

The Pimlott Foundation Presents

hansel and gretel






**THE MISTLEY
 THORN**
 RESTAURANT & ROOMS

01206 392821
WWW.MISTLEYTHORN.CO.UK
 @THEMISTLEYTHORN


LUCCA
 Enoteca

01206 390044
WWW.LUCCAFOODS.CO.UK
 @LUCCAENOTECA


**THE
 MISTLEY
 KITCHEN**
 LOVE MAKING GREAT FOOD...

01206 391 024
WWW.MISTLEYKITCHEN.COM
 @MISTLEYKITCHEN

Dear Friends



As founder of the Pimlott Foundation, may I take the opportunity to welcome you to this very special event - the performance of Humperdinck's opera, *Hansel and Gretel* at the Mercury Theatre, here in Colchester.

Our ambition to work with the many musical and theatrical professionals in East Anglia, (including former colleagues of Steven Pimlott), with young aspiring performers and with schools in Essex and Suffolk, has evolved from a project of humble beginnings, into this full scale production.

We are truly grateful for the immense trust and support offered by the Mercury Theatre, especially Thom Freeth, Learning and Participation Manager. It has enabled us to operate on a totally different scale from our 2008 production of Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, which was also directed and designed by Penny Cliff and Mamoru Iriguchi. They have assembled a dedicated team of experts, who have worked with inexhaustible energy, to present this opera to you tonight.

The whole project would not have happened without Helen Thorne, trustee and in charge of education for the PF, whose ideas and single handed effort and dedication managed to secure an astonishing amount of grant funding. We are particularly grateful to the generous funding received from the Arts Council, Essex Music Education Hub, D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust, Hervey Benham Charitable Trust, and the Belinda Starling Memorial Fund, as well as from our sponsor Birkett Long, which have made this project possible.

Opera is a unique musical genre, in which all performance skills are required to come together, so please let me thank all of you who have allowed this to happen – the children, parents and teachers, and particularly the Head Teachers of our partner schools, who have been so enthusiastic and flexible in their support. Thanks also to Adey Grummet, Simon Warne and Natalie Songer, who enthused the students (and us!) during the many workshops and rehearsals.

Finally, thank you to all the creative team, the singers, orchestra, technical team, friends of Pimlott Foundation for their financial support, and to Emma Wallis, our producer, who has been steering this *Hansel and Gretel* 'ship' for us all over the last year!

We hope you will join us at our future events – but for now I hope you will enjoy this musical fairy tale!

Daniela Bechly
February 2015

Rosalind Plowright OBE



As the Patron of this production of *Hansel and Gretel*, let me welcome you to this evening's performance.

If this is the first time you have experienced opera, then this is a marvellous starter. If you have children with you, even better and if you are an opera aficionado, then you will appreciate what I am about to say. The story is one known by just about everyone. The opera introduces the most wonderful tunes, songs and orchestral interludes adding a very

real (and sometimes scary) element to the drama. I was first asked to perform *The Mother (Gertrude)* for The Metropolitan Opera in New York in their new production. It was wonderful to see that enormous opera house filled with as many children as there were adults. There are not many operas written with children in mind. This is one of the greatest and has helped many a child to appreciate opera and to go on to experience more.

So enjoy an evening of children playing, mother being cross, getting lost in the woods, meeting a fairy, a sandman, a witch and watching good take on the forces of evil.

The *Opera in English* series has a recording of *Hansel and Gretel* which won the Grammy for best opera recording in 2007 should you want to continue enjoying the music after you leave tonight.

I wish you a wonderful, joyful and memorable night.

Rosalind Plowright OBE
February 2015

Director's Note



"I love to dance and sing and play my games, hate to be alone"

Like children everywhere, this is what Hansel and Gretel want the most and that's what we see in Humperdinck's opera. They sing and dance to raise their spirits, fight off hunger, and express their joy. How Hansel and Gretel manage to overcome the dangers of the forest and its terrifying witch is one of the world's best known stories.

As this opera is all about children, you'll see lots of them on stage tonight: singing, acting and dancing. We've been overwhelmed by their commitment and creativity as they've worked with us to develop the production's vision. We hope the experience of working alongside our professional opera singers will be the start of a passion for music and theatre and be as memorable and special as it has been for all us involved in making this show happen.

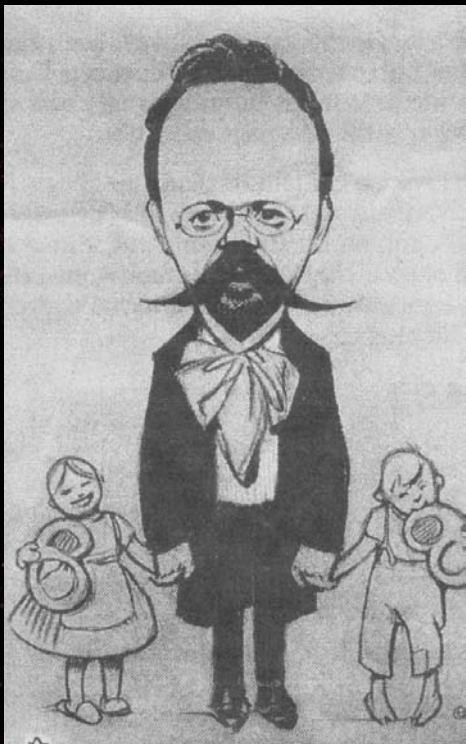
This production follows a year of taking music and theatre into Essex and Suffolk schools where many children experienced opera for the first time. We're very grateful to everyone who made this possible.

