to: Mrs Brigid McManus, 23 Little Hayes Lane, Itchen Abbas, SO21 1XA together with a stamped self-addressed envelope. NOTE: Booking for Woking no later than July 21st