

WESSEX GLYNDEBOURNE ASSOCIATION

Update – May 2017

Since the last Update was issued, we have had an In House event which marked the 'return match' of David Rendall and our Patron, Diana Montague. David produced a real *tour de force* - he took us through his career from the early days to some time in the 1980s, an amazing feat of reminiscence with only the occasional prompt from Diana. We hardly had a chance to ask any of the prepared questions, so fluent was the 'stream of consciousness' that David produced. And this was all the more remarkable since David had had a major operation barely a month before his talk - it was heartening to see what a good recovery he had made. One thing is certain - we must invite David back to complete his wonderful account of a life in opera.

Before David 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 £418 was recorded, which marked a good turnaround from the previous year, even after we doubled our donation to the Glyndebourne Touring Company. In the current year, we are so far maintaining this improved financial performance. 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 a very successful Wessex Award recital by Edmund Danon, a bass-baritone of considerable talent. Accompanied by Duncan Williams, who made a welcome return having performed for us at Beaulieu recently, Edmund started with a selection of arias by Handel, Mozart and Massenet, and then went on to songs by Schubert and Finzi. His most impressive item was Billy Budd's soliloquy on the morning of his execution, which drew considerable praise from the casting director of the new Grange festival, no less. Edmund is another Award winner to watch - we will keep you up-to-date with his career on the News page of our website, and as I write he has just made his *début* with a role in the new production of *La Traviata* at the Glyndebourne Festival.

On Saturday 23rd September we are delighted to welcome Anne Minors, a distinguished architect. Anne has specialised in the design of performance spaces, and her concern has always been to provide the best sight lines and acoustics both in theatres and opera houses. Her talk will complement that given last December by Rob Harris - those who heard Rob will confirm that this general topic is extremely interesting, and we can look forward to another hour of insights into how today's new performance venues provide us with such a good experience of opera and drama.

Our second opera trip, for which a booking form is attached, will be in early November when we visit Woking for a performance of Mozart's *Così fan Tutte*, in the acclaimed production by Nicholas Hytner. 60 best stalls tickets are available at the specially reduced price of £45, 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 8th July to meet the Box Office cut-off date.**

Please book the following events using the enclosed form:-

- 1. Saturday 23rd September:** Anne Minors, opera house architect. This event will take place at Itchen Abbas Village Hall, the base for most of our meetings.
- 2. Tuesday 7th November: Mozart's *Così fan Tutte* 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 2017

Date	Event	Place	Price/ Ticket	No. of Tickets	Sub- Total
Saturday 23 rd September	In-House talk by Anne Minors, opera house architect	Itchen Abbas Village Hall Noon	£17 for members £20 for guests		
Tuesday 7 th November	Mozart's <i>Così fan Tutte</i> by GoT	Woking 7.15pm start	£45		
Tuesday 7 th November	Coach to and from Mozart's <i>Così fan Tutte</i> at Woking	Depart Winchester 5.30pm <u>prompt</u>	£16		
Tuesday 7 th November	Reception including finger buffet and wine following Mozart's <i>Così fan Tutte</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 Brett, 23 Little Hayes Lane, Itchen Abbas, SO21 1XA together with a stamped self-addressed envelope. NOTE: Booking for Woking no later than July 8th