"I love to dance and sing and play my games, hate to be alone"

It's what we all want, it's what theatre is for. Who could disagree?

Penny Cliff
February 2015

Engelbert the First



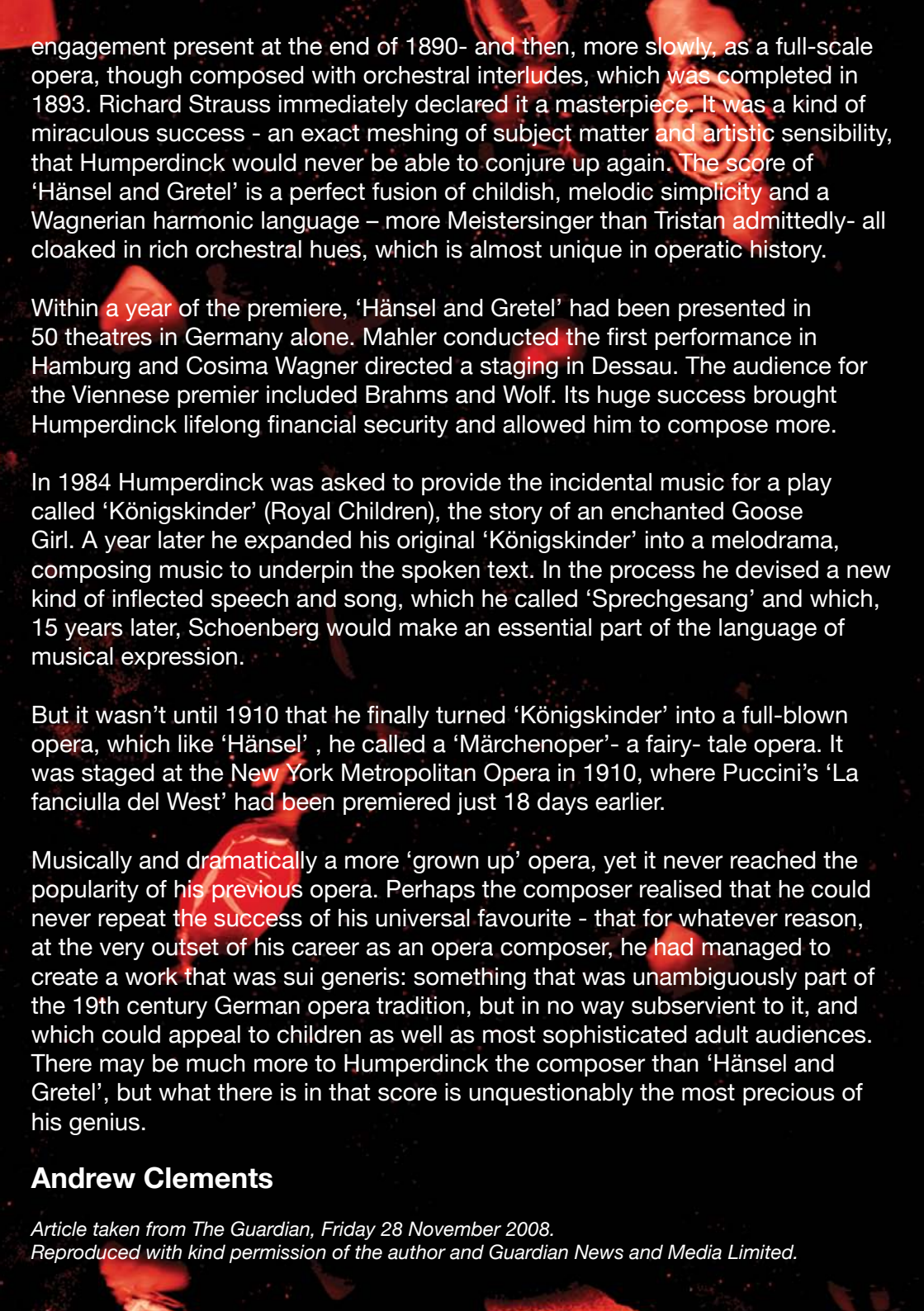
Long before his name was hijacked by the 1960s crooner from Leicester, Engelbert Humperdinck was one of the rare figures in music history - a composer who became a household name on the basis of a single work. Almost every opera company in the world will have a production of *Hänsel and Gretel* in its repertory.

Born in 1854, Humperdinck had studied architecture in Cologne before switching to music, and he first encountered Wagner while travelling in Europe on a student scholarship in 1880. He spent the following year living in Bayreuth, copying out the full score of *Parsifal*, as well as conducting local choirs and

orchestras. He trained the children's choir for Wagner's final opera the following year, and afterwards settled in Paris, where he came in contact with a different musical world - that of Debussy, d'Indy, Saint-Saens and Chabrier.

