

The Wessex Award Celebration Recital

13th May 2012

The Wessex Award, instituted in 1997, provides a bursary for a deserving young singer from the Glyndebourne Chorus, and is funded by events organized by the Wessex Glyndebourne Association. This evening's recital celebrates the achievements of the 2011 winner, Gabriela Iştoc. Gabriela is accompanied by Steven Maughan, familiar to us as an accompanist at our Beaulieu concert in 2010.

Performers' Biographies

Gabriela Iştoc

Romanian soprano Gabriela Iştoc is a trainee at the National Opera Studio in London. She graduated at The National University of Music, Bucharest and in 2007 moved to Dublin where she started studying singing with Dr. Veronica Dunne at the Royal Irish Academy of Music. In 2010 she was a member of the Opera Theatre Company Young Associate Artists Programme in Dublin.

She is a laureate of numerous vocal competitions: Paul Constantinescu, George Georgescu, National Singing Competition of Focşani; 2nd Prize and Borsa di studio della Fondazione Lucia Valentini Terrani for the youngest singer in the competition at Iris Adami Corradetti (Padua); 2nd Prize and Premio Speciale Teatro Massimo di Palermo e Banca Don Rizzo at Concorso Internazionale per Cantanti Lirici Città di Alcamo; Irene Sandford Award (Dublin); Geoghegan and Gervase Cups in the Feis Ceoil (Dublin). Gabriela is also a recipient of The Robert and Margaret Lefever Study Award.

Concert performances include Handel's *Messiah* with DLCS, Strauss' *Four Last Songs* with Phoenix Orchestra (Dublin) and concerts with RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland and the Mihail Jora Orchestra. Her operatic roles include Adina in *L'Elisir d'Amore* with NUMB, Serpina in *La Serva Padrona* (Pergolesi) at the Opera studio di Montalto, Fiordiligi (*Così fan Tutte*) with RIAM and Barbarina in *Le nozze di Figaro* with OTC, and Gilda in *Rigoletto*. For the Glyndebourne Festival, in 2011, Gabriela sang the role of Eurydice in *Followers* by Julian Philips, and understudied the roles of The First Nymph in *Rusalka* and Giannetta in *L'elisir d'amore*. She was also a Jerwood Young Artist in the same year.

Further engagements for 2012 include The Vixen in *Cunning Little Vixen* (cover) – Glyndebourne Festival - and the role of Ludovina in *The Yellow Sofa* (Julian Philips) - Glyndebourne Festival and GoT, and a concert with RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland (The National Concert Hall). In 2013 she will be singing Lucy Brown in *Die Dreigroschenoper* (Kurt Weill) with the London Philharmonic Orchestra and The Echo (Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos*) for the Glyndebourne Festival.

Steven Maughan

Steven was born in Lancashire. He studied music at Durham University before going on to study piano accompaniment at the RNCM and to train as a coach and répétiteur at the National Opera Studio. Since then Steven has worked principally at Glyndebourne where he is now a senior coach.

This summer he will be working on new productions of *Le Nozze di Figaro*, and *L'Heure Espagnole* and *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges*. He also works regularly for De Nederlandse Opera in Amsterdam, where he recently prepared *Der Rosenkavalier* with Sir Simon Rattle and *Don Carlos* with Yannick Nezet-Seguin. He was senior coach on *The Rape of Lucretia* at the ROH Covent Garden, and was music and language coach on David McVicar's new production of *The Turn of the Screw* at the Mariinsky Theatre, St. Petersburg, conducted by Valery Gergiev. Steven coaches both at the National Opera Studio and for British Youth Opera, and works regularly as a concert accompanist.

This evening's programme

Richard Strauss	Cäcilie September Bei Schlafengehn Zueignung
Francis Poulenc	Deux Poèmes de Louis Aragon: C Les chemins de l'amour
Carmen Petra-Basacopol	Rugaciune
George Cavadia	Umbra (The Shadow)
Domenico Donizetti	Regnava nel silenzio (Lucia di Lammermoor)
W.A. Mozart	Dove sono (Le nozze di Figaro),
Giuseppe Verdi	Mercè, dilette amiche (I Vespri Siciliani)