Predictably though, it was Wagner's influence that proved the most persistent - and for a while, the most creatively suffocating. After the great man's death in 1883, Humperdinck maintained his contacts with Bayreuth, helping out at the festival and tutoring Wagner's eldest son Siegfried, for a year, as well as working for the music publishers Schott, and also as a newspaper critic. All the while he was writing his own music, too. But it was not until the 1890s that he finally found a distinctive voice of his own.

Humperdinck's sister Adelheid Wette, had written a dramatised version of the Brothers Grimm story of 'Hänsel and Gretel', for her children to perform as a private family entertainment. She asked Humperdinck to compose four folk songs as part of the show. After completing these songs Humperdinck set about making an opera from the text, first as a 'Singspiel' - a sequence of self-contained songs with dialogue, which he presented to his fiancé as an



engagement present at the end of 1890- and then, more slowly, as a full-scale opera, though composed with orchestral interludes, which was completed in 1893. Richard Strauss immediately declared it a masterpiece. It was a kind of miraculous success - an exact meshing of subject matter and artistic sensibility, that Humperdinck would never be able to conjure up again. The score of 'Hänsel and Gretel' is a perfect fusion of childish, melodic simplicity and a Wagnerian harmonic language - more Meistersinger than Tristan admittedly- all cloaked in rich orchestral hues, which is almost unique in operatic history.

Within a year of the premiere, 'Hänsel and Gretel' had been presented in 50 theatres in Germany alone. Mahler conducted the first performance in Hamburg and Cosima Wagner directed a staging in Dessau. The audience for the Viennese premier included Brahms and Wolf. Its huge success brought Humperdinck lifelong financial security and allowed him to compose more.

In 1984 Humperdinck was asked to provide the incidental music for a play called 'Königskinder' (Royal Children), the story of an enchanted Goose Girl. A year later he expanded his original 'Königskinder' into a melodrama, composing music to underpin the spoken text. In the process he devised a new kind of inflected speech and song, which he called 'Sprechgesang' and which, 15 years later, Schoenberg would make an essential part of the language of musical expression.

But it wasn't until 1910 that he finally turned 'Königskinder' into a full-blown opera, which like 'Hänsel', he called a 'Märchenoper'- a fairy- tale opera. It was staged at the New York Metropolitan Opera in 1910, where Puccini's 'La fanciulla del West' had been premiered just 18 days earlier.

Musically and dramatically a more 'grown up' opera, yet it never reached the popularity of his previous opera. Perhaps the composer realised that he could never repeat the success of his universal favourite - that for whatever reason, at the very outset of his career as an opera composer, he had managed to create a work that was sui generis: something that was unambiguously part of the 19th century German opera tradition, but in no way subservient to it, and which could appeal to children as well as most sophisticated adult audiences. There may be much more to Humperdinck the composer than 'Hänsel and Gretel', but what there is in that score is unquestionably the most precious of his genius.

Andrew Clements

Article taken from The Guardian, Friday 28 November 2008.

Reproduced with kind permission of the author and Guardian News and Media Limited.

Cast

Samantha Price
Alice Privett
Daniela Bechly
Hakan Vramsmo
Helen Bruce
Beatrice Derrick
Evie Press

Hansel
Gretel
Mother
Father
Witch
Dew Fairy
Sandman

Creative Team

Penny Cliff
Mamoru Iriguchi
Mark Austin
Emma Wallis
Sarah Levinsky
Cis O'Boyle
Zoe Tweed
Emma Hansford
Holly Owst
Bonnie Poole
Marjanne van der Ark
Inga Goldsmith
Simon Warne

Director
Designer
Music Director
Producer
Choreographer
Lighting Designer
Assistant Director
Stage Manager
Costume Designer & Supervisor
Assistant Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager
Rehearsal Pianist
Children's Vocal Coach

.....

Natalie Sinnot
Caroline Kennedy
Lindsay Bramley
Victor Sgarbi
Georgia Bishop

Hansel (cover)
Gretel (cover)
Mother (cover)
Father (cover)
Witch (cover)

Hansel and Gretel

Music by Engelbert Humperdinck

Libretto by Adelheid Wette

Sung in English

Translation by David Pountney

Orchestral Reduction by Pocket Publications

.....

ACT ONE: The Broom-Maker's Cottage

ACT TWO: In The Forest

INTERVAL

ACT THREE: The Witch's House



Chorus

Eloise Diss
Bryony Diss
Abbie Sissons
Kaycie Fraser
Robert Long
Daryl Hindle
Joseph Gagne
Jemima Speller
Jasmine Von Kaenel
Zachary Fontain
Sophie Manhood
Kennedy French
Joseph Turner
Madison Soar
Lily Mayhew
Brogan Barrett
Cassia Oliff
Sophie Shaw
Katie Shaw
Ruby Bushell
Lillibet Fontain


Alex French
Ella Mowle
Sophie Cook
Elizabeth Suddes
Grace Wyncoll
Alex Nevard
Max Howle
Imogen Churchill
Jonathan Lant
Leo Dainty
Callum Baker
Mollie Smith
Braenna Nightingale-Mann
Chloe Yuen
Maddie Havord
Ruby Oxley
Millie Sillett
Grace Pratis
Emma Podd
Amy Burgess
Bradley James

Movement Ensemble

Daisy Greenwood
Harry Yelland
Sophie Jenkins
Hazel Bennett
Hannah Terry
Ellie Macy
Lauren Brame
Ben Collins

Abi Hutchinson
Grace Upton
Harry Quin
Ruby Tinworth
Morgan Sheldon
Nikki West

Orchestra



Violin	Georgina Leo Edward McCullagh Heloisa Ribeiro Theo Kung
Viola	Jenny Wilkinson Hayley Chisnall
Cello	Jeremy Hughes Natasha Holmes
Double Bass	Jamie Kenny
Flute	Charli Ashton
Oboe	Kim Haan
Clarinet	Max Welford Chris Goodman
Bassoon	Ashley Myall
Horn	Kay Dawson Harry Stone
Trumpet	Victoria Rule
Trombone	Yusuf Narcin
Harp	Lynne Creasey
Percussion	Alex Beattie Ellie Beattie

Samantha Price Hänsel



Welsh mezzo-soprano Samantha Price originally read speech & language therapy at Reading University before gaining Distinction in her MA Opera performance at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama. She trained with ENO Opera Works before recently completing a year at the London National Opera Studio, supported by English National Opera, Arts Council of Wales and the

Robert Vivian Trust. Sam is a former Samling Artist and a member of Live Music Now and is thrilled to have joined the Harewood Artist programme at ENO.

Roles include: Cherubino in *Le Nozze di Figaro* (ENO, RWCMD); Third Gentleman in *Julietta* (ENO); Hänsel in *Hänsel und Gretel* (NOS); Nancy in *Albert Herring* (Samling & NOS scenes with Opera North); Dorabella in *Così fan tutte* (NOS scenes with WNO Orchestra); Carmen (St. Magnus Festival); Widow & female chorus in *The Hidden Valley* (Welsh National Opera, MAX); Sorceress in *Dido and Aeneas* (Dartington); Prince Orlofsky in *Die Fledermaus* (RWCMD). Future plans include: Mozart residency (Festival d'Aix-en-Provence); Rosina (cover) in *The Barber of Seville* (ENO).
www.sampricemezzo.com

Alice Privett Gretel



Alice Privett, soprano graduated from the opera course at the Royal Academy of Music in 2014, a Sickle Foundation Scholar. Her oratorio work includes Handel's *Messiah* at St Martin-in-the-Fields, Israel in Egypt with the Huddersfield Choral Society, Bach's B Minor Mass and Tippett's *A Child of our Time*. Operatic roles include Poppea (Longborough Festival Opera

Young Artists/The Complete Singer), Despina (Hamstead Garden Opera), Papagena for Longborough Festival Opera, Pamina for LFO on tour/The Complete Singer, Ginevra Ariodante for RAO, Carolina The Secret Marriage, Nerone L'Incoronazione di Poppea, Nedda I Pagliacci and Gretel Hänsel und Gretel (West Green Opera).

Alice was awarded the Tracey Chadwell Memorial Prize at the GSMD and recitals include Birtwhistle songs aired on BBC Radio 3. She won 1st prize in the Susan Longfield Award and the Schumann Lieder prize at the RAM. A recipient of the Helen Clarke Award (2013), and the Leonard Ingrams Award for exceptional promise (2014) from Garsington Opera. Upcoming projects include Romilda Xerxes (Longborough Festival Opera) and Vier Letzte Lieder Strauss at the Amersham Festival.

Daniela Bechly Mother



Daniela Bechly, established her career as a Lyrical Soprano in Opera Houses throughout Germany, Austria and Switzerland, with roles such as Susanna, Pamina, Elvira, Agathe, Gretel and Cherubino. She appeared as Rhinemaiden in Wagner's Ring Cycle at Covent Garden, performed as Malvina in Marschner's *Vampyre* and The Goosegirl in Humperdinck's *Königskinder* at the International Opera Festival Wexford, Ireland.

Recent concert work includes Lavenham Sinfonia 2014, Verdi Requiem at St John's Smith's Square 2013, and Wagner's *Wesendonck Lieder*, Strauss' *Four Last Songs*, Bach House in Tokyo in 2012, International Festival in Mexico 2011.

Planned are recitals in Essex and for the Toeppfer Foundation Germany, as well as recordings for music by Roussel, Vaughan Williams and Taverner scored for just voice and single wind or string instrument, Spring 2015.

Hakan Vramsmo Father



Born in Sweden, Håkan Vramsmo graduated from Guildhall School of Music & Drama in London in 2001 with distinction and immediately went on to sing at the opening night of the BBC Proms.

Håkan has performed extensively on the concert platform, appearing at major venues and festivals throughout Europe

including Wigmore Hall, Bridgewater Hall, Amsterdam Concertgebouw, Santiago de Compostela, Madrid, Barcelona, Stuttgart Liederhalle, Sibeliusacademin, Aldeburgh, Bath, Cheltenham and Newbury with Iain Burnside, Julius Drake, Graham Johnson, Gary Matthewman, Roger Vignoles, Llyr Williams and Andrew West at the piano. He has also appeared with the Hebrides Ensemble, Carducci Quartet, Gabrieli Consort, Sharoun Ensemble (Berliner Philharmonier), BBC Symphony, Jerusalem, City of Birmingham, Bournemouth, English chamber Orchestra, Wroclaw, Gothenburg, and Malmö Symphony Orchestras conducted by Martyn Brabbins, Paul McCreech, Leonard Slatkin, Sir David Willcocks and Leon Botstein and recorded for BBC Radio 3, Swedish Radio and Television.

Helen Bruce Witch



Helen Bruce was born in Durham. She studies with Leah Marian-Jones and recently graduated with distinction from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, receiving Leverhulme scholarship to attend the MA Opera course. She studied at The University of Edinburgh (Bmus) and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama (Mmus).

Helen has performed numerous roles; Lucretia - The Rape of Lucretia (directed by Donald Maxwell), Marcellina - Le Nozze di Figaro (Wales Millennium Centre directed by Harry Fehr), Mercedes - Carmen (St Magnus Festival), Cherubino - The Marriage of Figaro (Winterbourne Opera), Soloist and Street Chorus in Bernstein's Mass for the 2012 BBC Proms, Mrs Chin/Old Crone - Night at the Chinese Opera for British Youth Opera, Madame Popova - The Bear (La Mortella, Ischia) and Carmen for Winterbourne Opera. Other work includes Garsington Opera's productions of Maometto II and Die Entführung aus dem Serail and Welsh National Opera's production of Schoenberg's Moses und Aron with performances at the Royal Opera House. For more information visit www.helenbruce mezzo.com

Evie Press Sandman



Evie Press is 12 years old and a student at Colchester County High School. Evie began singing as soon as she had started talking and by the time she was 5yrs old it was clear she needed singing lessons to support her desire to make music. Since those early days Evie has been fortunate to study with former opera singer Valerie Coyx-Boyle and has won various singing

competitions & festivals including West Suffolk Young Musician of the Year for her age group in 2013. She has performed regularly at a variety of concerts with local singing groups.

Evie enjoys films, piano, guitar, tap dancing and film-making as well as being an avid Doctor Who fan.

This is Evie's first professional appearance and she hopes it will be the first of many.

Beatrice Derrick Dew Fairy



Bea is an aspiring actor and singer of both opera and musical theatre. She has performed as a soloist in Big Band and choral settings, including at Snape Maltings Concert Hall and on tour to Durham Cathedral and Tuscan venues such as Perugia Cathedral and St. Francis Basilica, Assisi.

This year she hopes to embark on a musical theatre degree course. Bea is thrilled to be joining the company of Hansel and Gretel in her professional stage debut.

Penny Cliff Director

Penny is a director, playwright and musician. She trained at the RCM and was a cellist at ENO, BBC Concert Orchestra and Teatro la Fenice.

Directing includes MARRIAGE by Gogol, A RESPECTABLE WEDDING by Brecht, BUD by Nick Darke, TELL 8 (for The Tell Theatre), AS IT GOES (Young Vic), SOHO SLAM (Soho Theatre) THE MAGIC FLUTE (Pimlott Foundation). Her writing commissions, writing residencies, tutoring and directing work include Cardboard Citizens, Immediate Theatre, CleanBreak Theatre, Soho Theatre and Rose Bruford College.

Mamoru Iriguchi Designer

For the Pimlott Foundation, Mamoru designed 'The Magic Flute'. His other design includes: 'Die Schneekönigin' (Schlosstheater Moers), 'Gloria: A Pigtales' (Mahogany Opera Group, Bregenz Festival and tour), 'Mincemeat' (Cardboard Citizens, Best Design winner, London Evening Standard Theatre Awards).

Mamoru also makes performance work that toured in the UK and Europe.

www.iriguchi.co.uk

Mark Austin Music Director

Mark Austin (conductor) studied at Cambridge University and Royal Academy of Music. Engagements in 2015 include Puccini's 'Tosca' for Musique Cordiale International Festival in France, and performances around the UK with Faust Ensemble, a newly established chamber orchestra of young professionals.

In 2014 Mark conducted Verdi's 'La traviata' for Opera South, where he is music director and gave the world première of Oliver Rudland's 'Pincher Martin' in the Britten Theatre, Royal College of Music. He assisted Marin Alsop at the BBC Proms, performed with Faust Ensemble at the prestigious Windsor Festival, accompanied The Bach Choir as pianist on tour in China, and made his debut with the Orchestra of St John's, Smith Square.

He has worked as assistant conductor to Sir Colin Davis, Sir Mark Elder, Jane Glover and Stuart Bedford and works regularly as a coach for the Solti Accademia di Bel Canto in Italy.

Mark is passionate about making classical music accessible and enjoyable for adults and children alike, and is rapidly developing a reputation for informative spoken introductions as an integral part of concert performances. Future plans include Bach 'St John Passion' in Cambridge, Mendelssohn's 'Elijah' (Amchor) and a debut CD with Faust Ensemble.

Sarah Levinsky Choreographer

Sarah is a choreographer, director and movement director. Works created under her own name include Plastic Island (The Hat Factory, Rich Mix) and Birds (Resolution! 2011, The Place).

As Co-Artistic Director of theatre company Mapping4D (which she co-founded) she made Consequences (Resolution! 2010 and Forest Fringe Microfestival @ BAC), The Pink Bits (Riverside Studios), Slender (BAC), Vertigo (Camden People's Theatre), and Little English (two versions, both at Camden People's Theatre).

As a freelancer, Sarah regularly works with Cardboard Citizens (for whom she was also Associate Director from 2007-8), teaching dance and choreography in their Street2Stage workshops, choreographing pieces with their participants for the biennial fundraising dinner (hosted by Kate Winslet), and working as choreographer/movement director for various productions, including most recently We are all misfits (47/49 Tanner Street) and A Few Man Fridays (Riverside Studios).

Sarah has choreographed and directed commissions for Chisenhale Dance Space, Theatre Royal Plymouth, Part-Exchange Theatre Company and Show of Strength, worked as a performer/deviser for Centre for Performance Research and El Baldio Teatro (Argentina), as Consultant Movement Director for Deafinitely Theatre, and workshop leader for Oval House, Company of Angels and Attic Theatre Company.

Cis O'Boyle Lighting Designer

Cis is a London based lighting designer & performance maker.

Recent work includes; art work exhibited at the ICA for the One Beam of Light exhibition. Lighting design: Opera Gloria at the ROH Linbury & Bregenz Festival, A Time There Was Britten Centenary Aldeburgh. Commissioned installations: The Tiny Peep Show for The Campsite at Latitude & Wilderness festivals, Earfilms Melbourne Recital Hall, Alabama & Florida theatres.

Recent collaborative work includes Saskia Olde Wolbers: Yes, these Eyes are the Windows with Artangel, Better Than Life with Coney & award winning Don Quijote with Tom Frankland & Kier Cooper. Previous collaborations include work with Jamie Wood, Tom Lyall, Selina Papoutseli & Tom & Laura Frankland including 2 fringe first awards and the OSBTT award.

Forthcoming work includes collaborations with Artangel, Coney & Cartoon De Salvo. Lighting research published with the Institute of Lighting Professionals & the institute of live arts research.

Inga Goldsmith Pianist

Inga Goldsmith is a Russian born pianist, accompanist and teacher. She is a graduate of the St.Petersburg Conservatoire and has worked as pianist and vocal coach at the famous Marinski Theatre (Kirov Opera) under Valeri Gergiev.

She has been accompanist at the Royal Albert Hall, Wigmore Hall, St.John's Smith Square, Cambridge and Essex Universities, Colchester institute, and for BBC Young Musician of the year.

She has lived in Colchester since 1999.

Zoe Tweed Assistant Director

Zoë studied English Literature at the University of Manchester before completing an MA in Text and Performance at RADA and Birkbeck College, graduating last year.

Devised work at RADA includes: Four Women (Reimagining The Changeling), The Ordinary Instant, and her dissertation piece exploring the self in the work of Samuel Beckett and Marina Abramovich.

Other assisting work includes: The Magic Flute, The Rings of Saturn Workshops, Three to Four Days (Theatre 503 and Edinburgh Fringe) An Ear for an Ear (Vogue Fabrics) and Shutters (Park Theatre).

Simply Living

INTERIOR DESIGN SERVICE | UPHOLSTERY
HANDMADE CURTAINS & BLINDS SERVICE
FABRICS & WALLCOVERINGS | LIGHTING
SHUTTERS | MIRRORS | FLOORING | ACCESSORIES



Visit us at our Colchester showroom to view our range of interior products, we also stock swatch books for many leading fabric designer brands including: Designers Guild, Cole & Son, Romo, Linwood, Osborne & Little, Zoffany, Jane Churchill & Harlequin.

Find us at Simply Living, Unit C6, Cowdray Centre, Cowdray Avenue, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1BN. Contact us: 01206 572956.
Email us: info@simply-living.co.uk | www.simply-living.co.uk
Opening hours: Monday - Friday 10am until 4pm.



CRAFT BEER - COCKTAILS - REAL WINE
A LA CARTE & SET PRE-THEATRE MENU
SUNDAY ROAST JOINTS - KIDS MENU
SNACKS SERVED IN THE BAR ALL DAY
PRIVATE HIRE & PRIVATE DINING

CHURCH STREET
TAVERN


3 CHURCH STREET
COLCHESTER, ESSEX, CO1 1NF
TELEPHONE 01206 564325
WWW.CHURCHSTREETTAVERN.CO.UK,
FOLLOW CHURCHSTTAVERN



What has been happening in our partner schools?

The Pimlott Foundation have been working with young people from six local schools - Thurstable School, Tendring Technology College and Thomas Laud Audley, along with Langham, Stratford St Mary and Chase Lane Primary Schools.



Students from all these schools have taken part in music and drama workshops, delivered by the Pimlott Foundation and the Mercury Theatre, in a way that aims to make opera relevant to the present day. Whilst all students who have participated in the workshops will see the opera, 50 of the pupils have been selected to take part in the opera itself – as part of the children's choir, or as the movement team within the opera.

"Thanks to the Pimlott Foundation, our students have been able to participate in a professional production of an opera that is both challenging and accessible, boosting their performance skills, their understanding of the true purpose of the arts, and their belief in themselves. This is the sort of project that fires a great education – thank you."

Miles Bacon, Headteacher, Thurstable School

"The Pimlott Foundation has provided a fantastic opportunity for our children. Working with professional directors and musicians has provided children with experiences that will be treasured forever. Parents returned from the first workshop full of enthusiasm for the project. I feel the project has really opened eyes to the world of opera."

Andrew Macdonald, Headteacher, Langham Primary School

Pimlott Foundation is committed to delivering high quality musical experiences to young people from all backgrounds by offering them the opportunity to work alongside professionals.

Mail Art

Mail Art is, at its simplest, art that travels through the postal system.

The movement we call *mail art* or *postal art* began in the 1950s. International mail artist Ray Johnson is considered the first mail artist and in 1962 he renamed his practice the *New York Correspondence School*. Mail artists trade ideas with other mail artists, sometimes putting out a 'call' for mail art on a particular theme. Mail art can be in any format, in any media and some mail artists like to test the postal system with their mail art. Documentation is considered an important aspect of mail art and some mail artists archive the work they receive. Exhibitions have taken place in museums, on shopping trolleys, in supermarkets, all over the world.

Anyone can be a *mail artist* and by its nature mail art is democratic. Within mail art there are many movements. All mail art I receive for a call is shown in the subsequent exhibition so that art by more famous mail artists in the 'network' hangs next to work from mail artists who are less experienced.

Below is a selection of the mail art being exhibited at the Mercury Theatre. It is inspired by *Hansel and Gretel - Spirit of the Forest* and is available to see in the Digby Gallery on the first floor of the theatre. A few days before the deadline I have received mail art from more than 55 mail artists and schools that puts the tally well above one hundred pieces from at least seventeen countries!



Students from local schools became mail artists when they sent their postcards through the post. The schools who took part, some of whom are taking part in the opera, include: Langham, Chase Lane and Stratford St Mary Primary schools, Cedarwood Primary School, 4th Ellesmere Port Brownies, Trakya University, Balikesir Turkey and Ceciliengymnasium, Bielefeld, Germany.

Rebecca Guyver, February 2015



Open Day

Wednesday 25th February
10:00am - 12:00 noon



LITTLE GARTH
A truly independent school & nursery

Littlegarth School, Horkesley Park, Nayland, Colchester, Essex CO6 4JR

Telephone: 01206 262332 Email: office@littlegarth.essex.sch.uk Website: www.littlegarth.essex.sch.uk

Katie Kennedy Design

Katie Kennedy is a designer of marketing and educational materials.



Print Design

Great value, stylish and originally designed printed materials including brochures, banners, posters, adverts, packaging and flyers.

Museums & Galleries

Katie is specialist in designing and writing educational resources and exhibition interpretation for arts centres, museums and galleries.

Online Design

Web design, Wordpress, email newsletters, online adverts, banners, gifts and infographics. Choose original design or match your latest campaign.

See some examples online at www.katiekennedy.co.uk.
Get in touch for a quote or to find out more.

Katie Kennedy Design

email: hello@katiekennedy.co.uk
www.katiekennedy.co.uk
phone: 07968 702 492

CHURCH STREET
T A V E R N



Church Street Tavern are offering all *Hansel and Gretel* ticket holders a carafe of house wine on display of their tickets.

The Pimlott Foundation



The Pimlott Foundation was established 2007 in memory of Steven Pimlott, inspired by his versatility, passion and love of music making.

The Foundation's aim is to bring together aspiring performers with professionals and promote concerts and live events in buildings of historic interest while also delivering an educational programme which supports performing arts in the local area.

The Pimlott Foundation team are:

Daniela Bechly, Founder & Trustee
Helen Thorne, Education Co-ordinator & Trustee
Maria Shephard, Treasurer
Emma Wallis, Hansel & Gretel Producer
Katie Kennedy, Design & Marketing

Funding and Sponsors

We have been extremely fortunate to receive funding from the following places in order to produce Hansel and Gretel:

Arts Council England
Essex Music Education Hub
D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust
Harvey Benham Charitable Trust
Belinda Starling Memorial Fund
Birkett Long
Friends of the Pimlott Foundation
Liza Newby
Lester Sturgess

Nick Hytner
Tim & Nuala Orlik
Alison & Ted Phillips
Peggy Pertwee
Lynne Tasker
Age Concern Suffolk
Pippa Holme
Philippa Dow

Thank You

Hansel and Gretel would not have been possible without the help of the following people and places. Thank you!

The Mercury Theatre Staff
Thom Freeth
Natalie Songer
Rebecca Guyver
Rosalind Plowright OBE
Tesco Copdock
Tesco Colchester
Mandy Lloyd & Gill Bottazzi
(Tesco Community Champions)
Claudia Gentejohann
Our Performance Chaperones
Roman River Music
Charly Richardson
Simon Warne
Adey Grummet
Phil & Barbara Murray
Liz Leatherdale
Gladys Smith
Harry Hepburn
Oskar Pimlott

Jeremy Thorne
David Thorne
Maria Shephard
Anna Mitchell
Elizabeth Kumar
Andrew MacDonald
Antony Sanders
Nicola Hindle
Tracy Curd
Anna Mitchell
Neil D'Arcy-Jones
Sara Owst
Alice Ross
Katie Aldous
Amy Prior
Roberta & Barry Caradine
Olive Moore
Henry Lankester Jones
Diane Norburn at LAMDA
Royal Academy of Music

Future Events

We hope you have enjoyed Hansel and Gretel and would like to join us for future Pimlott events. You can stay up to date with the Pimlott Foundation at our website www.pimlottfoundation.org and signing up to our email newsletters.

Easter Concert - Bach Cantata and Handel Trio Sonatas for Cello & 2 Oboes
May 2015 - Musical Theatre Workshop - Lisa Roberts (Colchester Institute)
May 2015 - Meal & Concert for Buhumba
June - Children's Choir Workshop
Sat 11 & Sun 12 July - Summer Event with Film
Sat 20 Sept - Musical Theatre & Opera Concert in p'ship with Age UK Suffolk
October 2015 - Percussion Workshop & Concert

Dates subject to change. Please check www.pimlottfoundation.org for details.

Roman River Music and the Mercury Theatre present:

The Brodsky Quartet

*The Brodsky Quartet is not just a great group.
It is a genuine phenomenon, with a musical repertoire
that is mind-blowing in its diversity - The Herald*

ROMAN
RIVER
MUSIC

mercury
theatre
colchester



Beethoven String Quartet in G Major Op.18 No 2

Zemlinsky String Quartet No.4 Op.25

Schubert String Quartet D810 Death & the Maiden

.....
The Brodsky Quartet are the only quartet to combine a performing
career at the top international level with a thirst for genre-bending
collaborations with the likes of Elvis Costello, Jacqui Dankworth,
Tunde Jegede and Björk. They have toured the great concert halls of
Europe, Australasia, North and South America, and continue to expand
their incredible discography of over 60 CDs of the quartet repertoire.
.....

Tuesday 19 May, 8pm

Mercury Theatre, Colchester Tickets £10 - £22.50

Book now: www.mercurytheatre.co.uk 01206 573948

Stratford St. Mary Primary School

We pride ourselves on being a family school in the heart of the Dedham Vale, an area of outstanding natural beauty, where every child is valued as an individual and known by all staff.



Please contact the school to book an appointment to have a look round, meet teachers and pupils. You can contact either Suffolk County Council or talk to the Headteacher about places for your child in reception this year.

Stratford St. Mary Primary School, Stratford St. Mary, Suffolk CO7 6YG
Telephone - 01206 332336
office@stratfordstmary.suffolk.sch.uk | www.stratfordstmaryprimary.co.uk



Ofsted
Good rating



Borders & Beds

Garden design and
advisory service.



We specialise in creating spaces
of colour, fragrance and texture
in line with your ideas.

Places to relax, meditate and be.

Follow up maintenance available.



01206 615772 / 07881 745165
bordersandbeds@gmail.com



Looking to drive
traffic through
your website?
Looking for potential
customers? Then
Ginger Nut Media is
the company for you.

Achieve **fantastic**
returns on your
investment!
0207 495 5110
info@gingernutmedia.com

Visit our website:
www.gingernutmedia.com

How **Ginger Nut Media**
can benefit you?



SEO

The higher you rank in the search
engines (such as Google, and
bing) the more traffic you will get.
Ginger Nut Media can help you
with your SEO needs.



Personalised E-mail Campaigns.
If you are looking to find potential
customers then look no further,
Ginger Nut Media specialises in
lead generation. All our data is
unique and not resold. We cleanse
our data and only use double
opted-in data

NOW HIRING!

We have various apprenticeship vacancies
available in a number of different areas

* Sales * Marketing * Design * IT * Admin

mercury
theatre
colchester

Educating Rita

BY WILLY RUSSELL

TICKETS
FROM
£10



Starring Dougall Lee as Frank
and Samantha Robinson as Rita

MADE IN COLCHESTER SEASON 2015

26 FEB –
14 MAR

Call 01206 573948
www.mercurytheatre.co.uk



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

The Pimlott Foundation
Old House
Old House Road
Great Horkesley
CO6 4EQ

(01206) 271 291

contact@pimlottfoundation.co.uk
www.pimlottfoundation.org

Facebook / The Pimlott Foundation
Twitter @pimlottcharity



THE BELINDA STARLING FUND
HERVEY BENHAM CHARITABLE TRUST
FRIENDS OF THE PIMLOTT FOUNDATION

**THE PIMLOTT
FOUNDATION**